



MOORINGS

Issue 12 Newsletter From the Neil Thompson Boatyard

A TEAM

The other day Richenda and I were talking about sailing and I was saying that I felt I hadn't had much sailing recently and Richenda's response was "Don't worry it'll be summer soon." I'll admit I gave her a look worthy of that comment before explaining that summer has been and gone to which Richenda looked bewildered and said "But I missed it!" And she did. We all did. With our new and more prominent location on the coast road, summer was busy. We had team members down at Morston; team members down at Wells harbour assisting with the visiting boats there and the rest of the team were greeting visitors to the yard, helping with the brokerage viewings and manning the office and chandlery shop. It was September before we knew it and in mid-September, Richenda and I took ten days off to take a family holiday in Greece. It was a much needed rest and we came back revived and ready for the next

six months of winter servicing that lay ahead. Unfortunately, as we'd headed off to get some sunshine and blue skies, our team were left to face a week of horrendous weather conditions as storm Ali swept across the country. Richenda and I felt terrible to be leaving the team when they would have the worry and duty of care to the boats out on the water but we didn't have to fret as our team rose to the challenge and were out, in their own time, checking on the boats and re-securing covers, main sheets and boom galls on anything that had come loose in the winds. When we returned we were so pleased that our team had handled everything so smoothly that it made us look back on a busy year and see that our team models the quote by Simon Sinek that 'A team is not a group of people who work together. A team is a group of people who trust each other.'



DRINKS ON US

We will be holding a pre-season drinks at the yard for all of our boat owners and customers and would love it if you could join us. It will be on Friday 12th April 2019, from 6pm - 8pm. We will send out reminders and invites nears the time but please put this date in your diary.

HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY!

The first Norfolk Oyster was built in 1989 so next year sees its 30th Anniversary. We would like to do something to mark this occasion and would be interested to hear how you think we should celebrate. If you have any thoughts and ideas then please do contact the office and let us know.

OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO



Having boxed up and shipped out a Norfolk Urchin to Florida, USA, here is a photo of the Norfolk Urchin with the Super Yacht that is

now her mothership. She's a lucky little boat and we're very proud that our Norfolk Urchin is on this amazing adventure.

RESTORATIONS AND RESPRAYS

We've got a couple of big projects to complete this winter. We have a Norfolk Crab Boat that needs a complete refit from the keel up, a 28ft MacWester to refurbish and the project I am most looking forward to is on Norfolk Trader 45 'Juno'. In 2019 Juno will be 20 years old and her owner is commissioning Neil Thompson Boats to update her electronic equipment and reconfigure her internal layout.

This season we gave this boat - Oyster No 57 a complete refurbishment which included re-spraying all gel coat surfaces. We're pleased with the results and think Gil, our paint technician did a fantastic job. The quality of the paints, and colour options available, are constantly improving so if you would like to have your boat repainted then please contact us for more information.



NORFOLK CONSTABULARY OUTBOARD THEFTS

North Norfolk is still an area being targeted by the outboard thieves and we are working closely with North Norfolk Constabulary in order to prevent future crimes. We've taken extra measures here at the yard to protect ourselves although Chenda did draw the line at the paint filled landmines with which I suggested we line the perimeter of our yard with! We ask that everyone is extra vigilant and contacts the police to report any suspicious people or vehicles that are seen along the coast. We know it's an ongoing problem but hope that if businesses, the community and police all join together then the opportunities to steal will be increasingly difficult.





EXPLORERS IN NORFOLK

This summer we completed the sixth Norfolk Explorer and she's going to be a local boat to Morston. We were particularly excited to build this boat as she was highly spec'd and fitted with a rather sleek canopy. We were also grateful to the new owner as he very kindly piloted his Explorer 'Woody' as the lead boat for our regatta. This gave us a good chance to show her off and we're all feeling immensely proud of her.

HAVE VAN WILL TRAVEL

As part of our move and expansion plans, we purchased a van which we have set up as a mobile workshop. This has worked really well this season and we've been called out to work on the commercial fishing boats along the coast, as well having a workshop presence on the quay down at Morston. We're also able to load the van with stock so if you have any thoughts about items that you regularly need when down on the quay please let us know so that we can make sure the van is adequately stocked.



MARVELLOUS MAISIE

It's been a while since we've been asked to build the smallest boat in our fleet and so we were thrilled when we were commissioned to build a new Norfolk Urchin this spring. The new owners choose a navy blue hull and shark fin grey interior and we were all very pleased with how she looked on delivery. She's been sailing the waters of Suffolk this summer and her owners have enjoyed the season and the compliments that 'Maisie' has drawn from other sailors and visitors to the harbour.



READ ALL ABOUT IT

On the 21st August, the EDP ran an article about our boat yard, expansion and future plans. If you missed it you can view the article online by searching for Neil Thompson Boats on the EDP website which is: www.edp24.co.uk

BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY



We kicked 2018 off with a trip to Scotland. Richenda and I took the February half-term off for a busman's break and made the long trip up to Polbain on the West Coast and delivered a new Norfolk Oyster mast. We stayed for a couple of days as I had to swap the fittings from the old mast and put them onto the

new and it wasn't a hardship. The house where we stayed overlooked the Summer Isles and we were all awed by the rugged wilderness of the area. Archie, my son, enjoyed his time there so much that he claims he's going to live there when he's older.

OYSTERS ON TOUR

In July we loaded our Norfolk Oyster onto a road trailer, put the camping gear in the van and headed off to Tollesbury with some friends, who also took their Oyster, for a weekend of sailing on the Black Water. We chose this as our sailing destination as the Harbour Master there is our very own Phin Franklin, who was a key member of our winter servicing team for about four years. It was great to spend the weekend with Phin and sailing on different waters was fun too. The weekend was such a success that we have all decided to make it an annual event.



GOOD LUCK WILL

We're the kind of company who prides itself on not having a high turn-over of staff so it's with sadness that I write of Will Darby's departure from our company. Having been a self-employed member of the team for a few years, he asked to become an employed member with more responsibility which delighted us. Just ten months on though, Will was presented with another opportunity and so has left to pursue this. We wish him luck and hope he's able to make this latest venture work for him.

LIFEJACKET REMINDER

If you have the gas lifejackets that inflate upon impact with the water then please remember to service them annually. We sell the gas chambers and service kits and can send you a link for a tutorial video on how to service them.

OLLY JOINS OUR TEAM

Olly has recently joined our team. His background is in creative arts and having moved away from London he's decided to give the marine industry a go. He lives locally and he and his wife are expecting their first child this Christmas. We're confident Olly will quickly pick up all the skills and experience he needs to have a long and happy career in boats.



ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY AND BUY A BOAT

We got a call from the BBC in June to ask if they could film our regatta as they were in Norfolk and filming segments for the BBC 1 daytime show 'Escape to the Country'. I took the host, Jules Hudson, for a sail in our Norfolk Gypsy and then the filming team came back to the yard and filmed Jules and I chatting about boat building in North Norfolk and our boats. It was exciting and Jules and the team were so friendly they made the process very relaxing. Richenda was embarrassed

RESULTS AND DATE FOR NEXT YEAR

Regatta results:

The winner of the Norfolk Oyster Worlds was Judith Shallow in Oyster 'Pearl Fisher'

The winner of the Norfolk Gypsy Worlds was John Rodwell in Gypsy 'Ariadne'

Next year Oyster and Gypsy races will be held 26th, 27th and 28th July

to catch Jules in our car park in his pants! He was changing into his filming clothes and Richenda said she was proud of the considerable restraint she showed for someone of our generation as she did not get her phone and take a picture of a semi-naked BBC presenter to circulate on social media. The programme will air on the BBC in early 2019 and once we have the date we will let you all know so that you don't miss the Norfolk Range's TV debut.

Each summer we like to take on a variety of work and having completed the Sharrington Village sign last summer, we have been asked to refurbish the Brinton Village sign. We were also asked to fix this item and had great fun with the guesses on social media as to what it could be. Most farmers will know it to be a sacrificial telegraph pole sensor and us normal people would call it a combine harvester chute.

WHAT'S THIS?



ENGINE COURSES

Would you like a private or small group practical talk on very basic trouble shooting of minor engine (diesel and outboard) problems when out on the water? If you would then please contact the office and we will arrange.



SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE



Do you have any pictures of your boats on the water that you would like to share?



With ever increasing use of social media in business these days, Rachel has been actively posting and tweeting about the boats and the boat yard. She would love you to join in and spread the word about the Norfolk Range.

MONEY FOR NEW ROPE

At the new yard we've incorporated our office and stores so that we are now running a proper chandlery shop. We do not sell clothing as we've chosen to concentrate on rope, hardware and fixings that are used on most boats. We stock Barton

Marine, Kingfisher Marine Yacht Ropes, International paints and varnishes, rigging supplies, seals, service kits, cleaning products, engine parts and life jackets.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

We would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Please note the yard will be shut from 22nd December to the 1st Jan - re-opening on the 2nd.