



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HISTORIC SHIPS

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Participate in the Olympics

One opportunity for historic vessels to become involved with the Olympics is by participating in the Cultural Olympiad - a four-year festival in the run-up to the 2012 Games.

Heritage Link has been commissioned to deliver one of the Cultural Olympiad's major projects *Discovering Places*, a celebration of the richness and diversity of Britain's arts, culture and heritage. Their focus is on historic and contemporary buildings, public spaces and natural places in and around the cities, towns and villages. We must make sure that historic ships are added to this list.

Discovering Places will feature five major events nationwide - not just in London:

- Early May Bank Holiday weekend, 2010 – *Discovering Places Celebrate the Environment* launch weekend and sharing the natural environment on people's doorsteps;
- Early May Bank Holiday weekend, 2011 – *Discovering Places weekend* intended to mark the rich diversity and history of places, spaces and objects;
- Autumn 2011, the largest-ever co-ordinated opening of buildings, archaeological sites, heritage and contemporary locations and natural spaces at one time intended to give young people access to unusual and hidden places;
- Torch relay - activities along the whole route of the torch

relay across historic and contemporary spaces and natural places;

- *Games-time 2012*, opportunities for Games visitors to discover places near to venues and accommodation. Leaflets and online guides of local places and spaces of interest will be produced for visitors to all the Olympic and Paralympic venues and will be available through the London 2012 website.

These events are a chance for historic ships to become involved - perhaps even offering a regular ferry service to the Olympic sites from various points on the Thames. Please contact us with your ideas of how your historic vessel might participate in the programme and we will make sure that historic vessels are on Heritage Link's cultural map.

National Historic Ships on the Lakes



On 24th June, National Historic Ships' new website was publicly launched at the Lake District Visitor Centre overlooking Lake Windermere. Those lucky enough to attend were then given a special treat – a voyage across the lake on *Shamrock*, *Janet* or

Souvenir D'Antan. That evening one of National Historic Ships' regional forums was held on board *Raven* as she sailed on

Chairman Robert Prescott addressing the forum

Ullswater, attended by over fifty people.

Flagship of the Year 2009

Flagship of the Year has been awarded to SS *Shieldhall*, once Glasgow Corporation's sludge disposal vessel and now restored and fully operational by the Solent Steam Packet Ltd. She was awarded the flag because of the extensive cruise programme she is delivering this year, with attendances in several south coast ports where the public are being invited on board.

See <http://www.ss-shieldhall.co.uk/> for her cruising programme.



Shieldhall's chairman Barry Eagles receives the flag from National Historic Ships' Hannah Cunliffe.

Image by David Rose-Massom

How much are historic ships worth?

Our historic vessels make a significant contribution to the national economy, through employment opportunities, buying skills and services and tourism. However, no-one has ever calculated the actual size of this contribution. Until now.

Hannah Cunliffe, National Historic Ships' policy and project manager, is conducting quantitative research to try to establish a figure. This has the potential of being a major weapon in our arsenal for recognition of the importance of our sector and we need your help to make sure our figures are as sound as possible.

A questionnaire has been posted on the News section of our web site, so if you are a vessel owner – commercial, private or trust – please help us by filling it in.

Last Solent One Design at Southampton



Thanks to National Historic Ships' co-ordination with the organisers, visitors to the Southampton Boat Show 2009 (17th – 18th September), will have the chance to see *Rosenn* on display. Built in 1896, this unique yacht is the last Solent One Design afloat and she is still racing. Now owned by Barry Dunning and well-known yachting journalist Bob Fisher she recently completed the 2009 Round the Island Race.

For more details see:

www.southamptonboatshow.com/2009_home/whats_on/attractions/

Attracting young adults

Recognising that young people need to be excited by heritage, The Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland has just published its *Report and recommendations on strategies for engaging young adults in the historic environment*. Among the recommendations is the suggestion that Historic Scotland and the historic environment infrastructure bodies foster partnerships between voluntary agencies working with disadvantaged young people and historic environment organisations, with seminars and training days provided as a first step.

Attracting young volunteers is a pressing problem for a great number of historic vessels. We would be grateful to hear from any vessels which run successful volunteer programmes so that we can publish your advice for the benefit of others and encourage interested parties to sign up for these opportunities via our website.

A future for *Ryde*?



With the owners of *Ryde* - Island Marine Holdings - in the hands of the receivers, the PS Ryde Trust is establishing itself as a charity with the aim of raising the money to purchase the ship. The Trust's ambition is to restore the ship to full working order and to run her as a tourist vessel.

The hull of the 1936 passenger ferry - one of the few remaining vessels from the D-Day landings - is believed to be sound, but nevertheless the cost of restoring her is estimated at around £7 million.

Looking for parts?

If you're looking for a specific part or fitting for your vessel, or if you are looking to dispose of parts that might be useful to another vessel owner, then sign up to National Historic Ships' online forum (on our website) and let everyone know. It's completely free.

The lost logo



Remember this symbol for a historic vessel on your road atlas? Sadly, it has not made the transition to online maps. Along with crossed swords for a battle field, a seahorse for an aquarium and distinctive symbols for churches with spires and with towers, they have lost out to new logos for cash machines and petrol stations on GPS and computer mapping systems. Any aspect of Heritage is now an undistinguished 'place of interest'.

James Stevens No. 14 to be relaunched: all welcome!

After ten long years of hard work, the Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust is proud to announce that the restoration of the world's oldest existing motor lifeboat, *James Stevens No.14*, is now complete and ready for launching by Griff Rhys Jones on Saturday, 5 September 2009 at Titchmarsh Marina, Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex CO14 8SL.

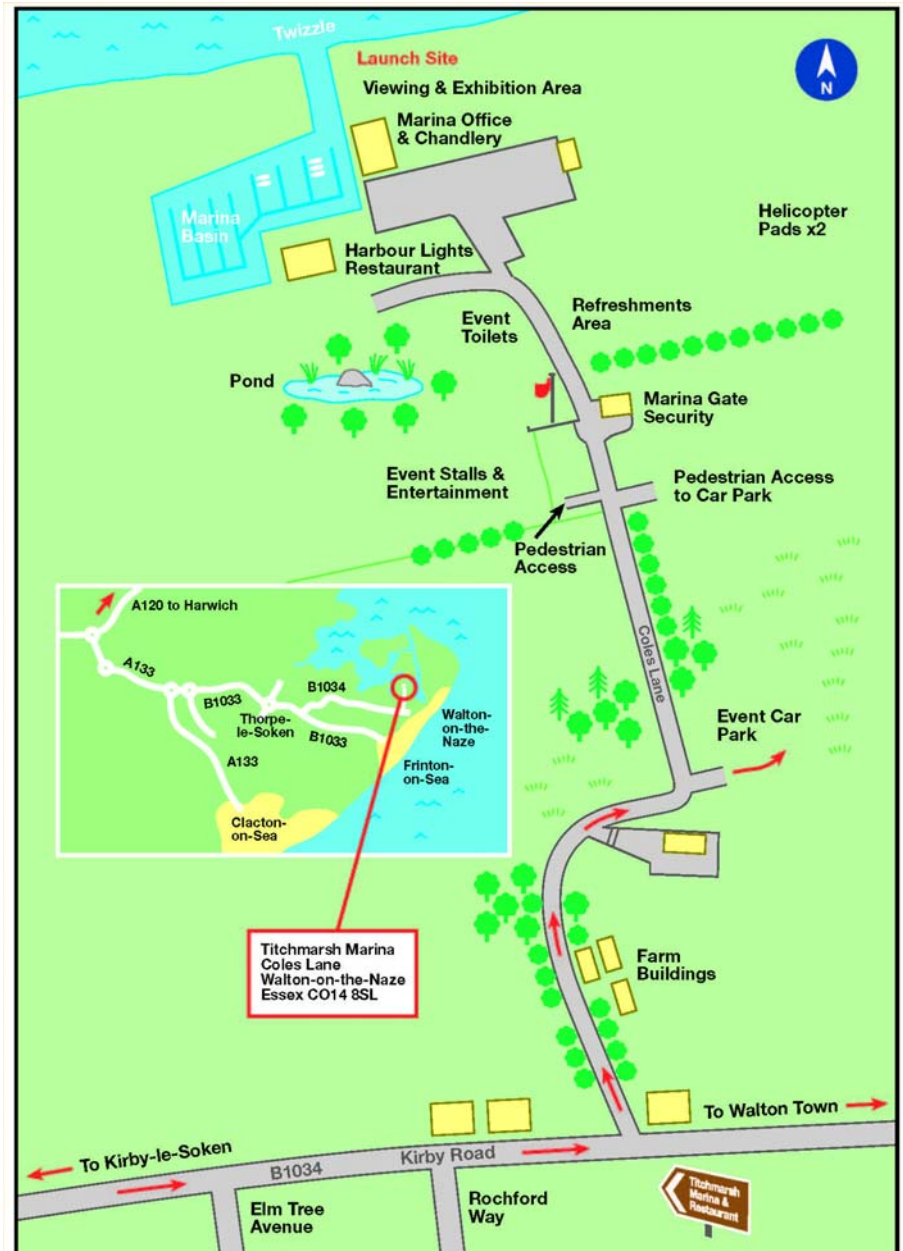
The ceremony will be held just before high tide at 1pm and, as huge crowds are expected, it is advisable for visitors to arrive early. The volunteers would be grateful for support from other historic vessels and hope that some of you might like to join the flotilla for photographs after the launch ceremony. Please let Rachel or Brian know on:

01255 861440 or
brian.jennings50@btinternet.com.

One of the vessels in the National Historic Fleet, *James Stevens No. 14* is the only ex-RNLI Norfolk & Suffolk class lifeboat left afloat. She will be used to take groups out to experience life in an open working boat. She has been restored with the help of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

National Historic Ships grant awards

The following grants were awarded in June: *City of Adelaide* (laser scan) £3,500 and slipway study, £1,500; *Fat Old Sun* (slipping, corking, remedial work) £2,000; *Gareth* (conference) £350; *Kerne* (ultrasonic survey) £2,000; *Kimberley* (repairs to iron hull) £2,000; *Pembeth of Clyde* (restoration work) £1,500; *Penelee* (restoration work) £2,000; *Princess Royal* (survey) £600; *Speedwell* (remedial work on the cockpit) £1,250; *SS Shieldhall* (detachable canvas side) £1,000 and Flagship of the Year award; and *Swallow* (gearbox) £700.



New registrations

The following vessels joined the Register in June and July 2009:

Boleh (yacht); *Corpus Christi College's* (Oxford) barge; *Halcyon* (yacht); *Gringley* (Lincolnshire keel); *Helen* (tug); *Helen and Violet* (Leigh bawley); *Herbert John* (lifeboat); *Kennet* (canal short boat); *Lady Beryl* (launch); *Lynnette* (launch); *Mafeking*

(narrow boat); *Marjorie R* (coal barge); *Mr Toots* (service launch); *Rosenn* (Solent One Design); *Victoria* (narrow boat) and *Wheldale* (tug).



New addition Kennet