

# Beckside News

Winter 2013-14

The Newsletter of the Beverley Barge Preservation Society Charity Reg 1091733

Apologies for the delay since the last edition of the newsletter. As a volunteer only organisation it is necessary to fit in the jobs around the other activities within the Society and our own private lives. This newsletter contains details of a number of events and opportunities for many more members to be involved in the society. We would particularly be pleased to see you at the open days, at the meetings or at any of the other events.

## Opendays

The Society is planning to organise events from the 30th March when Syntan will start to be open to the public. Prior to this the Society is organising open days on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd of March, when all three of the Society's vessels should be on the Beck and available for inspection. This will give Members of the Society and Donors to the Society, as well as members of the public, the chance to see the work carried out to date on Sun prior to her entering service during April. We also hope to have Mermaid operating trips on the Beck.

Syntan will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on each day, and we hope for good weather. We hope to have light refreshments available, and there will be a small stall from the Inland Waterways Association who are able to offer a year's free membership when you renew your membership of the Society.

We hope to see as many people as possible over the weekend



## **Membership.**

Despite considerable progress on some fronts the Society's membership records have not kept fully up to date and not all members have renewed their membership. Whilst we accept that some people will join the Society at particular events and then not renew their membership, we fear that we have lost members because of problems communicating with them. To improve this we have gone through our records since 2009 and added members e-mail addresses from that date to our mailing list. E-mail is our preferred method of contact as it is free and quick. Membership runs from April each year.

## **Sun update – looking to a new chapter.**

Since the last newsletter work has continued apace on Sun. The shower/w.c area has been formed at the stern of the new cabin, which has been lined out and the wet room floor installed and the fittings acquired. The plumbing should be completed shortly now that the waste tank has been received. Also completed in January was the lining of the main cabin, now that window linings have been obtained. There are still some leaks around the windows which will be further investigated and hopefully eliminated soon. This will leave us with the galley area which is largely complete and the flooring made ready to receive the tables and seating at which point we should be able to start testing the vessel with a view to her entering revenue earning service from April 2014. Some items will be left to finish before the vessel is fully completed. This will particularly include the lift to the front of the vessel which will be dependent on the raising, or earning, of additional funding.



## **Works on Syntan**

Whilst the ongoing work is being completed on Sun, a dedicated band of volunteers are continuing to carry out work on Syntan. This year the major works were the refurbishment of the w.c area. There have been a number of changes in here since the vessel was first commissioned and the area was looking tired. The walls have been relined using the sheeting being used on Sun, and the pipework has been tidied up, and replacement lighting provided. This work is being led, as has all the work to Syntan, by Dave Tulloch. Routine maintenance work will include the sanding of the

floor to the rear circulation area, and of course painting works to the outside of Syntan and Mermaid.



## **Program 2014**

Humber Keel and Sloop society will be holding Birthday events to mark Amy Howson's century firstly at South Ferriby in August and then on the Beck in late September. Syntan has also been invited to attend the Waterfront Festival in Leeds in June. Syntan movements will be dependant on the availability of suitable skippers..

As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter it is envisaged that Sun will take on the mantle of trips travelling up river approx twice a month, and that Mermaid will be operated as a trip and training boat on the Beck throughout the season.



## **Meeting Dates**

Meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month, every third one being a Trustees' meeting. The dates of the meeting for the next three months are:

13<sup>th</sup> March – Trustees' Meeting  
10<sup>th</sup> April – Members Meeting  
8th May - Members Meeting

All meetings start at 7:30 on board Syntan.

## **Volunteering Opportunities.**

The Society depends on having volunteers to run. With this comes the need for volunteers to meet certain requirements. For Syntan to operate on the River Hull or Humber with passengers, one of the crew (The Skipper!) needs to hold a valid Boatmaster Certificate, to skipper Sun or Mermaid on the Beck or Upper River Hull requires a skipper to hold an RYA Inland Helmsman or NCBA qualification.

Alongside the skipper, crew are needed for the vessels. It is anticipated that Sun will operate with a crew of three, Syntan requires four and Mermaid has a crew of two (all including the skipper).

Equally important are the members providing the on-station support. Each day that Syntan is open she will require two volunteers, to be responsible for opening up and closing the vessel, as well as answering questions from visitors and taking bookings and selling merchandise. Where additional activities are planned we need to increase the number of volunteers.

If you are able to offer time to help us with these important duties please let us know, at the Open Weekend , by contact on the barge, by e-mail or by telephone on the booking number.



---

## **Contributions**

If you wish to provide an article for inclusion in the newsletter, please submit it (preferably in Word .doc format) to the editor by e-mail at [info@syntanbarge.org.uk](mailto:info@syntanbarge.org.uk) along with contact details or in written form to the Syntan postbox on Crane Hill Wharf or by post to Beverley Barge Preservation Society, MV Syntan, Crane Hill Wharf, Scaife Mews, Beverley HU17 0GG.

Please note that the views contained in this newsletter are those of the contributor and may not be the same as those of the Society. The Society also retains the right to edit, expand or otherwise change the content of any article submitted prior to publication