

# **NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013**



***The Harbour Office, Folly Road  
Whippingham, IW, PO32 6NB***

***Registered Charity – No. 282493***

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This year's annual meeting is again being held at Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club, on Monday 15th April. The meeting Notice is enclosed. The agenda, minutes of last year's meeting and the Annual Report & Financial Statements for 2012 will be tabled at the meeting. If anyone would like a copy of these papers because they cannot attend or wish to view them in advance, please let Terry Webb know (phone 07850616205). We have several vacancies on the Committee. Anyone interested in making a contribution would be very welcome. In particular we need Committee members to cover planning applications and Newport Harbour matters.

## **ANNUAL DINNER**

The first of our revamped annual dinners was held at Bluebells Restaurant, Briddlesford Farm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Many thanks to Karen and Rodney Ireland for arranging it and ensuring an enjoyable evening for all present. Guest Malcolm Thorpe gave an interesting talk on his experiences as the owner of Bembridge Harbour and plans for its future. We were also pleased to welcome ex President Dan Lyons as our guest. Attendance was a slightly disappointing 33 and we are conscious of the need to try and strike the right balance in ensuring we put on an attractive event but at an affordable price. We will review the event accordingly.

## **COWES HARBOUR CONSULTATION**

The statutory consultation carried out by Cowes Harbour Commission on the new General Directions to replace existing harbour byelaws is now completed. Your Committee made a specific representation on the proposed 4-knot speed limit south of the commercial wharves at Kingston. We had concerns about this, especially as Newport Harbour is retaining its 6-knot speed limit down river from Newport Rowing Club. We believe a consistent speed limit should apply for the whole river and that speed limit is of less concern than

size of wash. We therefore recommended that prominent signs should be erected requesting boat owners to control their wash and warn of fines, to be backed up by more visible policing. We understand that the proposal has now been dropped and our suggestions accepted. On the other main proposal, we support the chain ferry having right of way, subject to improved signalling and other safety procedures. The new Directions take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April but we understand those affecting the chain ferry may be deferred.

## **FOLLY WORKS SITE**

Some of you may have attended the recent public exhibition on proposals for the development of our neighbouring site. Plans include a 60 bedroom hotel and 93 homes, with emphasis on quality building. The ecological importance of various areas of the site has been taken into account, in particular the importance of the river edge to over-wintering birds. Folly Lane is to be partly re-routed. A jetty with hammerhead pontoon will be sited to the north of the existing Folly pontoon. The proposed new jetty is mainly for use by hotel guests. The programme, assuming the granting of consents, is for the hotel to be completed in 2016 and homes constructed in phases with completion by 2024. Our particular interest is in any loss of river moorings and in footpath/cycleway provision on the site.

## **RYDE ROWING CLUB**

If anyone is experiencing problems with Ryde Rowing Club boats and members on the Folly slipway or in the parking area, please contact Terry on 07850619205, or even better, come to the AGM!

## **BOATS WANTED!**

We have been in discussion with representatives of Medina Park Residents Association following their hard work in getting Folly Lane resurfaced. It has been suggested that we might like to organise a small river trip for some of their members, perhaps including a lunch. If anyone would therefore be interested in taking a few MPRA residents out for a leisurely trip on the river, please could they contact Terry (07850619205). Life jackets will need to be worn by the residents. We can loan some if need be.

## **EVENTS COMING UP**

First up is a Good Friday pub games evening, 29<sup>th</sup> March at Cowes Corinthian YC. A supper will be available at £5 a head and teams can compete at pool, darts, shove ha'penny, dominoes, toad in the hole and the dice game "shut the box". It should be fun. This is rapidly followed by the Spring boat jumble on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, again at Island Harbour Marina. We are hoping for another good turnout of both

buyers and sellers. Please book a pitch (cost £5) from Terry (07850619205). As indicated above, the AGM is on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Wednesday evening dinghy racing commences on 22<sup>nd</sup> May (see below) and the following Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> is the annual Riverfest on Newport Quay. Finally, in case we don't get the Summer newsletter out in time, we are hosting the annual barbeque for our friends from Marchwood YC on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

## **DINGHY SAILING**

Wednesday evening dinghy sailing starts at the Folly on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. This is a lot of fun, and can either be single or two handed. Any type of sailing dinghy can participate, not just Mirrors. Please give Jeff Johnson a call on 568294 if you want further details. If anyone is interested in having a Wednesday evening out on the river, but not in a sailing dinghy, we often take out our dory as a support boat to the dinghies so if anyone fancies having a go at this, please contact our Bo'sun Ken Aspden on 07836744468.

## **GRANTS**

We are again looking to offer financial support for leisure facilities and activities on the Medina estuary. Last year, it was decided that we could further meet our charitable objectives by giving direct financial support to other organisations

based on the estuary. We did this by making funds available to Newport Rowing Club, Cowes Sailability Club and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cowes (St Mary's) Sea Scouts, mainly for safety related and other equipment, used to help get more people from various groups out on the river. We are again inviting bids, not just for activities on the water but anything that supports walking, cycling, bird watching and other recreational activity including support for specific events. We plan to present information about bids at the **AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> April** so we can get feedback from the membership generally. By this time we should also have a better idea of funds we are likely to have available for distribution.

## **DINGHY PARK TIDY UP**

We are having a tidy up of the dinghy park on the morning of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00 am start, which will include relocating some dinghies. If anyone is able to come along and help, they would be most welcome. Brooms and shovels might also be useful.

## **HAUL OUTS & SCRUB OFFS**

Don't forget the availability of these useful facilities to help you get your boats ready for the season. The scrubbing berth is £10 per low tide, and the haul out is £30 including re-launch. Please contact Ken to book (07836744468).