

Please send us any comments or stories that you would like to share with the Neil Thompson Boats customers and Norfolk Range owners and we will endeavour to print them in this newsletter. Here is an extract of an email sent to us by new owners of Norfolk Oyster 'Gloria' Martin and Sarah Brooks

COMMENTS CORNER

"Just opened your xmas card (thanks!) and saw the piece about heavy weather sailing. I sailed over to Cowes on Saturday with 2 mates - heavy weather, big waves, supertankers, jetfoils, massive tide running. It got dark by 3 (forgot to take any lights, doh). Brilliant fun and she handled it all brilliantly. We were the only sailing boat in the Solent.

CRUISE DOWN TO WELLS

Last summer a flotilla event was arranged for Neil Thompson Boats customers to cruise round to Wells from Blakeney on an afternoon tide. This had to be cancelled due to bad weather so we are going to do a trip this summer.

If you would like to join us for a sail/motor up the coast then please contact the office to register your interest and we will email you with the details and itinerary.

PHOTO CAPTION

Why not email the office with your creative answers to this photo caption. A small prize to who we think is the winner.

So, what is Tim saying to Ash and Chris?



BROKERAGE

The brokerage of the Norfolk Range boats continues to do well with five Norfolk Oyster and three Norfolk Gypsies having been sold since the beginning of March.

We have found that the sales figures increase with the air temp and sunshine hours, they are also boosted by personal recommendations so if you love your boat then please shout about it and we will give you a discount on your winter service on completion of a sale influenced by you.



ALL PART OF THE SERVICE



Some boat yards along the coast are offering what they are terming as a 'boat-watch' service, this involves a subscription fee being charged and for this your moored boat will be ran up and checked, ready for your arrival. This is something that any local Neil Thompson Boats customer can already enjoy without being charged for; it is all part of our service.

Our aim is to enable you to enjoy being out on the water as much as we do and so we are reminding you to make full use of the support that we offer, Just ask for your boat to be checked a week before you hope to sail.

This issue of 'Moorings' is dedicated to the memory of John Kilmaine (owner of Norfolk Oyster 'Flapper'). John was a good man who will be missed by all who knew him.



NeilThompsonBoats
www.neilthompsonboats.co.uk

MOORINGS

Issue 6 Newsletter from the Neil Thompson Boatyard

BEING BRITISH



With the 2012 London Olympics came a renewed sense of British pride which

led to many debates and hours spent pondering 'what does it mean to be British?'

It seems that it means many things: to be obsessed with the weather, to keep a 'stiff upper lip' and show bulldogged determination in the face of adversity. These are a few of the qualities that the British nation possesses and these are attributes that, I think, make Britain home to the finest sailors in the world.

Here at the boatyard we talk constantly of the weather, it is too cold, too humid, too windy, the winter too long, too wet. The weather has a dramatic effect on our work schedule, if it be hauling out, servicing work (fibre glass and most substances will not cure if the temperature is too low) and launching. Equally when it is sunny you will hear sighs of contentment and lots of talk like 'This is gorgeous' and 'for goodness sake Gil, put your t-shirt back on!' We like this talk of the weather, it unites us and affects us all,



you included, we will talk to you about how we hope it's not as wet as last year or how we hope this winter is not as cold as the one we've just experienced, we might talk about the changing weather patterns and the wandering jet-stream and collectively wonder if this is what we will come to know as the British weather? That the winter is cold and wet and the summer is slightly less cold but just as wet? The conclusion and sentiment expressed at the end of these chats is always the same, annoyance at the change but hopeful that it's just a blip, a keenness is shown to get out on the water and enjoy the sailing just the same. As

sailors the weather is our adversary and we must endure it, lament it but embrace it and get on.

I know that, despite the late start to the summer, this year is going to be the hottest yet. Archie is five, Grace has just turned four and this summer Chenda and I are going to get them sailing more in our Norfolk Oyster 'Annie' and also start them off wakeboarding. The children loved it last summer when we sailed into Blakeney having spent the day out in the harbour, we moored up on the quay wall, cooked some pasta and then the children fell asleep looking at the twinkling lights of the hotel,

listening to their mummy and me talking with the people out on the quay, regaling them with tales of our day or showing them the amazing display of bioluminescence sparking off the moored boats in the moonlight.

I want my children to look back on their childhood as days where the sun always shone and every moment and opportunity was taken to be out on the water, it only takes a couple of perfect days each summer for this to be a lasting impression, I know this because in the summers of my childhood it never rained and we were always playing in boats down at Stiffkey Freshers!

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REGATTAS 2103

Norfolk Oyster and Norfolk Gypsy World Championships 2013 will be held on **Friday 16th & Saturday 17th August**

We will send details out to all owners nearer the date.

Blakeney Regatta

10th and 11th August

Morston Regatta

24th August



WHAT A FINE SHOW!

Horning Show and Holkham Show

At the beginning of May we exhibited at the Horning boat show. This was a new event that was so successful that it is set to become an annual show. The whole village of Horning was given over to displaying all things marine related. It was a good day, both with weather and visitor numbers.

The **Holkham Show** dates are **27th & 28th July** and we are again exhibiting at this brilliant country fair. We will have a good selection of Norfolk Range Boats including the new Norfolk Explorer, the Honwave inflatable and Honda Outboard engines. If you are at the show then please come and say hello.



HONDA DEALERSHIP

Special offer for Neil Thompson Boat customers and Norfolk Range owners: We are very pleased to announce that we have just been awarded a Honda Marine dealership.

To celebrate this we are offering all Neil Thompson Boats customers and Norfolk Range Owners the chance to purchase a new Honda Outboard Engine with a special 10% off the recommend retail price. To take advantage of this offer please call the office but please note: offer only available until July 31st 2013. Construction of a show room is underway and we hope to open this within the next two weeks.



THE NORFOLK SPIRIT

This year has seen us launch the latest edition to the Norfolk Range, The Norfolk Spirit. Here is what owner, **Rex Ashcroft**, had to say about his new boat:

"My RIB is all very well but it has seats wherever one will fit and there is precious little room for all the paraphernalia that one person needs when ferrying out for a sail let alone four other people. I have tried to feather for mackerel off the RIB too and she bounced all over the place most uncomfortably and a near puncture event when a gust caught my lures put paid to any further fishing trips! In fact apart from the occasional exhilaration of bouncing painfully from wave to wave on the RIB to show off to friends and visitors "coz I can" it is quite an impractical lighter all things considered.

What I needed was a workhorse that would accommodate silly numbers of people and their various bags of "essentials" (why do people think they have to bring all their worldly goods with them when they go sailing?) and did not look and behave like a lumbering begrudging lump!

Enter Neil Thompson, boat builder of this parish and some bloke called Charlie Ward!

They introduced me to Norfolk Spirit and I fell in love with her immediately! She was big, broad in the beam, deliciously accommodating and utterly gorgeous. Down boy! She sits on the water and looks like she owns the place - imperious my son said - she is cavernous inside and hardly moves as you step aboard. She didn't seem phased with a five adult and seven



children load with all their worldly goods, there was bags of space to spare too and with one or two up you forget you are actually on a boat, there is loads of room and more!

The well muffled Diesel engine burbles happily away amidships under its box and she responds to the helm positively and immediately, she is a joy to drive. Open the throttle and the surge of power is really quite extraordinary for such a big boat. She cuts through the oggin like a warm knife through butter the water hissing either side of the bows comfortably leaving a creamy "I've been here" wake for yards astern. There is nothing on her to puncture with fishing lures either!

Norfolk Spirit, or The Spirit, as our family affectionately calls her, is the business!

MARINE ELECTRICAL TECHNICIANS



Both Neil and Tim have attended a course at The Marine Technology Centre in Poole and sat a BMEA exam on Marine electrics. They both passed with flying colours and are now qualified British Marine electrical technicians.

GYPSY REPORT

Sailing Today is now owned by Chelsea Magazine Company and has changed the format of the magazine.

It is doing a new series on the best built British boats and the first to feature is the Norfolk Gypsy.

WELL DONE REBECCA



Rebecca has completed her NVQ diploma in business administration and we are very pleased with her continued hard-work and dedication.

SMUGGLER TRIP

Pierre and Neil delivered Norfolk Smuggler No. 2 from Blakeney to Southwold. The trip down the coast took them a full twelve hours with a decent wind/moderate weather all the way. Neil has uploaded a video of the trip onto youtube so please take a look.

