

# Marina Mail

The Newsletter of PRESTON MARINA.

## Looking Ahead to 2012

2011 was quite a year - the world saw entire nations teeter on the economic brink, tyrants fall and UK cities in riot.

Here at Preston Marina, things were not quite so dramatic....but there were the cockles! (More on that in another article).

2012 promises a few things to look forward to (assuming the Mayans' end-of-world predictions are wrong).

While the whole nation will be celebrating the Queen's 60th Jubilee year, and the Olympics, Preston has its own reasons to make 2012 a special year.

Once every 20 years, Preston celebrates being granted the rare and special right to have a Guild Merchant by King Henry II in 1179. In the intervening years the "renewal" of the Guild has given the former town (now City since the Jubilee of 2002) an excuse for a party year and Preston Marina, in our second Guild year (our first was in 1992), will be at the heart of some of the planned activities,

This year's annual **Riversway Festival** (July 21/22) will be given an extra Guild boost, with more visiting vessels than ever including the return of HMS Charger, as well as a wide mix of live music and displays, and our biggest ever Rubber Dinghy Grand Prix. The fireworks spectacular is also expected to make a return.

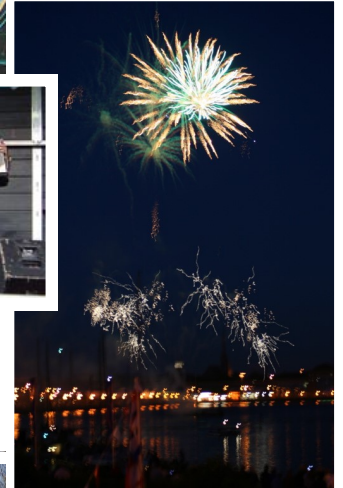
Before the festival the Docklands are to be a host venue for the 2012 UK Corporate Games. (July 12/15). Like a "mini-Olympics" but for companies and organisations rather than nations, this multi-event sporting tournament will be taking place throughout the city and the Dragon Boat Racing will be held here at the Docklands.

So a busy year ahead - and if the Mayans are right, we are hoping the end of the world comes as a flood!



Images from previous Preston Riversway Festivals.

The Guild festival 2012 promises to be one to remember!



## Our "new" toy!

We are very pleased to share with you the results of our latest project - a new (to us) boat mover/parker trailer for the boatyard.

We bought the second hand basic trailer frame earlier last year and spent the autumn heavily modifying it and we now have an incredibly useful piece of boatyard equipment.

Previously to locate a boat within our boatyard we had to lift the boat using the large crane and pack it securely onto a HGV trailer, move it with a wagon within the yard and then re-sling and lift the boat using a mobile crane - a very labour, equipment and space intensive operation.

Now, we can lift (most) of our customers' boats directly into the boat parker (nicknamed Charlie), move it into position just using a forklift and then gently lower the boat to its packings using the built-in hydraulics of the trailer, which is rated to safely accommodate boats up to 12 tons. The task of moving boats around on land will never be an easy one, but Charlie is already a very welcome addition to the team.

# General Notice Board

## Facebook Challenge

We recently launched a Facebook page for the marina, and we want as many people to "Like" us as possible.

We are giving away either a free lunch in our Coffee Shop, or an online shop voucher to the value of £20 to a random Facebook user who clicks that they "Like" Preston Marina on Facebook sometime before June 1st 2012! Get clicking....



## New Deal....

2012 sees Preston Marina reviewing our lease with our landlord Preston City Council.

We have engaged in lengthy negotiations in an attempt to prevent costs rising where possible. As part of this negotiation we are surrendering a substantial portion of land from the boatyard area back to the Council. We have already vacated the area we previously stored trailers, and we will be also vacating a small area of land near the existing gate and fence later in 2012. A new gate, fence and entrance will be created, but this will mean that boatyard space will be even less abundant than before and therefore it will become more important than ever to keep the yard tidy and organised, something with which we will rely on our berth-holders co-operation.

## Pontoon Clear-Up

Preston is in the spotlight for 2012, with the Guild and Corporate Games sure to attract extra visitors to the city and the marina. We would like to ask our berth-holders to help us make a special effort to keep the pontoons clear and tidy.

We are asking for any items which may be lying on the pontoons to be stored on-board or off-site. Not only will this result in a huge improvement to the general ambience, it is also important for the health and safety aspects of the marina as well.

## WEBSITE GOODIES

All you modern people who have got one of those special televisions with a typewriter connected to it and have heard of "internets" might be interested in a few new features of our website.

On the front page you will find today's High and Low Water Tide times, as well as a rather neat weather forecast (up to 10 days - but don't blame us when it's wrong!)

All the marina information is there including all the pilotage information and marina small print stuff as well as a couple of nice videos to watch about the marina.

And we have also re-launched our online shop with some of our most popular shop items available online, with our berth-holders discount scheme in place.



[www.prestonmarina.co.uk](http://www.prestonmarina.co.uk)

## Marina Fees frozen for existing berth-holders

We all know that everywhere you look prices for everything are rising and we are all feeling the pinch.

For the first time in 5 years we are having to increase our berthing tariff from April 1st 2012 - BUT all of our existing customers renewing their current berthing licence will **still only be paying the same rate as they have been for the previous 4 years.**

We are doing our best to help in these difficult times.

# Cockles!



A cockle, yesterday



No-one was more surprised than we were when on September 1st last year the first 2 cockle boats turned up at the marina to land their catch.

We got less than 48 hours notice of the opening of one of the largest cockle beds ever found in the UK off Lytham, and the fact that commercial boats would be coming to harvest it.

In over 20 years of running the marina we had never expected to have any involvement in any sort of fishing activity but we had to learn fast!

When weather and tide combined to be suitable, up to 5 cockling boats berthed in the outer basin and lock chamber for offloading the cockles by our cranes and forklifts to wagons waiting on the quayside. All the offloading had to be done within the 3 hour tidal window of Preston's lock gate operations, but after a couple of days we had become pretty efficient at the handling operations, and were grateful for the extra co-operation of the Council's Riversway team.

The boats that used Preston Marina had come from fishing ports in all corners of the UK and were all from established seafood companies with professional skippers and experienced crews.

The 2 months that the cockle bed was open saw something of a media frenzy as at times hundreds of inexperienced amateur cocklers descended on the Ribble estuary to try to cash-in on the "cockle fever" causing a number of rescues to be conducted by the local lifeboat and Coastguard. Concerns over the safety of these cocklers caused the bed to be closed at the end of November pending a review of regulations.

At the time of writing, we do not know how, when or indeed if the cockling will resume, but from what we gather it is probable that the cockle bed will re-open sometime in 2012 and hopefully with much more in the way of enforcement of safety regulations in place.

## CHANDLERY 2012

In 2012 our chandlery will be introducing **HIDEA** Outboards to our range. We spent some time getting to know them last year and we are sure that they represent the best value in small outboards on the current market.



We will also be increasing our range of inflatable dinghies, with more models than ever before on display as we get into the boating season.

We are planning an on-water demonstration week-end for **WAVELINE** Inflatable Boats and RIBS, and **HIDEA** Engines, so we will all get the chance to try out various different boats. Watch out for the dates...either in the Spring or maybe at the Festival.

More additions to our chandlery range include more marine electronics, with a selection of **GARMIN** products now in stock and online.



One product which we really, really think is brilliant for any boat owner is the collapsible rubber buckets...ask us to show you one...well



worth £20 of any boat owner's hard-earned money—and don't forget, our berth-holders get 10% off!

# £1 OFF

Any can of International yacht paint, varnish or antifouling from Preston Marina.



Only 1 voucher per customer. Not transferable. Anyone trying to diddle us or being a clever clogs will be eaten.

Expires 31st May 2012

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