



## The Beverley Barge Preservation Society

Registered Charity No 1091733  
www.syntanbarge.org.uk Tel: 01482 872805/878629

### Newsletter November 2011

#### Review

Although the onset of autumn saw the end of a busy season of day sailing and longer visits to York and Leeds water festivals there is still a huge amount of activity for the volunteer members of the Society.

The preservation and management of activity with the *SYNTAN* continues to be the main focus of our work but the "fleet" is expanding. We continue to work on the *SUN*, a smaller ex-British Waterways vessel with the ambitious aim of re-launching her in the summer of 2012. Last October we were very grateful to receive the *MERMAID* from Gardline, the international shipping and marine exploration company. ( See page 2 for more details of the *SUN* and *MERMAID*.)

In addition to trips on the River Hull and beyond, the *SYNTAN*, within the terms of our charitable status, also offers a useful meeting space and educational and cultural focus. We have been the setting for adult art classes, primary school visits and social events. Schools and adult education or leisure groups are welcome to contact us to set up activity to their specific needs. (Please contact the Secretary, Jon Mager, 07596 313403 or [Syntanbarge@aol.co.uk](mailto:Syntanbarge@aol.co.uk))

#### Diary dates for 2012

We are already planning a busy schedule for 2012. Volunteers are always welcome to assist - in any case do join us if you are in the vicinity of the following events.

Jubilee Beverley	4 <sup>th</sup> June
Beverley Folk Festival	15 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> June
Leeds Water Festival	30 <sup>th</sup> June to 1 <sup>st</sup> July
York Water Festival	9 <sup>th</sup> July to 24 <sup>th</sup> July
Hull Water Festival	22 <sup>nd</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> July

#### SYNTAN

In late October we were able to put *SYNTAN* in to the Beverley dry dock. A team of volunteers worked extremely hard to overhaul the hull, completing the following tasks in only 4 weeks-

- Full survey including ultrasound testing of plate thickness
- Alterations to the rudder to aid steering
- Full repaint of the hull
- Installation of fittings for sink and possible future shower
- Fitting of new anodes
- Installation of a plate where the hull was thin and repairs to damaged welds
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Huge appreciation to all those who took part in this important work and to Steve Bampton for the use of the dry dock.

This should mean that *SYNTAN* is well set for the next 3 – 4 years.

#### FRANK GRAY

*Since the last newsletter the Society has lost one of its Trustees. Frank was truly a unique person, with a wealth of knowledge about Hodgson's Tannery and a leading factor in the establishment of the society. His skill as a mediator and a purveyor of common sense was well known throughout the town. He will be sadly missed not only by this Society but also by others he was involved with, Beverley Minister and the Abbeyfields Society to name just two. The Minister was full for his funeral, a fitting send off for such a popular man.*



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### SUN

The *SUN* is an ex-British Waterways boat we are developing to carry charters from Beverley. Whilst *SYNTAN* will always be our flagship, a restored *SUN*, shorter in length and narrower in beam will provide a greater flexibility in handling and in cruising range and thus earning potential to cover costs.

Because of her size we will be able to take passengers on journeys north up the River Hull towards Driffeld Navigation.

The front section behind the forward cabin will have a small cockpit for use on fine days. The vessel will be limited to carrying 12 passengers.

The existing structure of *SUN* is being restored to close to its original condition. We have completed a full survey and the necessary replating has been carried out. A new superstructure over the existing hold will be produced, containing a w/c and galley, both suitable for access by wheelchair.

We aim to have the *SUN* ready for the summer season 2012 but there is still much to be done. Over the last three years hundreds of hours of volunteer labour have concentrated on work to prevent further deterioration in steelwork and general fabric but we now need to complete major tasks including –

- A new enclosed wheelhouse which can be lowered to negotiate bridges
- Easier access to the engine room
- Cleaning, fitting out and a repaint of the engine room
- Engine service and repaint
- Electrical system to provide power for the restoration team
- A new bottom plate and removal of the original mud hopper floor
- The fitting of a steelwork structure for the cabin floor area
- Repaint on all surfaces below deck walkway level

The immediate priority is to fit a commercial quality tarpaulin specially fabricated to fit over the cabin area to make the area watertight so a floor can be fitted. We are still short of the £50,000 budget to complete all of the work listed above and we are seeking grant funding. In the meantime donations and volunteers to assist with the ongoing work are always welcome. Regular working parties take place at the Beverley Shipyard on Sunday mornings starting at 10.30 a.m.. For further information about volunteer work please contact Don Swindell [don2@don2.karro.co.uk](mailto:don2@don2.karro.co.uk) or Eddie Cunningham [spfab@spfab.karoo.co.uk](mailto:spfab@spfab.karoo.co.uk)

### MERMAID

Also part of the Society's fleet is the ex-lifeboat Mermaid, previously a tender to a Trinity House vessel and kindly donated to us by Gardline, the international shipping and marine exploration company.

She is 30' long with a 6'6" beam and was built in South Korea by Hyundai with a Perkins 4108 engine. We have refurbished Mermaid to act as a pleasure craft to take up to 8 passengers and 2 crew.

From April 2012 she will be taking trips from Crane Hill Wharf head of the Beck (close to the Forrester's Arms) at ½ hour intervals most weekends down to the lock at the end of the Beck and return.

By prior arrangement she can also be chartered to take up to 8 passengers from the Beck, through the lock and north up the River Hull.

Contact Tony Hardwidge 07960 379 523