



# Marina Mail

The Newsletter of PRESTON MARINA.

## H.M.S. Charger visit



For the first time in a long time (certainly since the working days of the Port), a Royal Navy vessel, flying the White Ensign, made an official visit to Preston Marina in the impressive shape of H.M.S. Charger - a 68' (20.8m) "Archer" class fast patrol boat.

She was our guest overnight after she arrived from Liverpool on March 19th, with a compliment of trainees from the Liverpool University Royal Navy Unit alongside her regular Royal Navy officers and crew.

The purpose of her visit was to make an assessment on behalf of the Royal Navy as to the recent significant natural improvements to the navigability of the River Ribble which we were very pleased to report in our newsletter of last Spring.

The "new" direct channel across the estuary is remaining constant - the marked, straight line approach being of huge benefit to all vessels entering the Ribble.

*Charger*, which regularly makes similar visits to ports in and around the Irish Sea, had no difficulty with the approach to Preston, and although this particular trip was a "low-key" affair, its success means that we have been assured of more visits from Naval vessels in the future.



**Above left and Above;** Royal Navy fast patrol boat H.M.S. Charger makes her visit to Preston Marina in March.

**Below;** The 90m / 2,200 ton "mega-barge" Terra Marique in the river being towed by the 2.9m draft, 2,400hp tug "East"

## More Big Stuff!

In our previous newsletter we reported on the visit last September of the "River Carrier", at 190' the largest ship to use the dock at Preston for over 20 years in order to deliver a new 175 ton transformer for the National Grid substation in nearby Howick.

This job has been ongoing and required the delivery of 2 more even larger transformers over two weekends in March, again via the river.

This time the heavy RO-RO barge "Terra Marique", towed by the 2.9m draft tug "East" was required to carry the loads each totalling over 500 tons (including 2 wagons and ultra high capacity trailer as well as the transformer itself), which rolled off onto the south bank of the river at high tide on day 2 of each of the 3 day operations.

We hope to see the operation repeated in the future as the Howick National Grid facility continues to develop.



# General Notice Board

## A rubbish news item - literally!

You can now put your day to day domestic recyclable waste (cardboard, bottles, cans etc.) into the normal big general waste skips and our waste contractor will sort out the recycling...making life just that little bit easier.

Non-domestic or potentially hazardous waste should not go into these skips and separate arrangements should be made.



## Goodbye Fiona, Hello Jeanette....

After being with us in the shop for 8 years (since she was 'nowt but a nipper'), Fiona has moved on to a new job at a local university after graduating with an electronics degree recently...and we all wish her the very best in her new career.

We would also like to welcome a new face, Jeanette, who will be working in the shop, sharing the job with Hilary. Jeanette is, I am sure you will all discover, very friendly and super-helpful, but she is new to the world of boating...so if you are buying something technical, perhaps you can help her out by telling her what you have bought is for....she is a quick learner!

## Marina Fees Remain Unchanged

Other than the VAT increase, the tariff of Preston Marina remains unchanged for the 4th year running - which we hope provides some welcome continuity in a world of escalating costs.

We have spent a little time updating and tidying up our Terms & Conditions which previously were effectively spread over three separate documents and have now been consolidated into one—a copy of which has been sent to every berth-holder, or is available by request or to download from our website.

## Merry February!!

By the time February comes along all thoughts of Christmas excesses are long behind most of us....but not for the berth-holders of Preston Marina it seems as Saturday 26th Feb saw them hold their annual Christmas party!

Tinsel, trees, fairy-lights, Christmas grub at the buffet and Slade playing on the disco made for a thoroughly festive time enjoyed by all....and we look forward to the Easter bash....probably sometime in October!!

## Riversway Festival 2011

As Preston warms up for next years Guild celebrations, the 16th & 17th July this year sees the annual Riversway Festival taking place with a programme of events being put together which celebrates Preston's maritime connections with music, visiting boats and a whole host of attractions and distractions over the weekend.

We thank our berth-holders in advance for their co-operation for what is sure to be a fun weekend as always!



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# In the Galley....

With Hillary

## “Boil ‘n Bake Fruit Cake”

Life onboard does not have to mean you can't enjoy proper cooking and baking, as Hilary from our shop at Preston Marina regularly proves with her fabulous creations straight from the diesel powered oven on their home built sailing yacht.

In this issue, she shares the wonderfully simple recipe for her delicious fruit cake which some of us have been lucky enough to sample on special occasions...

Start with...

12 oz. Mixed fruit  
1/2 mug sugar  
1 mug of milk  
4 oz. Margarine

Put the above into a saucepan and gently bring to boil, stirring as you go

Then add;

8 oz. Self raising flour (sieved)  
2 beaten eggs  
1 tsp. Of Baking Powder  
1 tsp Bicarbonate of Soda  
1 tsp cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg - any spices really!

Mix it all in and bake in a lined tin @ 150° for approx. 1 1/4 hours. Leave in tin to cool....and enjoy!

All we can say is....Howard is a lucky man!!!

# GET TOOLED UP!



With the fit-out season upon us once again we would like to tell you about some new hardware and tool suppliers that the chandlery has taken on over the winter, which mean that in addition to us being able to **slash our prices** on the essential maintenance products like masking tape and paint brushes, for the first time ever we now stock a range of really useful tools and hardware like spanners, screwdrivers and hammers, at **genuinely superb prices** which every boat owner (and home owner for that matter) will want to browse through...

## 20% OFF!



Look out for some great bargains this Spring/Summer at Preston Marina...including 20% off a large selection of our **QUAYSIDE FOOTWEAR** stock. Our eligible berth-holders can even use their 10% discount in addition to this offer!

**Don't forget... Preston Marina berth-holders get a 10% discount on most shop purchases!**