



The Never Setting Sun



Smack Dock Soundings

THE JOURNAL OF THE COLNE SMACK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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CSPS Photo Competition 2013 winner - *Maria CK21* finishing 2nd at the Maldon regatta, by David Chandler.

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The opinions expressed in this journal are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the CSPS or its committee.

From the editor...

'Windy old weather boys...' goes the song, and so it has been through December and early January. Most of the smacks are laid up now, and are either dreaming of past glories or eagerly awaiting (or perhaps dreading) a busy fitting-out time before they come out of hibernation. Gone are the days of those tough smacksmen of times gone by, when this was the peak fishing season, with sprats and herring to be caught. I am sure most of are glad we don't have to spend a week wind-bound in (say) Kent, with no grub, no money, and no sign of a let-up in the weather to let us carry on fishing or at least get home! Perhaps progress isn't such a bad thing...



Smack Dock News - Judy Lawrence

Flood report

Although we do not yet know of any possible long-lasting damage, the 'Smacksman's Return' was flooded to a depth of about 18" by 6th December's storm surge. Thanks go to Jon Brett for staying on his boat to safeguard his and other owners' vessels. Also to Gerry, Alan, James Lawrence, Madeleine, Keith and crew and Judy Lawrence for calling at the hut daily to clear, stack, scrub and switch on heaters for drying out, and for saving the books. Also thanks to Dave Griffith for attending to the electrics and to Gary Humm for the loan of a dehumidifier.

Nostalgic film evening with wine and cheese – 1st March

The CSPS is arranging an evening film performance of vintage film documenting the origins of the smack dock. It will be held on Saturday March 1st at the Colne Yacht Club. Doors open at 7:00pm for a 7:30 start. Come along and bring your friends to meet fellow members and Committee members and enjoy a relaxing nostalgic film show with cheese and wine accompaniment. Tickets will be £10.00 and will be available from Spirals, Brian House newsagent, James Lawrence Sailmakers and Judy Lawrence (304663).

Shanty Night – 10th May

Put Saturday May 10th in your diary for Shanty Night at the Colne Yacht Club. Opening at 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start, tickets will cost £12.50 (still the same price as last year). As before, the Shanty Night Supper will be Fish Pie with seasonal vegetables. Vegetarians and those who do not eat fish can pre-order a Vegetable Curry from Judy on 304663. Apple pie and custard to follow. Entertainment includes music and songs with 'antidotes' by James Lawrence.

Thursday afternoons

The open afternoons are still in full swing and everybody is welcome for tea, coffee and biscuits. For information call Madeleine on 304802. Many thanks to this group for raising funds to buy an awning to be fixed onto the hut. Volunteers and ideas needed as to how to fix it safely.

Mary Pilgrim's painting of the 'Smacksman's Return'

Next time you're in the hut have a look at the lovely watercolour on the wall. It was kindly donated to us by Mary Pilgrim of the Great Bentley Art Group.



Many thanks, Mary.

Whilst on the subject of the Smack Dock hut, the Society would like to thank the Harman family for donating many of the late Dick Harman's books to the library last year. As a result of some laziness on the part of the editor they haven't yet got as far as being put in the hut, but given the flooding that was perhaps not such a bad thing... As soon as the hut is shipshape again I promise they will make an appearance.

The CSPS library is well worth a visit- there are all manner of books in it ranging from local interest to an extensive collection of back copies of East Coast Sail, Classic Boat and East Coast Digest/Coast and Country magazines (containing a great source of history), with other titles taking in foreign-going shipping, historical fiction and boat design and all manner of other matters nautical.

All members are welcome to borrow any of the books- however, please record your name and the title in the register- and *don't forget to return the item* when you've finished with it, so others may enjoy them!



Colne Match in photos – David Chandler

David was again the winner of the CSPS photo competition held at November's AGM- well done.

The match results can be found in the previous issue of Smack Dock Soundings.



Alberta CK318 in winning mode



Maria CK21, Peace CK171 and Iris Mary CK105 running out of Colne



My Alice CK348 with plenty of sails on show



Edith May, Dinah, Decima and Niagara just after the barges' start



Edme heads for the start line



Our Boys CK92, Gracie CK46, Niagara and Nellie working back towards the finish.



2014 Events Calendar

CSPS Film evening	1st March
CSPS Shanty Night	10th May
Medway Barge Match	7th June
Rowhedge Regatta	14th June
Blackwater Match	21st June
Sailing Barges' Passage Match	28th June
OGA Brightlingsea race	5th July
Pin Mill Barge Match	5th July
Pin Mill Smack Race	12th July
OGA Swallows and Amazons	12th-13th July
Swale Match	2nd August
Wivenhoe Regatta	2nd August
Mersea Week	10th-15th August
Southend Barge Match	24th August
Mersea Town Regatta	30th August
Colne Match	13th September
Mersea Dredging Match	14th September
Maldon Town Regatta	27th September
Tollesbury Regatta	11th October



Photo: *Lizzie Annie* MN23 nearing the finish line off Osea at last year's Maldon Regatta – David Chandler

Dates believed to be correct at the time of going to press.
Please notify the Editor with any corrections (details on the front page).
Next issue of Smack Dock Soundings is due May/June.