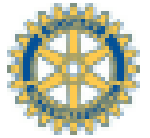




ROTAFLEET NEWS



The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting yachting as an opportunity for fellowship and service. This Fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by Rotary International.

Spring 2008

Inside

IYFR AGM minutes
Plea from Webmaster
page 2

Norwich AGM
Osmosis: Not the End
page 3

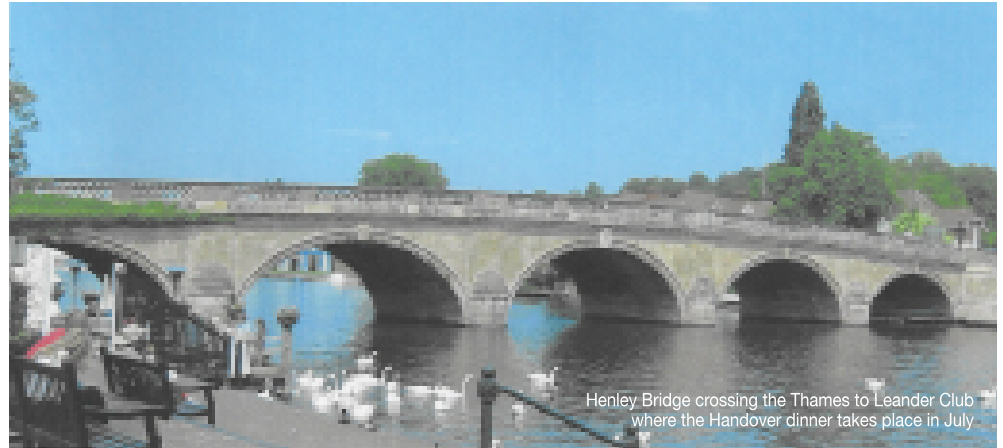
GB and I Bridge
Jubilee Sailing Trust
page 4

Charter of St Tropez Fleet
The IYFR Plate Mystery
page 5

St Helier Weekend
Fenland Fleet Report
Firefly Dinghy Restored
page 6

From your own
Correspondent
page 7

Thames Fleet
Summer Cruise
Suffolk Barge Project
page 8



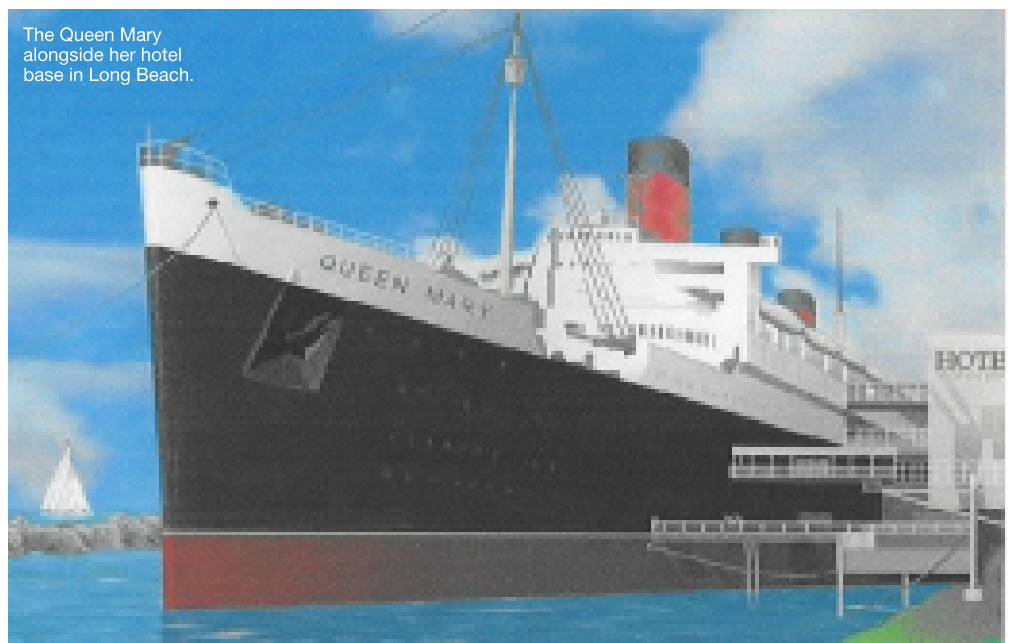
Henley Bridge crossing the Thames to Leander Club where the Handover dinner takes place in July.

The Commodores Change Over

The main events of our Fellowship in the next 2 months are taking place on different sides of the Atlantic. In Long Beach, California from June 19 to 23rd, (immediately after the RI Convention in Los Angeles) the IYFR post-convention cruise takes place centred on the original "Queen Mary" now berthed at Long Beach.

On July 25th to 27th in Henley-on-Thames back here in the UK, Commodore Mike Pooley and Jackie will take over the reins of IYFR in GB & I from Jenie Pressdee and John. Both events promise a feast of IYFORian and Rotarian activities and both commodores look forward to seeing you there.

Mike is already looking forward to visiting as many fleets as possible during his period of office (his first visit is already planned to the Medway fleet on August 10th) Inter-fleet visits are going to be one of Mike's major priorities. The Thames fleet are visiting the Sussex fleet in September and also in September the Fenland fleet are planning to get together with the Suffolk fleet. Further ahead, the Thames fleet have invited the St Tropez fleet to visit next Spring.



The Queen Mary alongside her hotel base in Long Beach.

Executive Summary of the Annual General Meeting held at the Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett on the 8th March, 2008

1. International Report

International Commodore Bryan Skinner reported on his World Tour, which took in Los Angeles, New Zealand, Australia and Japan. He will be visiting Birmingham shortly to make further progress with the arrangements for the 2009 AGM and PCC.

Bryan advised that John Kenny, who takes over as RI President in 2009 had accepted an offer to become an Honorary Member of IYFR, GB&I.

2. Commodore's Report

Commodore Jenie Pressdee reported on her activities since the 2007 AGM, which had also celebrated 60 years of IYFR and included the fulfilment of a personal goal to cross the Mersey by ferry!

She has visited a number of GB&I Fleets in the last twelve months, attended the 2007 AGM in Salt Lake City and took part on a chartered boat in the PCC in the San Juan Islands.

3. Vice-Commodore's Report

Vice- Commodore Michael Pooley advised that he would welcome invitations to visit GB&I Fleets during his term of office as Commodore.

4. Secretary's Report

Rodney Davis reminded members that when booking venues for Fellowship week-ends, he was always obliged to agree cut-off dates with the hotels, after which they were free to let any rooms that he had not taken up. The next two hotels in particular looked very popular and anyone trying to book after the deadline might therefore find that rooms were no longer available.

5. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ended 30th June, 2007 were approved.

It was agreed that the subscription for 2008/2009 remain at £15.00 and that the joining fee of £5.00 be abolished.

Hon. Treasurer Annette Lewis thanked Paul Quaile for his work as Independent Financial Examiner. As Paul is joining the Bridge as a Flag Officer, Tony Rushton was appointed as I.F.E.

Annette tabled a revised budget for 2007/2008 which showed a deficit of £584.00. This reflects the cost of producing one edition of Rotafleet News before the end of June.

6. Rotafleet News Editor

Commodore Jenie advised that Ian Black of the Thames Fleet was willing to become editor of Rotafleet News and was planning to produce an edition in May.

7. Extension Officer's report

Bob Burns advised that progress was being made with potential members for a Fleet based in North Wales. His enquiries have also revealed that there are 3 Rotarians in that area who sail in the Lake District.

8. Public Relations

It is planned to have article about IYFR in the RIBI magazine.

9. Database Manager

John Barnsley advised that all information about membership had now been centralised on the international database. He made a plea for members to keep their details up to date. An e-mail that he had recently sent to all members worldwide had resulted in more than 10% being returned because of incorrect or obsolete addresses.

An updated version of the "Pink Book" would shortly be available on the web-site.

10. Regalia

Annette advised the meeting that enquiries had been made about jewels for Fleet Commodores. The Bridge felt that there were sufficient funds available to enable Fleets to be subsidised so that the cost to them of a jewel would be £50.00. Annette will be contacting all Fleet Commodores to ascertain whether there was sufficient interest to enable a firm order to be placed.

An Urgent Plea from Webmaster John Barnsley

Using the e-mail system on the IYFR website

Reply to the e-mail author.

E-Mails transmitted in bulk using the e-mail button on the fleet rosters are dispatched via the webmaster@iyfr.net. Please be careful to reply to the e-mail author. Using the reply button on your e-mail browser will result in your reply being sent to the webmaster who may not be able to redirect it to its proper destination. This is particularly so if the e-mail content is not in English.

Please keep the record of your e-mail address up to date.

The webmaster is receiving an increasing number of undelivered e-mails, mainly because members are not updating or notifying their Commodore of a change of e-mail address. It is time consuming back-tracking these messages to make Fleet Commodores aware that their messages have not been received.

Authorize the receipt of e-mails from iyfr.net when using filter software.

If you use e-mail filter software/service to refuse spam or undesirable e-mails, please make sure the software allows e-mails from iyfr.net. I do not respond to the automated replies generated by such software as it is often in a language I don't understand.

John Barnsley Web Master

Osmosis? Not the end of the world?

Prior to the AGM in January members of the Sussex Fleet were treated to a tour of Past Sussex Commodore John Blake's Hayling Yacht Company's boatyard to see the effects of osmosis and what can be done about it. This ensured an unusually high attendance at the AGM as worried members crowded into the boat yard to learn all about the dreaded osmosis.

John's son Richard, who has now taken over the day to day running of the boatyard from his father, began by explaining how osmosis gets a hold in boats that are left in the water for a long time. In most cases osmosis is caused by water seeping in from the outside, through the gelcoat and into the glass fibre laminate, where the moisture starts to break down the resin by hydrolysis. The cells so formed draw in more moisture that causes blisters to form and swell. These can become visible on the surface but may also be present deeper into the laminate, where they may cause laminate breakdown and eventual failure.

Richard took us to see several boats in the boatyard that had varying degrees of osmosis. These boats had already partly dried out simply by being out of the water. Nevertheless, some had moisture readings of over 20, compared with about 2 for a brand new boat; a reading of 10 would be considered quite normal and a reading of 15 might not require any treatment. Blistering was evident on some of these boats but in some cases where the boat had been out of the water for some months the drying out process meant that the blisters were no longer visible.

Richard then showed us various boats undergoing treatment. In all cases this involved complete drying out, initially in the open air and later under cover with the aid of "Hotvac" which uses heated pads to dry the hull. For those boats with no laminate damage this was followed by the addition of 3 layers of solvent free epoxy to the hull, on top of the gelcoat. In the more seriously affected boats the treatment involved the removal of the gelcoat and of any damaged areas of laminate, followed by repairs to the damaged areas and then 1 coat of solvent free epoxy, filling and fairing and then a further 3 coats of solvent free epoxy, applied in quick succession. For those people who wish to have the belt and braces treatment a layer of Bi-axial cloth can also be applied during the process which strengthens up the whole boat preventing Osmosis for even longer.

The good news was that the risk can be substantially reduced by lifting a boat out of the water each winter. But if you do see some blistering it is time to seek specialist advice!

FLEET OFFICERS 2008 - 09

Broads	Commodore Secretary	Judy Tony	BARFIELD RUSHTON
Clyde	Commodore Secretary	Edward Bill	REDMAN KENNEDY
Dart	Commodore Secretary	Edward Tim	NOYCE NOYCE
East Coast	Commodore Secretary	Robin A. John	SUDLOW MELLARD
East of Scotland	Commodore Secretary	Philip Duncan	HIGGINSON MEEK
Fenland	Commodore Secretary	Jill Philip C.	SALLIS BELL
Great Britain	Commodore Secretary	Michael Rodney	POOLEY DAVIS
Humber	Commodore/Secretary	Les	DICKINSON
Medway	Commodore Secretary	Derek Joan	LAVERICK VAUGHAN
Poole	Commodore Secretary	Mike Brian	EDWARDS RICHARDSON
Solent	Commodore Secretary	Colin David	BROOKES ROBERTSON
Suffolk	Commodore Secretary	Tony John	BURROWS NEGUS
Sussex	Commodore Secretary	John Harriet	PRESSDÉE COLEMAN
Thames	Commodore Secretary	Alan Leslie	DAWE WILKINSON

Norwich AGM and Fellowship Weekend

Another superb fellowship weekend was enjoyed at the Park Farm Hotel in Norwich in early March. 82 attended with 63 staying in the hotel and 19 visiting at some time or other. Many of the 'usual' faces were there, and it was a pleasure to see a number of first-timers as well.

Proceedings started with an informal dinner on Friday with the added benefit of our own private dining room. After breakfast on Saturday couples joined together (to ease the parking as much as saving CO2 emissions) and drove to Horning where we boarded the good ship "Southern Comfort" for a trip round the Broads, including lunch aboard.

Back to the hotel just in time to make the deadline for the 4pm AGM start. Minutes of this meeting are given elsewhere but it was particularly good to hear Extension Officer, Bob Burns report progress in Wales and Liverpool. Well done, Bob.

Saturday evening saw a very interesting talk with illustrations by Rob Goldsmith with the subject "Diving down to the Titanic". This fantastic experience took place in 2005 inside a Russian submersible craft (hull 7 inches thick) going down 2.5 miles in two hours, 8 hours exploring and photographing the wreck, and another two hours returning to the surface.. The video scenes were truly amazing and very clear.

Rodney and Jeanne Davis devised a cunning brain teasing quiz to test our intelligence while we were there and this was won by Doreen Brown (Broads Fleet)

It appeared all had had a good time and we look forward to the next fellowship weekend near Keswick in November. Tribute must be paid to Rodney and Jeanne Davis for organising another enjoyable weekend, especially the time and energy visiting alternative venues and negotiating in person with hotel executives to obtain the best deal for both food and accommodation.

Tony Slegg (Thames Fleet)

GB & I BRIDGE OFFICERS 2008 - 2010

Commodore Michael Pooley
Vice Commodore Bob Burns
Rear Commodore Paul Quaile
Immediate
Past Commodore Jenie Pressdee

BRIDGE STAFF



HON. SECRETARY
Rodney DAVIS



HON. TREASURER
Annette LEWIS



**PUBLIC RELATIONS &
EXTENSION OFFICER**
Robert BURNS



DATABASE MANAGER
John BARNESLEY

Cunarder "Queen Mary"

The 'Queen Mary' was built by John Brown & Co. Ltd. Clydebank, Scotland.

Work started in 1931, but due to the world-wide slump, the building was stopped for a period and the workforce laid off. However she was launched on 26th September 1934 by Queen Mary the wife of King George V.

Her maiden voyage with two thousand passengers commenced on 27th May 1936. She was awarded the 'Blue Ribbon' for the fastest crossing of the Atlantic with a speed of over 30 knots on the Southampton-Cherbourg-New York route.

During WW2 she was used as a troopship, but returned to the Atlantic route when hostilities ceased. The development of the passenger aircraft caused many of her important guests to choose the even quicker method of travel. However she retained her popularity as a Cruise Ship until 1967 when she was finally withdrawn from sea service.

IYFR members may now experience the luxury that made her such a famous ship.

ROTARY SPONSORS YOUNG PEOPLE ON TALL SHIP ADVENTURE

Three young people from the Chiltern Centre in Henley have been given the opportunity to experience a potentially life changing adventure this summer under the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Henley Bridge.

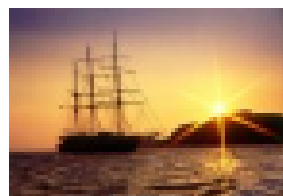


John, Morven and Amelia, pictured here at the Chiltern Centre, were the lucky candidates who were allocated places on board one of the Jubilee Sailing Trust's tall ships.

Each of the girls was accompanied by a member of the Chilterns staff team. However, it was not just a holiday! There are no 'passengers' on board the LORD NELSON and TENACIOUS, as on a JST voyage, everyone is an important member of the crew and has a part in running the ship. The voyages are hugely exhilarating - a real adventure for everyone on board.



The LORD NELSON was the JST's first purpose built vessel. Constructed in 1986 she has taken over 22,730 people to sea, including over 8,880 people with disabilities, and continues to do so. Since commencing voyages in 1986 the LORD NELSON has sailed 337,671 miles.



TENACIOUS was built and constructed by the Jubilee Sailing Trust at their own Jubilee Yard. She is the largest wooden tall ship of her kind to be built in the UK in the last 100 years. She has taken over 5,580 people to sea, of these over 2,140 have been physically disabled. Since commencing voyages in 2000 TENACIOUS has sailed 107,433 miles.

These magnificent ships are the only two vessels in the world that have been purpose-designed and built to enable a crew of mixed physical abilities to sail side by side on equal terms.



The Flotta Alto Adriatico Fleet and the Italy Central Adriatic Fleet chartered

Area 1 Commodore Mike Pooley & Jackie were greeted at Venice airport by fellowship members including Gennaro and Nelly Coretti together with Sergio Santi waving IYFR flags. (Much better than a name held up on a card!) There was an enjoyable visit organised to a very interesting joint meeting of two Venice Rotary clubs in the evening, finishing at 11.30 pm.

The next day we were transported in an Italian Navy launch complete with a Naval Captain Francesco Bottoni (former ITS Amerigo Vespucci Captain) in charge, with Sergio also on board, to the Venice Boat Show where the charter of the Flotta Alto Adriatico fleet was performed with Gennaro Coretti becoming their first Commodore.

Their DG spoke at the charter and presented a Paul Harris Fellowship to Paolo Alberti for his great work in organising the forming of the new fleet with sixty members. A quick look at the Boat Show and then, hosted and organised by Sergio, we had a fascinating guided tour of the Naval Museum opened just for us by the Naval Captain Giorgia Guiduzzi Museum Director. In the evening we enjoyed a gastronomic five course meal with Bridge members at the Naval club.



Commodore Paolo Pauri and Professor Andrea Luigi Tranquilli receiving the Italy Central Adriatic Fleet's Charter in the Lazzaretto from Area 1



Members of the Italy Central Adriatic Fleet together with Jackie Pooley enjoy a final lunch in the Lazzaretto

The following morning we were met by fleet member Rino Liborio Galante who guided us on foot through the historic streets, bridges and markets of Venice finally eating in a café just under the Rialto Bridge. The organisation of the visit was excellent and the hospitality wonderful

Later we travelled by two trains (five hours) arriving at 23.30 at night, at the historic city and seaport of Ancona on the Adriatic Sea, to be greeted by Professor Andrea Luigi Tranquilli who organised the formation of the fleet and is their Secretary. Their first Commodore (who has the largest boat) is Paolo Pauri. After an interesting sightseeing trip the next morning we arrived at The Lazzaretto a remarkable 20,000 sq m building built in 1732 to protect the town from hostile shipping. There we chartered the Italy Central Adriatic Fleet of thirty-eight members, plus another four who joined on the day.

After the celebration drinks we enjoyed a sumptuous three course fish lunch, said our farewells and took the train back to Venice and then back to England.

What a wonderful, well-organised, four days full of Rotary fellowship and exciting sightseeing. We also enjoyed the Italian custom of having an aperitif at all times of the day! If you are visiting these areas of Italy, make sure you contact them.

REPORT OF CHARTER OF ST. TROPEZ FLEET

Area 1 Commodore Michael Pooley, his wife Jackie, accompanied my wife Chris and I to Monaco in early morning in full uniform. We were to attend the District Conference of District 1730 being held in Monaco. We were met at Nice airport by the new Commodore, Humbert de Ribaucourt.

On arrival we were taken to the conference top table for lunch, sitting with two DGs, the representative of the RI President, Dom Vessigault and Jacques Verges, the International Defence Lawyer, who had been asked to defend Saddam Hussein (but had refused). What a privilege to be at that table!

The Charter came in the afternoon when we went on stage with Humbert, Michael, and the DG. I made a short speech introducing the concept of IYFR. Humbert was then presented with the Charter and his Commodore's Flag. Then ALL the Fleet Members came on the stage looking very smart wearing as much uniform as they had with them. What a reception, and a good advertisement for IYFR in front of over 500 delegates. Humbert even had a number of new applications to join after the event. There is even hope of another Fleet in the area. In the evening we had a celebration dinner during which I gave them my gifts, including founder members' certificates.

On Sunday we went sailing with many of the Fleet in a beautiful area, with lunch on board, celebrating the election of the new French President in the evening.

Monday had more sailing and a trip on the Rescue Boat, which many of the Fleet help to crew. At lunchtime we were guests at the French Naval Officers' HQ and ate a fantastic 'local' meal with wine and Champagne.

A final Rotary meeting in the evening with toasts to wish the new Fleet of St. Tropez well. We all enjoyed the superb hospitality of the Fleet and are sure their enthusiasm will help them to continuing success in future years.

Bryan Skinner International Commodore I.Y.F.R.

THE IYFR PLATE

The GB&I Bridge would welcome some help in determining the history of "The Plate" – see picture opposite on page 4.

The words "International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians" are endorsed on the top of the rim and the picture is a painting of the Golden Hind.

On the back, it says "This dish was made and painted at the Poole Pottery in the year 1962 – Ship drawn by Margaret Holder painted by Ruth Pavely"

The plate must almost certainly be unique and is quite impressive. Members who attended the recent AGM will recall that it was shown by David Smith of the Suffolk fleet before a discussion* about its future use. In the meantime, I would be very interested in hearing from anyone with any ideas about this or about its history or provenance. **Rodney Davis** Hon. Secretary

* It was suggested that it might be presented to the person providing the best article for Rotafleet News. [After the AGM and following consultation between the Commodore and Vice Commodore, the Plate was presented to Rodney Davis for the following twelve months for his efforts on behalf on GB&I.]



From Your Own

Fenland Fleet Report

The Fenland Fleet held their Fitting out Lunch at the Five Miles from Anywhere Pub at Upware, on the River Cam, on Sunday 24th February. There were fourteen members in attendance which included all the flag officers and our treasurer/secretary Judy Bell.

Our next get together will be on Saturday 28th June at the home of Don and Sue Mackay. Their house is on the river Cam in Cambridge and is a perfect setting for a barbecue and a game of draughts.

On September 6th we are meeting up with the Suffolk Fleet at Tideway Marina in Woodbridge. Please contact GB&I treasurer Annette Lewis for further details. Visitors welcome by car and yacht.

Our Laying Up Supper is scheduled for Friday 21st November at Slepe Hall in St. Ives at 7 for 7.30p.m.

Jill Sallis

Commodore Fenland Fleet.

Firefly Dinghy Restoration

The Suffolk fleet were recently given a damaged firefly dinghy.

Whilst most of our members might be thought of as being a little too senior for this sort of sailing, the boat has been repaired and awaiting varnishing and fitting out.

It will, we hope, be based at Walton and Frinton Yacht Club, and sailing in the wonderful waters of the Walton Backwaters, which featured in Arthur Ransome's lovely stories.

It is hoped that our members will enjoy sailing the dinghy - and their children and grandchildren enjoy it too. We are very grateful to the ex-Rotarian donor of the firefly and trust it will be fully used after a considerable effort to restore her

We understand her original name was Butterfly, which is a bit remarkable since in the past I restored an 18ft 1908 gaff day boat also named Butterfly.

Visiting IYFR members from nearby fleets are welcome to have a sail.

John Negus
Sec Suffolk Fleet

G.B. & I fellowship weekend and executive meeting

St. Helier 2nd – 4th NOVEMBER 2007

Sixty-four members from nine Fleets, Broads, Clyde, East Coast, Fenland, GB, Solent, Suffolk, Sussex, & Thames enjoyed a well organised and interesting weekend with lots of fellowship. The Pomme D'Or Hotel in St Helier, Jersey was the delightful venue with a view over the harbour. The hotel was the HQ of the German navy during the war.

On the Friday we met old friends and made new during the odd glass of wine. Some also managed to walk round the corner to many shops and stores for a bit of retail therapy. As the only big town on the island all the well known stores were there. The Friday night informal meal was a great fish buffet with a scrumptious variety of fish dishes.

On the Saturday we formed into four groups and visited the extraordinary Maritime Museum on the harbour. Next we visited the Coastguard station and were shown their advanced equipment and told how they work with their French counterparts in rescuing or assisting boats in trouble at sea. We were also entertained by the local RNLI who gave us a tour of their station, finishing up on board their lifeboat, on the water but not at sea.

To complete a fascinating and busy morning we went to the local yacht club for a very good lunch. There were burgees from many clubs on display so our GB & I Commodore, Jeni Pressdee, officially presented an IYFR burgee. We received an open invitation to come back again in the future.

Back at the hotel at 16.00 we had our well-attended Executive meeting with lots of discussion. After pre-dinner drinks we enjoyed a tasty dinner followed by an interesting talk given by Doug Ford about the Maritime Museum, his thoughts on how it should attract the public and how he collected the items for display.

It was a great Fellowship Weekend, many thanks to Rodney and Jeanne who organised it like clockwork, they even organized good weather!

Michael Pooley
Vice Commodore G.B. & I

Correspondent

The editor is hoping that, in subsequent editions, he will be thanking correspondents for ALL the contents of this section. Thanks to individual IYFORians who have sent him copy.

THAMES FLEET MEMBERS GO TO THE BALL!

Commodore Alan Dawe's wife, Pat, is currently the Chairman of South Oxfordshire District Council and she hosted their Annual Ball on April 11th.

Some Fleet members decided to support her by making up a table at the event. The after-dinner speaker was Jenni Trent Hughes, writer and broadcaster, and then it was time for members to demonstrate their dancing skills. (Not the Hornpipe!)



Pat is pictured, centre, surrounded by the happy Iforians, with Commodore Alan, as Chairman's escort, dutifully standing in the rear.

LOOKING FORWARD TO: (Dates for your Diary)

IYFR Post Convention Cruise, Los Angeles

Taking place aboard the "Queen Mary" moored at Long Beach, California June 19-23rd.

GB & I Commodore's Handover week-end, Henley-on-Thames

This will take place in Henley over the week-end of the 25th - 27th July. About 70 members have booked already. Anyone who has not booked and wishes to attend should make contact with Alan Dawe, Commodore of the Thames Fleet as soon as possible.

Executive Committee and Fellowship week-end, Keswick

The Lodore Falls Hotel in Borrowdale near Keswick has been booked for 7 -9 November, 2008.

2009 AGM and Fellowship Week-end, Woodhall Spa

The 2009 AGM will be held at the Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa, 13th - 15th March, 2009.

Thames Fleet Summer Cruise

Little did the Vice-Commodore (and resident meteorologist) know when he was planning our Summer Cruise for 2007 that he was choosing the week of Summer Monsoon!

The cruise got off to a good, if wet, start on the 16th July with a barbecue and then proceeded upstream in pouring rain to a local boat club's moorings. The almost traditional visit in the evening to a nearby theatre was to see backstage and a play by Alan Ayckbourn – not only were there mixed views about the quality of the play but also many differing opinions as to the meaning of the last 15 minutes!

Wednesday, weather wise, was reasonable and twelve boats in all were moored for a Pot Luck Supper. We were very pleased to welcome to the evening a potential new member of the Fleet, David Beal from Bangor Rotary Club and his wife Sue, who, in a nearby Lock, had spotted the rather splendid burgee being flown by one of our members who is on the International Bridge.

Thursday brought dire warnings from our resident weatherman of impending heavy rain for the following day. The monsoon duly arrived! Three boats stayed put at the overnight mooring and six retreated to a local Fleet Member's river frontage. The river slowly rose and rose and rose. It finally peaked a week later and was basically not open to navigation for over two weeks. Something resembling normal summer conditions returned in the week beginning the 6th August and boats have now finally returned to base

Records are now being claimed for the longest duration of a cruise, the greatest number of Happy Hours and the fullest set of holding tanks!

Rodney Davis



The Thames Fleet's securely moored on the flooded River Thames

Suffolk Fleet Barge Project

Started in 1989, the Suffolk fleet's Barge trips have now been introducing sailing to disabled young people for almost 20 years.

Sailing barges were once a daily feature of East Coast life, and Suffolk fleet have been fortunate to meet up with Topsail Charters of Maldon in Essex who have a number of these barges still under sail. (see pics) The fleet have used SB "Thistle" twice and SB "Hydrogen" five times over the years, With a crew of two they can take up to 50 people on board, including Rotarians and the ladies of Inner Wheel, who provide the lunch boxes and an endless supply of tea and coffees for our youngsters and disabled guests and their helpers.

On the return to port a fish and chip supper is normally laid on at a local hall. Donations are sought from local businesses together with the proceeds of raffles run by local Rotary clubs. This makes the whole day self-financing.

Entertainments provided over the years have been many and varied. Richard Woodman, who is a member of the elder brethren of Trinity House, is a member of our fleet and he has given a number of talks on the sailing barges on the Great Houses adjoining the Rivers Stour and Orwell, and the Port of Felixstowe, the largest container port in the UK. These talks have been supplemented over the years by displays of large firefighting tugs, (see pic) the Harwich RNLi lifeboat, and even the coastguard helicopter. Needless to say, these demonstrations go down well with the disabled young people on board.

In the period the project has been going it is estimated that over 800 youngsters have had an enjoyable day out on the water. The Suffolk fleet is very proud of the fact that, despite diminishing numbers and increasing age of our members, we can continue to supply pleasure and wellbeing to those less fortunate in our area - and have a good day's sailing at the same time.

John Negus, Suffolk Fleet

