

## The newsletter of the Beverley Barge Preservation Society

Charity No 1091733

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### Progress on Sun



Since the return from Alexandra Dock, the progress on Sun has been spectacular. After a couple of weeks in the Beck, the vessel returned to the Beverley Shipyard to continue with the heavy work. Windows were ordered from a firm in Knottingley who provided a template frame for the windows to be cut in the new superstructure. The new steel was painted on the inside and the noggins were installed in the roof and insulation put into the roofspace. The outside of the superstructure has also been descaled, and primed and undercoated with gloss finishes applied to the new superstructure sides prior to the windows being fitted. The next stage has been the installation of the roof lining, which will be followed by the linings to the side, the creation of the bathroom partitions and installation of the bathroom and galley fittings. It is hoped that the vessel will be able to enter service in Spring next year although it may still be necessary to install the lift and complete other items later.

### Trustees Meeting

The Society, as a registered charity has to appoint a number of Trustees. They meet quarterly to agree the strategic direction of the Society, the operational matters being agreed at the Members meeting. Following the resignation of Stuart and Jenny Pinchbeck as Trustees, the number of Trustees had dropped to 6 but the Trustees were able to co-opt Doug Dows as a Trustee. If any other members would like to be a Trustee please contact Iain Campbell.

The meeting considered a number of policies as well as receiving updates on the progress with the vessels. The Trustees agreed that plans for the forthcoming year would include usage of Mermaid on the beck and Sun on the River Hull as well as limited use of Syntan on specific dates subject to being able to find appropriate skippers. Syntan will be open as a museum from April to October on a Friday morning and Sunday afternoon. The Trustees also considered the livery of the vessels. Whilst it is

important that Syntan carries the livery of Hodgsons, there is no such connection with the other boats, which were not felt to carry the large expanse of brown well. It was therefore agreed that for the time being Sun should carry the historic Waterways blue with yellow lining and that Mermaid



would carry the Gardline colours. The vessels will be in these colours for the 2014 season.

## Planning 2014

It is always difficult to know when to start planning for the following year. Planning of trips down river can't be undertaken until the tide tables for the following year are published around Christmas, and the festivals etc tend not to be planned until around the Christmas period as well. The shape of the programme including the type of event to be attended or arranged can start, but as in all things the Society can only operate if it has sufficient volunteers (see below)

The major changes planned for the coming year relate to the use of the vessels and the means of booking. Syntan will only undertake a limited number of trips in the coming year, subject to the availability of a qualified skipper, on pre-agreed dates (probably a maximum of six) This will however increase her availability for other uses, meetings parties etc whilst on station. We also aim to have the vessel open as a museum on more occasions looking to open on a Friday morning and Sunday afternoon during the summer.

Sun should be starting to do trips up river from the spring, even if not fully disabled accessible. This will require a skipper and two (minimum) crew. We would hope to run at least 10 trips in the coming season, on both pre-arranged and mutually agreed dates. In addition the vessel will be available for other uses when on station on the Beck

Mermaid is also planned to earn her keep next year. She will operate as a trip boat on days when Syntan is open, undertaking short turn up and go trips on the Beck, with some trips on the upper River Hull for smaller groups on a pre-arranged basis. In addition it is envisaged that she will be used as a training boat.

Invitations to attend festivals will be considered on a case by case basis and on the availability of volunteers to transport the boats and attend the event.

## Meeting Dates

The Society meets each month on the second Thursday of the month on Syntan at 7:30 p.m., although every third month is the Trustees' meeting.

The dates for the coming months are:

November Thursday 14th November

December (Trustees Meeting) Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Copies of the draft agendas for Members Meetings are circulated in advance by e-mail, another reason why we need an up to date e-mail address for you. Trustees Meetings are restricted to Trustees

## Service Bollards to the moorings.

When the Society was restoring Syntan, part of the proposals that we tried to negotiate with East Riding Council was that there would be an electricity and water supply to the berth. I am pleased to say that all these years later, as part of the creation of visitor moorings on the Beck, that these are now in place. Both of these will have a profound effect on what we are able to deliver. Up till now we have had to either carry our water requirements onto the boat or arrange a supply through a local resident. The electric supply will enable us to become a better neighbour as we will not have to run the generator when on station.



The final requirement all those years ago was a permanent ramp for access onto the barge. This requirement has been filled by the aluminium gangways which does provide less obstruction to the towpath.

## Volunteering Opportunities

With the programming for next year it becomes vital to publicise volunteering opportunities within the Society. These break down into three types

- 1) Showing people around Syntan – This will become particularly important if we are to open Syntan on a regular basis on Fridays and Sundays.

- 2) Crewing the Boats. Skippers of the vessels have to have approved qualifications, MCA Boatmaster for Syntan on the Humber or lower River Hull if travelling with passengers, RYA Inland Helmsman or equivalent for vessels with passengers on the Beck or upper River Hull. Other Members are required to crew the vessels and will be selected by the Skipper for any trip or day. Even if you have no prior experience you may crew, but in this case you would be paired with an experienced crew member. The Society will also aim to help members achieve qualifications.
- 3) Undertaking other duties on behalf of the Society. This could include helping out at social or other events, admin duties, minute taking or any of the 101 other activities that a vibrant society carries out.

You will find a volunteer form with this newsletter, either e-mailed or in paper form. Please fill this in and return to us either on the barge or by e-mail to [iain@campbev.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:iain@campbev.wanadoo.co.uk)

### **Nurses Raft Race.**



The first raft race was last year at the Jubilee in the atrocious weather that went with that, but this year the weather in early August was far kinder to the Raftees, although many of them still got wet. Thanks to the Nurses Charity for this event and we look forward to the event next year

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***This newsletter is produced by the Beverley Barge Preservation Society, but the views expressed are those of the authors and may not be those of the Society***

**Contact Beverley Barge Preservation Society at MV Syntan, Cranehill Wharf, Scaife Mews, Beverley HU17 0GG or via e-mail to [info@syntanbarge.org.uk](mailto:info@syntanbarge.org.uk).**

**Our website is [www.syntanbarge.org.uk](http://www.syntanbarge.org.uk)**