

# Marina Mail

The Newsletter of PRESTON MARINA.

## GOOD NEWS! Old Channel Now The New Way Into Ribble

Perhaps the most significant news in relation to navigation of the Ribble since Preston Marina opened in 1986.

Mother nature has seen fit to effectively re-open the old, marked channel into the river.

This means that the approach now is far simpler. Still leaving Gut Buoy at 2 hours before High Water a vessel should head in an Easterly direction to leave the 3 starboard hand perches approx 3 or 4 boat-lengths to starboard and then continue upstream between the perches.

The unmarked South Gut channel, which has been the recommended approach until now is still there of course, and may still be advantageous to those with local knowledge approaching from the South.

We must stress that there is no apparent man-made reason for the re-opening of the marked channel—no dredging has taken place, so no-one can say just how long this situation will continue—but this now becomes the recommended approach until further notice and we are extremely pleased to report this very welcome natural development.



We will be issuing a new set of Pilotage Notes soon, the above illustration is NOT to be used for any sort of navigation.

## Festival 2010 Plans



The weekend of July 24/25 is the date for the 2010 Preston Riversway Festival, and its shaping up to be a cracker.

In addition to the usual attractions such as the huge fireworks display, maritime displays and live music, this year sees the return of the wakeboard tournament, as well as the first ever British Flag Slalom water ski championships.

We will also be looking for intrepid racers for our famous Rubber Dinghy Grand Prix (top photo).

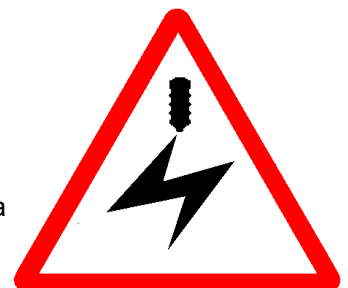


## New electricity deal

First, the bad news - after the coldest Winter for decades, many of you have got a steeper than usual electricity bill...

Now the good news - we have just done a deal with a new electricity supplier which means a reduction of around 30% from April 1st 2010 for 12 months.

Combined with the fact that for the 3rd year running Preston Marina has not increased berthing charges (other than the VAT rise), our customers should enjoy a 2010 which is slightly easier on the pocket!



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## MAGS IS BACK!

Has Winter taken its toll on your boat?

Has it got broken zips, ripped canvas—or is the upholstery looking a bit tired?

Contact 07786 782641 or see [www.magstostitches.co.uk](http://www.magstostitches.co.uk)

## Party Time!



The "Ribble Rousers" band rehearsing in the Marina building, yesterday. Thanks to Peter from Malliemac for the photo.

The evening of Saturday 15th May sees the Preston Cruising Association's Spring Bash, to be held in the boatyard.

A variety of entertainment will be laid on, much of it home-grown - with a brand new band, "The Ribble Rousers", made up of Preston Marina berth-holders and staff especially for the night. Other musical and comedy acts are being lined up for what promises to be a memorable evening (depending on how much beer gets supplied).

Also on the night we will be raising a glass to Phil from Orolong, who greatly enjoyed the last bash in October before his sad passing over the Winter.

There will be a well stocked bar and a hog-roast to keep energy levels up.

Tickets for the night are available from Howard (Hwylldda) or Neil (Pop Jobbles), and cost £5 to cover costs with anything left over going to the RNLI.

## Get Ready For Diesel Changes

News is coming through regarding yet more legislation changes to diesel supplied for use in pleasure boats.

From January 2011, the UK will catch up with the rest of Europe with regard to the requirement to use cleaner "Low Sulphur" red diesel in pleasure boats.

Those of you with modern blown air diesel heaters should benefit from improved reliability as well, as many of these systems are now designed really only to run with this type of fuel.

We are told that this new fuel is going to be around 4p per litre more than existing "Gas Oil" red diesel at the pump.

As with today's road diesel, this low-sulphur red diesel contains a proportion of bio-fuel (believed to be around 7-10%). Questions are being asked about the storage and tank life of such diesel as there are concerns that the organic content can promote growth of the "diesel bug".

Ironically then the introduction of low-sulphur diesel could well mean its more important than ever before to keep your fuel system ultra-clean.

A recommendation that is being widely made is to consider an additive such as "Fuel Set" - which eradicates the bug and keeps your engine's fuel system free of build-up.

A 20ml sachet of "Fuel Set" treats up to 80 litres of diesel and costs only £1.99 from the chandlery, so its well worth a squirt every time you fill up to avoid getting caught out at sea.

## "Boathouse" 20th Birthday

April 11th 1990 was the day that "The Boathouse" - Preston Marina's main building, with its Chandlery and Coffee Shop was opened.

It was a grey windy day when the ribbon was cut by leader of Preston Borough Council Cllr. Harold Parker.

Some things have changed...we have a lot more stock on the shelves now and lots more computers to try to look after it all...but many things remain the same - the Granny's crunch is just as tasty as ever in the coffee shop!

Chris, Sue & Steve were all working on that opening day, and none of them look a day older!



How the local paper reported the Marina building opening in 1990.

## Obligatory Nautical Joke...

A vicar was boating towards an island for a special wedding. On the way he was stopped by the Customs launch.

After a quick check, one patrol officer noticed a box with a few bottles in it.

"What's in the bottles, Reverend?"  
"It's holy water", came the response.

The officer opened one of the bottles. Sniffing it he said, "It smells like wine."

"Hallelujah!" the preacher shouted, "He's done it again!"

## Berthholders Discount

Just a reminder that paid-up berth-holders now benefit from a 10% discount on most chandlery purchases from Preston Marina throughout the year (as opposed to just over the Winter as in previous years.)

The discount applies to non-credit sales of most stock items so this year's fit out could be your cheapest for a long time. There are a few rules and exceptions, a list of which is available at the chandlery till.



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Preston Marine Services Ltd. Navigation Way,  
Riversway Docklands, Preston. PR2 2YP.  
01772 733595. [www.prestonmarina.co.uk](http://www.prestonmarina.co.uk)  
[info@prestonmarina.co.uk](mailto:info@prestonmarina.co.uk)