

HUNTERS' YARD

Newsletter of the Friends of the Hunter Fleet

The Chair types ...

It is with great sadness that I have to write to report that our Newsletter Editor, Bernard Cook, has finally succumbed to the cancer which he has been bravely fighting this last year with the unstinting support of his partner, Bren. He died peacefully at home on 20th October and the Funeral was at Danbury on 29th October. The family has said that donations to Cancer Research UK (to Bakers Funeral Directors, Eves Corner, Danbury CM3 4QB) would be very welcome. I think that Bernard made a huge contribution to the Friends of the Hunter Fleet because his Newsletter was so good and professionally produced that it is no wonder our Membership has continued to rise! He was also a very strong advocate for the Fleet and was very keen that the boats should be cherished, especially by those who sail them. We will all miss his enthusiasm and energy and my thoughts are with Bren and the rest of the family.

Clearly, this has to be a stopgap Newsletter so that you can hear a

little bit about the Friends activities and promotions before Christmas and to let you know the date of the AGM so that you can get it in to your diaries nice and early.

I drafted most of this copy last September. *"Somehow, I often find myself in the position that I have to write my contribution for the newsletter while on holiday. I am sure this is not a deliberate ploy by Bernard, the copy dates crop up in May and September and, like many people who live in East Anglia, I like the region during the summer and only try to arrange holidays away in the spring and autumn. Anyway, I have just watched a yacht in the distance from our hotel balcony. It is running downwind from Lefkas, pasts Scorpiini and Scorpius with a Union Jack spinnaker. It has held its course for over half an hour (or one glass of red wine as we say over here!). Unless it turns off into a port it could hold that course for hours."* This reminded me about just how much sailing you get when you spend a week in a Hunter boat. One seldom holds the same course for more than a few minutes and

a facility, which used to be available to those "in the know" many years ago but now this new system is open to all. The main disadvantage is for people without e-mail but perhaps they could get a friend or relation to sign up on their behalf and in the last resort they can always phone Christine direct and ask.

Film Night

Many thanks to everyone who

supported the Film Evening on the 2nd October at How Hill. As usual we had a fascinating show (including a promotional film by Blakes on how easy it is to sail on the Broads!) and an excellent meal. I'm glad to say that in its centenary year How Hill seems to be going from strength to strength, not least because of their excellent hospitality.

AGM - Saturday 16th April 2005

We have booked a date for the AGM sailing in the afternoon than this year but the Fleet is so well booked these days there seem to be few "flat spots" left in the season. Sounds like a good case for building another boat if you ask me, well done to the Trust for having the foresight to start one which should be ready soon!!

Sailing Picnic -

Saturday 17th September 2005

It seems the Sailing Picnic is the formula which everyone likes best so by popular demand we will go for another one next year. Keep the date

although I have heard tell of people who have run from South Walsham Broad to Potter Heigham in less than an hour, you have to take down the mast if you want to go any further! Is there anywhere else in the world where people have had a similar experience to sailing on the Broads?

Calendar 2005

The 2005 Hunter Fleet Calendar is already available and you should find an order form enclosed with this Newsletter. So, please order your copies from Philip Bray as soon as you can. It will avoid any delays in getting them out before Christmas and the New Year and it will also put the Committee members' minds at rest once we have passed the "break even" point and start showing a surplus to pass on to the Trust.

"Gone Sailing"

Some of you may have already taken advantage of Christine's "late availability" emails, which has helped to keep the fleet with one of the highest, if not the highest occupancy rate on the Broads. It was

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