

The Beverley Barge Preservation Society

www.syntanbarge.org.uk



Beckside News

July - September 2017

Summer is now officially over and it is time to reflect on the activities of the Society, complete the winter maintenance schedule, which is well underway and look forward to 2018.

Sun and Syntan Trips have been very successful this year culminating in 9 Trips on Sun and 13 Bookings/trips on Syntan. We will be increasing the number of "Open Trips" on Sun in 2018 to one per month due to their popularity.

Mermaid was also made available on first Sunday of every month for short trips along the Beck for a trial period this year and we hope, with more publicity, we will have a better uptake in 2018 .



The Society supported the **Driffeld Navigation Gala** in July which was a huge success with an amazing amount of public support.....

Syntan attended the **Hull Folk Festival**

and moored up in the Marina for the weekend where Rebecca welcomed visitors onboard for tea and coffee



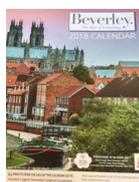
while they listened to various musicians perform on the purposely built stage on deck.



Calendars in aid of the **N.U.R.S.E.**

Charity depict a wonderful picture of Syntan and are available from

The Foresters,
Glenholme Florists,
Molescroft Post Office
and Off Licence.



BBPS Tote Bags have been launched and are for sale at £3.50ea. Email rosielb63@gmail.com if you would like to purchase one or more.

**Excellent
Stocking Fillers!**



From Hull Marina and the Hull Folk Festival Syntan set off under the Humber Bridge to Goole to attend the

Goole Folk Sail Festival



where we hosted the Launch
of
Spare Hands new CD "Dead Bod".



This also gave our members and Rosie the chance, on the return journey to experience the Humber. Having set off from Goole in glorious sunshine we experienced all the elements that the Humber could throw at us rain, wind, thunder and lightening, but on our arrival back in Hull we were greeted by the most amazing rainbow.



Where's the Propeller?

Just when we thought that nothing new could happen on a trip, Sun suffered a novel breakdown on an "Open Trip". Not far from home, after a perfect trip to Struncheon Hill Lock, with plenty of water and no weed Sun went under Hull Bridge and refused to navigate a corner and ran aground. The crew tried by all normal means, poles and reverse gear etc but were unable to move her, eventually after the Chairman donned his wetsuit and managed to get a line ashore Sun was pulled across the river allowing the passengers to disembark safely.

What happened you may ask.....

Well somehow the propeller managed to separate itself from the vessel and embed itself in the muddy depths of the River.



Sun was recovered successfully the following day and towed back to the Beck using Mermaid. The propeller was recovered by Liam ,the diver, to whom we owe many many thanks for his help with the retrieval and refitting of the propeller.



Sun has completed cruises since this incident with no further problems, but the reason for the failure remains a matter for conjecture.



Open Bridges....this event was, for the first time in the city's history, have all thirteen of Hull's bridges raised, swung or closed simultaneously splitting the city in two at 20:17 hours on the autumnal equinox 2017 during Hull City of Culture's Freedom Season thus separating East and West Hull for a period of 2 minutes. Syntan's role was to travel down the River Hull with each bridge lifted in turn to liaise with Comrade and HMS Pickles in the Old Harbour and the three vessels (representing the 18th, 19th and 20th Centuries) would travel through the open bridges with flares and cannon to meet four tugs on the Humber representing the 21st Century.

The Society agreed to take Syntan down to the Open Bridges event at the end of September amid concerns expressed by the members regarding the short timescale between this and the Barge Pulling event. A crew was mustered and following reassurances that we would have no trouble returning on the Saturday the vessel set off for Hull on a tight timetable to get under the bridges.

Prior to the event it became clear that Myton (Garrison Road) Bridge could not be closed if opened due to a failed part, which meant a modification to the plan with the rendezvous point with Pickles being moved to below Myton Bridge but with the two barges mustering as before only with Comrade with her mast down.

When moving Syntan outside the lock prior to departure on the Friday morning we were advised that a tug was towing the raised Lighter Gar down to Hull and would pass through the bridges at the same time as Syntan..

The crew plus event cameraman gathered in the afternoon, allowing extra time to get to Ennerdale Bridge at the appointed time, and had a good trip down to the Bridge from Beverley. At Ennerdale Bridge they were greeted by the sight of the Tug and lighter blocking the river and fastened to the dolphin upstream of the bridge with a strong falling tide. Syntan held station for the approx. 45 minutes before the bridge was due to open, and at the appointed time the barriers were brought down and the tug and lighter moved through the bridge, adjusting the tow just through the bridge holding back Syntan and keeping the bridge open for far longer than planned.



As this is on a narrow section of river there was no opportunity to pass and the combination proceeded for about ¼ mile before it ran aground at a point where there was no room round it. Time passed and about half an hour later the tide turned and the vessels refloated allowing Syntan past but by now running about 45mins late on the tight schedule.

Congratulations have to be given to the crew who continued to their goal in darkness now and the bridge crews who did their best to make up the lost time but it was hopeless and although Syntan did entertain the onlookers at each bridge the event took place before she was able to get to the rendezvous and Syntan sailed into the marina around 30 minutes late!

River Hull Wreck Clearance.....

Work started in early September to clear some of the wrecked vessels that were blocking part of the River Hull between the lock and the top of the shipyard, unlike the previous token effort where small vessels had been removed, this one included the big boys. Northern Divers new boat, the Anne Marie, along with a Motor Crane Boat, the Jade Lift, belonging to John Dean were dispatched to Beverley. The brief was that the vessels had to be



removed during September, a narrow window before the Lampreys, an ancient fish, returned up the River to breed. This operation was to have quite an effect on the activities of the Society. On booking the use of the lock for a Saturday trip the Northern Divers boat was moved outside the lock pit



where it had been overnighting and our vessel was able to undertake it's planned trip. However another short trip with the Institute for the Blind had to be cancelled as there was no way to get past the workboats (Although no formal closure of the River had been posted!) Finally passage of Syntan to the Open Bridges event was also hindered by the movement of one of the wrecks (see separate article!)

Now that some of the larger wrecks have been removed it will be interesting to see the effect on the passage of water down the river, which will probably not become apparent for some time. It is also interesting that these free moorings were quickly colonised by new vessels, not all of which give confidence about their future. Clearly work remains to be done to ensure the future health of the River, particularly relating to the need for a Navigation Authority to take responsibility for this part of the river, but this is subject to the need for parliamentary approval.

Guides seek temporary home.....

The St Mary's Guides normally meet at the Church Hall but following a major flood due to a burst water tank they were unable to resume their meetings there after the summer.

Their answer: – to relocate for three weeks to another area surrounded by water: -the barge Syntan. And to add to the marine atmosphere the troop have been undertaking tasks relating to their water safety badge.

Hopefully their normal home will once more be ready for them, after half term.



A big thank-you to the **WJ Group** who have supplied the Society with new shirts for all our crew members.....



2017 WORLD BARGE PULLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

And the **winners** were....**Teamac Tempest** again!! The defending champions still hold the world record **5mins 15secs** and shaved 2 seconds off last years time. Well done boys!



Runners Up

Mixed up but still United



Best Fancy Dress

Granny's Gladiators



The 2018 World Barge Pulling Championships

will be held on

23rd September 2018



The 2017 World Barge Pulling Championships were officially opened by the Deputy Mayor of Beverley, Councillor Phil Dodsworth who kindly stayed all day, above and beyond the call of duty.



Craft Stalls were a great success and we hope to see them all back next year but in the meantime they can all be found on Facebook if you are looking for that Christmas present with a difference

Raggedy Sam



Beeloved



Twice upon a Time



A really big thank-you to Teamac for Sponsoring the event and making it all possible.



Thank-you to Jon Hilton from the Pulse Rate Group for ensuring the safety of competitors and spectators.



Daisy Duck made an appearance selling raffle tickets for the duck race.....



There is a video kindly published by Barry Freeman of the 2017 WORLD BARGE Pulling Championships on youtube.....

<https://youtu.be/MPk1rBD0FN4>

The Wheelhouse on **Sun** is undergoing major refurbishment and is nearing completion

Thank-you Dave Tulloch and Don Swindell



Members Meetings dates:

14th December 2017 7:30pm @ The Foresters

11th January 2018 7:30pm on Syntan

8th February 2018 7:30pm on Syntan

8th March 2018 7:30pm on Syntan

Everyone is welcome aboard.....

BBPS and Humber Keel and Sloop Preservation Society are hoping to hold another joint open day in April 2018 where everyone can have a chance to visit the historic boats on Beverley Beck again, meet the crews and have a chat.

The vessels hopefully open to the public will be:

'Amy Howson' – Humber Sloop

'Comrade' – Humber Keel

'Syntan' – Motor Barge

'Sun' – Mud Hopper/Maintenance Boat

'Mermaid' – Lifeboat Tender

On Saturday 7th April 2018 a quintet of musicians from **New Paths Music** will give a performance on the Syntan stage at 10am, together with dancers. In addition the 32' Viking Longship, Bear, will be rowed up the Beck by its crew of 10, and will arrive at Syntan in time for the music.

A carnival atmosphere is planned so please come along and support this most unusual event.

Open Trip Dates for Sun during 2018

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| FRIDAY APRIL 20 TH | STRUNCHEON LOCK |
| SATURDAY MAY 19 TH | STRUNCHEON LOCK |
| SATURDAY MAY 26 TH | AIKE BECK |
| MONDAY JUNE 18 TH | STRUNCHEON LOCK |
| TUESDAY JULY 17 TH | STRUNCHEON LOCK |
| WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15 TH | STRUNCHEON LOCK |
| THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13 TH | STRUNCHEON LOCK |



£30 a head to Struncheon Lock / £20 a head to Aike Beck

To book please email info@syntanbarge.org.uk OR ASK A MEMBER OF THE CREW

From The Chairman.....

The end of a boating season is a good time to reflect on what has happened in the previous six months before the winter planning and maintenance starts. Overall it has been a pretty good year, starting with the joint Open Day with Humber Keel and Sloop Society and our attendance at Hull marina for the Folk Festival and at the Goole Folksail Event. All vessels contributed financially to the wellbeing of the Society, with Syntan undertaking 3 trips with passengers, Sun undertaking a full set including one downstream on the Hull with Mermaid predominately undertaking trips on the Beck. The Society also managed land-based promotions with display screens going to the Driffield Navigation Gala, and to a Waterways Partnership Conference.

A major discussion item at meetings and undoubtedly a concern for the future relates to the membership of the society. Whilst we have a reasonable pool of members including life members, this does not necessarily manifest itself when we have a major item of work or an event taking place. Now there could be a couple of reasons for this; either that because of age, infirmity or other commitments, members are unwilling to commit the time to the Society to help us, and if this is the case we can only be grateful for the continued association and for the help in the past. But could another reason be that individuals find it difficult to get incorporated into the work groups either because they don't have the confidence to put themselves forward, or because they feel that they may not do it correctly. If it is either of the latter we have to make ourselves more welcoming and supportive so that more members can get the full experience that comes with an active rather than a passive membership. To this end we will be pushing to recruit more members and to try to involve more members.

This newsletter is part of the process, but if you have skills, or would like to grow them, please let us know and we will try to involve you in maintenance and events. These could be either boat based (crewing, painting or servicing etc) or more cerebral such as the archives or event planning.

As always a huge thanks goes out to all involved in the events during the year and the request that even more people become involved with the Society over the winter and into the future.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Iain Campbell

Chairman

