

Marina Mail

The Newsletter of PRESTON MARINA.



Let there be lights...



There have been some dark times of late - and Christmas 2020 was a quiet, and perhaps for some, a lonely one, but for 2021 our berth-holders have brought a bit of light and cheer to the festive season,

Inspired by one of our boat-owners who for the past few years has turned his Moody 36 into a giant Christmas tree, we have been delighted that more and more of our customers have been joining in and lighting up their boats.

On 2nd December we had our first ever "official switch on", when the marina burst into a spectacular display of light and colour. Some of the boats even had a procession around the dock basin - with a very special V.I.P. in

a bright red suit riding in the lead boat ("Puddlehopper", the Moody that started it all.).

As we say farewell to 2021 we take a look back at some of the goings-on here at Preston Marina in this newsletter and look forward to 2022, where we all hope that we will continue to emerge from these extremely challenging times.

The Christmas spirit on display here is not just at this time of year, but is felt every day throughout the friendly little community of Preston Marina. We would like to thank our customers for their continued support and wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Our ship comes in, again.



Preston's historic links with the sea proved vital once again in July when the *MV River Trader* returned to the dock to offload a brand new 175 ton electrical transformer for the National Grid, with the assistance of the Preston Marina team and Preston City Council.

This was the sixth time that the ship has brought heavy loads into Preston in recent years. Once again the whole operation went very smoothly.



Wish you were here?

See where some of our berth-holders got to with their boats in 2021, overleaf...





Messing about on the water.

This is what it is all about! We spend many, many hours and even more pounds on our boats and ourselves to prepare for what we hope is going to be quality time on the water. We endure the long dark winters thinking about where we might go, and when it finally happens...boy is it all worth it!

The lock-downs caused huge disruption to all of our usual winter maintenance plans, and delayed the start of the boating season, but those of us who were lucky enough to get out there this year were rewarded with some fabulous boating.

We have some superb cruising destinations within reach of Preston Marina and nothing delights us more when we see our customers taking advantage - cruising alone or better yet, in company with other boats from the marina, and sending us their photos!

Let's hope 2022 sees more of the same! We encourage all berth-holders to join the private Facebook group "Preston Marina Cruising Group" where we can all exchange boating ideas and plans.



Top left and right: "Yaff Laff" on a summer cruise to the Menai Straits and Anglesey, drying out on the beach for a bottom scrub.

Bottom row left: A sunny motor-cruise in company to Piel Island.

Bottom row right: The ski boats having great fun on the river.



Despite the tournament calendar being extremely sparse for the past couple of seasons the Preston Dragons dragon-boat team have continued to train in the dock when regulations have allowed.

In addition to regular training sessions the dragons have also done charity fund-raising activities. Here is to hoping that 2022 brings a bit more racing...so the Preston Dragons can roar again!

www.prestondragons.org



RYA Training

We had quite a back-log of demand for training courses which had built up during the lock downs, but we have worked very hard this season and we are delighted to have caught-up. Over the winter our shore-based RYA courses resume (Day Skipper, Coastal Yacht Master, VHF Radio, Radar, Diesel Engine), as well as short refresher courses to help blow a few cobwebs off. Get in touch to discuss your training requirements; training@prestonmarina.co.uk or www.prestonmarina.co.uk

Off to the right start...

Sharon and Richard who live in Preston have always wanted to get into boating.

They want to enjoy the coastline near to home, and knew they would need the right boat and the right knowledge...and they got it just right!

They came on an RYA Powerboat Level 2 course with us this Autumn, and said afterwards "It was a great experience and a good introduction to boating."

They have also bought a second-hand but gorgeous 8 metre Jeanneau Merry Fisher motor cruiser, with a superb inboard diesel engine. A perfect choice for exploring the cruising waters of the Irish Sea.

They could not have got off to a better start to years of happy sea cruising, and will be coming to do more courses with us in the near future to build the essential knowledge and skills needed to enjoy safe boating.

Why not follow in Sharon and Richard's footsteps and contact us for advice on getting into boating.



Life's a Beach (Hut)



We have tried to make good use of the lock-downs.

In 2020 we totally re-vamped the coffee shop and introduced a bar and pizzeria. In 2021, we have gone one step further and built a beer garden (with views over the water and the boats), and even put in a row of actual beach huts, for a new and different dining experience.

These new additions have proved extremely popular, as have our live music and quiz nights, which began in the autumn.

The standard of musicians that we have been lucky enough to attract has been really high, with acoustic duos, trios and singer-songwriters entertaining diners in the café-bar.

We will be continuing to bring performers in on a semi-regular basis so keep your eye on our website or for posters in the building to see what's on.



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).

Extensive maintenance works completed.



Throughout 2021, Preston Marina and Preston City Council completed a programme of maintenance works to dock and marina infrastructure.

The lock gates have enjoyed the most thorough round of repairs and upgrades since the 1980's, and meanwhile the marina's pontoon chains and anchors have been renewed and also upgraded.

Specialist marine engineering company KMASS from Oban in Scotland worked alongside our team to ensure the pontoon installations are solid going forward, with heavier ground-tackle in place as a precaution against seemingly increasing instances of strong easterly winds.

Preston Marina - Open 7 Days Per Week.

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