

Marina Mail

The Newsletter of PRESTON MARINA.



Looking back on 2017...

What a busy year 2017 has been at Preston Marina with so much happening both on and off the water.

The winter makes the ideal time to brush up on your boating knowledge before the season gets started, and so our boating theory refresher courses proved very popular among our berth-holders. We will be running these refreshers again, see the separate article overleaf.

In May, in conjunction with the Preston Dragons and the Preston Keelboat Club, we took part in the RYA's "Push The Boat Out" scheme aimed at getting newcomers onto the water. Our training R.I.B. "Kia Ora" was kept busy giving visitors powerboat taster sessions, while we also demonstrated models from our new dealership for EXCEL R.I.B.s and inflatable boats. Meanwhile the keelboats were racing and the dragon boats were also taking visitors out for paddling taster sessions.

Perhaps the best part of the event for many though was in the evening, when the tide came in and the sun came out, and a flotilla of small craft—many of them being our berth-holders in their dinghies - went out onto the flat calm river for a mini-regatta, including the dragon boat's first

venture outside of the dock. After the fun in the river all crews assembled in "The Lodge" for a barbeque and a bit of an early season knees-up with the marina's very own multi-talented Cliff entertaining us into the night with his (honestly) superb singing.

Speaking of dragon boats - the Preston Dragons have had an amazing first year of competition - see overleaf for more.

Not all of our activities were onsite - in June we exhibited at the Northern Boat Show in Liverpool where information about our RYA Training Courses and special Summer Berthing Deal was especially well received.

We are looking to make 2018 another exciting year at Preston Marina. You can keep up to date with what is going on by checking our website and our Facebook page regularly.

www.prestonmarina.co.uk
or search Preston Marina on Google or Facebook.



Above from left, "Push The Boat Out" powerboat taster sessions, dragon boat taster sessions and keelboat racing.

Right, At the "Northern Boat Show" in Liverpool.

Below; The small craft flotilla on the river.



Marina Improvements

We have an ongoing commitment to re-investment into marina facilities, and 2017 has seen some significant examples of this.

In the July we acquired a 16 ton boat parker which now enables us to position larger boats throughout the boatyard rather than just under the crane as previously, meaning much shorter or even no waiting times for more of our customers wanting their boats out of the water. Our crane has also had some new upgrades too.

We have also commenced a rolling programme of replacing the marina jetty boards - with the south pontoons and visitor jetty already complete at the time of writing.



Clubs Round Up



In only their second year of existence the **Preston Dragons** are going from strength to strength. They made their competition debut at two national league regattas in 2017 as well as the British National Championships, and brought home trophies from all of them making them one of the fastest developing clubs in the country. Their dedication to training in the dock throughout the year, rain or shine certainly seems to be starting to reap rewards.

www.prestondragons.org - Facebook "Preston Dragons"

The **Preston Keelboat Club's** first full year saw some racing commencing in the dock and it is hoped that for 2018 more keelboat owners will join to take advantage of the excellent facilities available to be able to sail 7 days per week at any time, with very advantageous berthing rates.

www.prestonkeelboatclub.co.uk



Both clubs can also be found on Facebook.

From Preston to the sunshine...



Left: "De Linde" arrives in Lanzarote.

Above: Preston Marina berth-holder and training centre graduate Frank Mellor on watch in the Bay Of Biscay.

Below: "Finchpalm" departs Preston bound for the med.

Sometimes we hear people say things like "the boats in the marina never seem to go anywhere". Well it is just not true - and this season two boats in particular proved it in fine style.

In July the Hallberg Rassy 36 "De Linde" - skippered by our Chief RYA Instructor Brian Woodruff - departed for Lanzarote, with a crew which included two recent graduates of the Preston Marina Training Centre. All arrived safely in the Canaries after 11 days at sea.

A few days after their departure the 31ft Beneteau ketch "Finchpalm" set sail from Preston to Portugal, with Skipper Angus and crew going onwards into to the med shortly after.

Living the dream indeed!



Is your boat ready for winter?

Make sure you pay a visit to check that your boat is properly winterised, and also that all mooring lines are in good condition and properly tied and all sails are secured (or preferably removed).

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EXCEL BOATS



Our pet Geordie Cliff tests an EXCEL Volante 290, with the Tohatsu 6hp at 13.5 knots yesterday.

2017 saw us commence a new dealership for **EXCEL R.I.B.s and inflatable boats.**

With possibly the widest range of small craft available from a single manufacturer we have been extremely impressed with the quality and value on offer from EXCEL.

For 2018 we will be putting a brand new EXCEL 4.2m R.I.B. into service as a demonstrator boat as well as using it for RYA Powerboat training courses.

Our boat will have TOHATSU's flagship 50hp engine. Tohatsu are one of Japan's most respected outboard manufacturers with a reputation for quality and reliability (they have the longest warranty on the market). They also make the lightest 4 stroke outboards - with an amazing new 15hp and 20hp model joining the range in 2018 which is sure to become a market leader.



RYA Training Spring 2018

While we all wait for the summer to come around why not brush up on your boating knowledge with some of our RYA training courses.

We run a wide range of courses, including...

RYA VHF / DSC Radio (SRC)
Saturday 3rd February (£95 + £60)

RYA Diesel Engine
Saturday 31st March (£95)

RYA Day Skipper (Shore Based)
6th Jan - 3 weekends £295
5th - 9th Feb (Mon - Fri) £295

RYA Coastal Yacht Master (Shore Based)
3 full weekends from 10th March £295

RYA Powerboat Level 2
2 day course - Starts again in March 2018—see website for dates. £275

SPRING REFRESHER COURSES

Already got your Day Skipper or Coastal Yachtmaster ticket, but fancy brushing up on your skills before the season starts?

Day Skipper - Tues 6th & 13th March (6.45pm—9.30pm)
Coastal Yachtmaster - Tues 20th & 27th March (6.45pm—9.30pm)

£20 per refresher session (£15 for Preston Marina berth-holders)

Note - these are not RYA courses and do not provide a qualification. They are offered purely as a refresher for those who are already qualified accordingly.

SUMMER DEAL - Perfect for sportsboats

There are few better ways to spend summer evenings than enjoying 15 miles of calm river in a R.I.B. or sportsboat - perhaps a spot of wakeboarding or fishing. Our special **SUMMER DEAL** is your low cost ticket to some superb fun on the water right here from Preston Marina.



Preston Marina - Open 7 Days Per Week.

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