

# Marina Mail

The Newsletter of PRESTON MARINA.



Our company founding directors, David Walker, Chris Miller and David Miller on the opening day of "Preston Yacht Haven" in 1986 - note Morrisons supermarket under construction in background.



"The Boathouse" under construction in late 1989 - to house the new marina's offices, coffee shop and chandlery, which opened on April 11th 1990.



January 1990 - installation of the pontoons using a specially constructed crane barge.



Spring 1990 - the marina opens and soon after the RNLI conduct a commissioning ceremony for the new Lytham lifeboat.



A one-person Mini 12 keelboat races against the real 12 metre Americas Cup yacht "Sceptre", in the 40 acre main dock basin.



The Preston Dragons - the newly formed dragon boat club goes from strength to strength, the dock basin providing the ideal training facility for this exciting water-sport.

Can you believe it is now 20 years since all those Millennium celebrations?

2020 represents a special anniversary for us at Preston Marina - 30 years since we opened the pontoons, the marina building with the coffee shop and chandlery, and our boatyard.

Our company actually started some 4 years earlier, in 1986, with the experimental Preston Yacht Haven, comprised of 12 swinging moorings in the centre of the dock basin and the use of the then derelict No.3 shed (now Victoria Mansions), but Preston Marina as we all know it got started on April 11th 1990.

When we think back to 1990, we remember things like the long "reign" of Mrs. Thatcher coming to an end, the re-unification of Germany, the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope, the first Gulf War and the release of Nelson Mandela. The year also saw Tim Berners Lee created the first web server and thus the World Wide Web - not many of us at the time foresaw just what a massive impact that was going to make to our lives (such as giving us Wikipedia, which made writing that last paragraph really easy!).

Meanwhile, here at Preston Marina we set about the challenging task of providing a yacht marina some 15 miles from the sea in the (then) town's redeveloping Riversway Docklands. It was never going to be easy, the Irish Sea can be a very lumpy cruising ground, and yachtsmen back then will remember that the only way in or out of the river was through the notorious un-marked and now somewhat mythical South Gut Channel (it was only in 2010 when the sands shifted to allow navigation through the marked river channel).

While we have seen many changes over the years and new challenges such as competition from other neighbouring marinas opening, and the double-edged effect the internet has had, Preston Marina has fundamentally kept to the same simple formula that we began in 1990 and remains popular both with boaters and the people of Preston three decades later, and, all being well, beyond.

We will be having a celebration on our anniversary day of Saturday April 11th - and other events throughout the boating season, details of which will emerge in due course. We are also hoping that some berth-holders might join us on some Cruises-In-Company, see the short article overleaf.

Here we are at the dawn of the 20's - will they be roaring? Somehow we doubt they will be boring!



The marina in 1990, shortly after opening. Berths soon filled up as at that time there were very few marinas in the area. A year later we added another row of pontoons, on both the north and south sides of the dock.



Our little trip boat "Preston Puffin" ran boat trips around the dock and in the river from the Preston Guild in 1992. We carried on running boat trips up to the next Guild celebrations in 2012.



Wakeboarding on the River Ribble with the distinct Preston skyline in the background.



Preston Guild Festival 2012 - Preston Marina has been at the heart of many festivals and events over the decades - celebrating the city of Preston's historic link with the sea.





## The Dragons Keep Roaring!!

The Preston Dragons have had yet another amazing year in 2019, ending up as Champions of the National Standard Club Division!

This is truly an amazing achievement in only their 3rd year in existence. The Preston Dragons train in Preston Dock most Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings, and anyone wanting to give this fabulous sport a go is encouraged to get in touch.

[www.prestondragons.org](http://www.prestondragons.org) or search Preston Dragons on Facebook



### Standard Club Division 2019

Position	Crew	Points
1	Preston Dragons (DR)	128.5
2	Cambridge Royals	88.4
3	Pembroke Phoenix (DR)	65.35
4	Thames Dragons Boat Racing Club	60
5	Swansea Dragons (Leighborough)	56.35
6	Hartlepool (DR)	56
7	Preston Dragons	51.58
8	Wales Water Sports	50
9	Bradford Stormchasers	44.54
10	Wendy Poleson Dragon Boat Club	34
11	Pink Chameleons	29
12	Chesham (DR)	19
13	Spirit of Norfolk	10
14	Monmouth Dragons	8
15	Yagoups Dragons	1

## Diesel Polishing

Diesel, especially these days with its bio content, is prone to developing "diesel bug" a growth which can clog up filters and is a major cause of break-downs at sea.

Preston Marina has invested in a new machine which removes water from diesel tanks (which causes the bug), cleans the fuel and removes the "bug".

This Spring we are launching a new "diesel polishing" service - highly recommended before starting your boating season. Ask at the office.



## When Freddie rocked the boatyard...

This past July 20th we had a special Summer Party at the marina.

The day started with a mini-flotilla on the river, with small craft from the marina joining the dragon boats.

We were also joined on the tide by some visiting boats from our friends at the Ribble Cruising Club at Lytham.

Then, in the evening the boatyard was turned into a rock venue as Queen tribute band "Queen-Esque" (which Steve from the marina is the guitarist for) rocked the night away!



## Is your boat ready for winter?

Please 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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## Cruises In Company - 2020

We are hoping to encourage some cruises-in-company with our berth-holders and their boats in the 2020 season.

Among cruise ideas that are being considered are the following;

April 25th - 26th (Sat / Sun)	Shakedown cruise to Piel Island.
May 16th - 17th (Sat/Sun)	Liverpool
June 19th - 23rd (Fri - Tues)	Whitehaven

Obviously, plans will always be subject to appropriate weather - and it will be the responsibility of each boat owner to ensure their boat is suitable and appropriately prepared, and that they are sufficiently competent and confident in their seamanship as the Irish Sea always needs to be treated with great respect.

Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to attend an informal meeting initially to discuss the concept.

Meeting to be held at;

The Marina Coffee Shop,

**Wednesday 12th February, 7pm.**



## RYA Training Courses 2020

Some courses that may be of interest to our berth-holders;

**Day Skipper Shore Based** - From Sat January 11th for 3 weekends

**Diesel Engine Course** - Sunday 23rd February

**VHF Radio** - Saturday 8th February or Wednesday 11th March



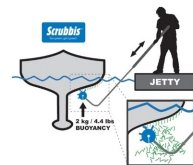
Newcomers to boating, or those wanting a refresher for their theory skills will benefit from the superb **ONLINE ESSENTIAL NAVIGATION & SEAMANSHIP COURSE** - which you do in your own time from the comfort of home. Highly recommended and available from our website [www.prestonmarina.co.uk](http://www.prestonmarina.co.uk)

And of course we will be running **RYA Powerboat Level 2** courses from late March throughout the boating season.

## Beat The Barnacles...

Giving your boat's bottom a good scrub once a month or so, especially in warmer weather, can significantly reduce the growth of the dreaded barnacles. We have a clever gadget called a "Scrubbis" for this...

Available to hire for £5 per half day - or to buy for £75.



## Keelboat Sailing

As some of you will know, we have always been keen to encourage keelboat sailing and racing in the dock, and this very much remains the case.

In 2020 we have hopes that sailing will resume and in the meantime anyone who owns or is considering buying an open racing keelboat can ask Steve in the office about our special arrangements for such boats.



**Preston Marina - Open 7 Days Per Week.**

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