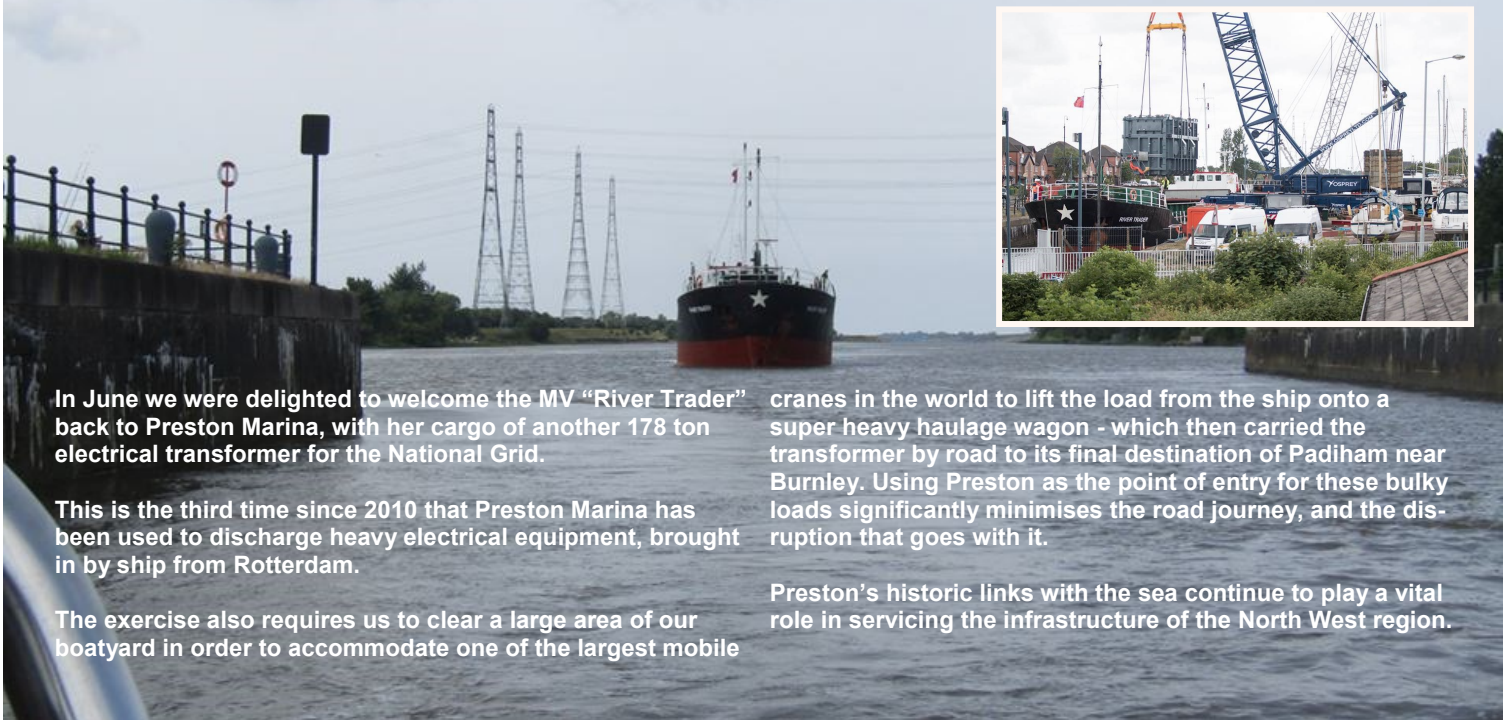


Marina Mail

The Newsletter of PRESTON MARINA.



2018 - Big Lift, Beast From The East & Hot Hot Hot...



In June we were delighted to welcome the MV "River Trader" back to Preston Marina, with her cargo of another 178 ton electrical transformer for the National Grid.

This is the third time since 2010 that Preston Marina has been used to discharge heavy electrical equipment, brought in by ship from Rotterdam.

The exercise also requires us to clear a large area of our boatyard in order to accommodate one of the largest mobile

cranes in the world to lift the load from the ship onto a super heavy haulage wagon - which then carried the transformer by road to its final destination of Padiham near Burnley. Using Preston as the point of entry for these bulky loads significantly minimises the road journey, and the disruption that goes with it.

Preston's historic links with the sea continue to play a vital role in servicing the infrastructure of the North West region.

2018 will remain memorable for years to come for its extremes of weather.

In February, we faced "The Beast From The East" - a week of savage easterly gales, bringing icy Siberian air to the UK. We were thankful that Preston Marina weathered the storms well, with no damage.

In total contrast, June and July saw the most prolonged heatwave on record since 1976, making for some truly perfect boating conditions enjoyed by many of our marina berth-holders.

While many of us were happy to enjoy the cruising destinations of the Irish Sea, some went further than others. In July, Barry and Anne Murphy departed the marina in their 30ft ketch "Wagtail" for their second transatlantic voyage to the Caribbean via the Canary Islands.

Lets hope 2019 offers all of us some more great boating opportunities. We would love to encourage our berth-holders to organise some "Cruises In Company", perhaps not to the Caribbean, but if we get the sort of weather we have enjoyed this year - Piel Island, the Menai Straits or the Isle of Man can be just as nice!



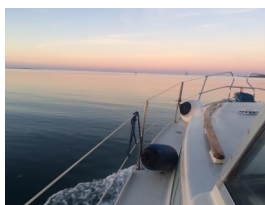
Top; MV River Trader enters the dock and (inset) offloads the 178t transformer.

Above right; Ice encrusted boats and big waves during "The Beast From The East".

Right; "Wagtail" departs Preston bound for the Canary Islands and the Caribbean.

Below; A flat calm cruise from Preston to Piel Island

Below left; A flotilla departs Preston Marina to enjoy some spectacular boating weather.



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.





Left—The Preston Dragons team go racing.

Above—The naming ceremony for "Spirit Of Chris Miller"

The "Preston Dragons" Dragon Boat club continues to go from strength to strength with another great year of competitions and events in 2018.

The club's fleet now stands at 4 boats, with the latest addition—a state of the art racing boat, part funded by Sport England, being named "Spirit Of Chris Miller", in honour of the marina's late founder.

The Dragons travelled to and competed in three regattas this year, including the National Championships in Nottingham, with our team making it through to the final of the 200m mixed competition (ladies and gents in the same boat).

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 or search Preston Dragons in Facebook

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.



Marina Refurbishments

Our marina refurbishments are well underway. The South Side pontoon decks have now all been replaced - the visitor pontoon deck has been replaced and we have just finished replacing all of the North side berths. The final phase begins in December 2018, replacing all the North side walkways, and refurbishing the pontoon lights and electric hook ups.



Visitor Mooring Renewed

Local boaters will be pleased that in September the Ribble Cruising Club renewed their visitor mooring at Lytham. This mooring offers a temporary facility for boats waiting for the tide to enter the river making it a safer and more user-friendly environment.

A Special Visitor...

In October a seal swam into the outer basin - 15 miles from the sea. Boaters have reported seeing more and more (and bigger) fish in the river recently. More evidence that the river is getting significantly cleaner.



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).

RYA Training 2019

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

RYA VHF / DSC Radio (SRC)

Courses and Exams in Feb, March & April (£95 + £60)

RYA Diesel Engine

Saturday 27th January (£95)

RYA Day Skipper (Shore Based)

Courses in Jan, Feb, Mar & April (£325)

RYA Coastal Yacht Master (Shore Based)

Courses in Feb & March (£325)

RYA Powerboat Level 2

2 day course - Starts again in March 2019—see website for dates. (£275)

RYA First Aid

Sunday 7th April (£95)

SPRING REFRESHER COURSES

Already got your Day Skipper ticket, but fancy brushing up on your skills before the season starts? Two evening sessions - just £20 per session for Preston Marina berth-holders or ex students;

Tues 15th Jan 6.45 - 9.30pm (revision of non-chartwork aspects)
Tues 22nd Jan 6.45 - 9.30pm (revision of chart work)

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.



ONLINE COURSES NOW AVAILABLE

VHF / DSC Radio
Essential Navigation & Seamanship
CEVNI

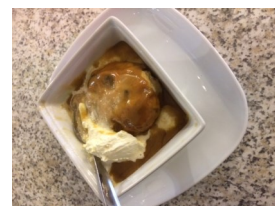
These RYA courses are now available for home study in your own time via our website;

www.prestonmarina.co.uk

Beach Hut Coffee Shop Scores 5 out of 5 Again...

We are delighted our fantastic Coffee Shop has just retained it's maximum 5 Star rating, awarded by Preston City Council's environmental health department.

To celebrate why not come along and try one of our new mouth-watering scones.....a delicious freshly baked scone with a "Sticky Toffee" or "Rum Butter" Sauce, served warmed & topped with fresh cream.



BERTH HOLDERS there's a FREE scone waiting for you when you hand in the voucher below at the Coffee Shop Counter.



**** VOUCHER****

This voucher entitles a Preston Marina Berth Holder to a FREE scone of your choice.

Offer Expires on the 1.4.19

Preston Marina - Open 7 Days Per Week.

Navigation Way, Riversway Docklands, Preston, Lancashire. PR2 2YP

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www.prestonmarina.co.uk



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