

TOP TIPS



Flare packs:

These are a necessity for any boat, small or large, and should always be onboard in case of emergency. They do have a use by

date and may not work correctly, or at all, if out of date. Please check yours and if they are out of date then we are happy to supply new and dispose of the old ones for you. The prices for these begin at £123.00 including VAT.

Life Jacket servicing:

Many of you will be owners of the self inflating life jackets that are popular as they are less cumbersome than the traditional ones, these do need to be serviced. You can do this yourself by following your manufacturer's instructions. These can be found on the inside of the jacket.

Summer flotilla:

I have been in talks with James of Norfolk etc on organising a summer flotilla where we sail from Morston to Wells for a fish and chip supper. If this is something that you are interested in being a part of then please contact us so that we can set the plans in motion.

BROKERAGE

We are now offering boats for sale in 'as seen' condition. This is a new way of selling for us as we usually only offer refurbished boats for sale.

We felt this was a necessary step to meet the growing requests from existing customers who needed to proceed with the sale of their boat and not be kept on a waiting list. We have a high volume of work being booked in to the yard and there is a delay in marketing the refurbished boats as they have to be scheduled into the workshop to have the refurbishment work completed. For the boats that are sold in their current condition we are able to start marketing them immediately.

However, the refurbished boats are commanding a high price and are still the preferred option for most buyers, as they like the peace of mind the extended year warranty brings.

HAPPY CUSTOMER

One new owner was so excited by his new Gypsy, our yard and the high standard of work which we produce that he has asked his son-in-law, who is a marketing professional in the city, to come to Norfolk to visit us and give us some advice and ideas on how to further improve our website and advertising campaign.

All this in exchange for some sailing in a Norfolk Gypsy. We are very lucky and would like to say a huge thank you to Rod and Carol for organising this. We have also had genuine interest expressed in a Norfolk Trader 45 and the Norfolk Explorer. It looks like it's going to be an extraordinary couple of years for all of us at the yard.



Carol Marr and paddy the dog enjoying their new Norfolk Gypsy.

RUSTY CENTREPLATE WIRES

After two years of testing "Dyneema" rope on the Norfolk Gypsy, in place of the existing centreplate wire, we are pleased to say that we are now using this instead. The wire causes problems if not checked and changed regularly as it suffers from rust. The "Dyneema" rope has a 2.6 ton breaking strain and comes with a spliced stainless steel hard eye. It is also easier to fit than the galvanised wire. The price is £35 plus VAT & postage (Supply only).

This winter we will be stocking new stainless steel rudder plates, they are slightly thinner than the existing plates and tests have proved they are less likely to get stuck in the rudder. So if you would like a new rudder plate for next season please place your order soon, I don't have a price for this as yet but will have by the end of July.

SEE YOU ON THE WATER

We hope that you have a lovely summer and make the most of the weather. We, as a team, are taking every opportunity that we can to get out on the water; you may see us fishing, skiing, sailing or just nipping across in the tender for a stroll on the point. It really is the only way to unwind after a hard days work and even the lads cannot fail to be impressed by the beauty and tranquility that is on our doorstep. With this equal balance of work and play after a long winter, the Neil Thompson Boats Team is on fine form and the yard is humming with anticipation at what is to come.



NeilThompsonBoats
www.neilthompsonboats.co.uk

MOORINGS

Issue 4 Newsletter from the Neil Thompson Boatyard

A GREAT FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR



Hello again everyone, we hope you have had a good start to the year and that the first six months have been kind to you. We have had a fantastic year so far, since Christmas we have sold 19 boats, of which 15 are Norfolk Range boats, with a visitor coming over from Australia just to test sail the Gypsy. Three of these sales have been a direct result of recommendations from current owners and so, true to our word; these owners will receive a 10% discount on their next winter service. It really has been incredible and we are overjoyed at the renewed interest in the Norfolk Range and the yard.

▲ The fairway buoy in Blakeney Harbour – serviced and painted by Neil Thompson Boats.

NEWS FROM THE YARD



The London boat show was a huge success, with Mr Gregory's re-furbished Gypsy 'Romany' turning many heads on the Classic Boat stand. We met a lot of current owners, past owners and long time admirers of our boats, all glad to see them back at the show. She helped raise a lot of new interest in the Norfolk Range and, not being a new boat, she was a great example of the superb build quality and longevity of the Norfolk Range boats. I thoroughly enjoyed talking to people and was proud to point out the attention to detail and craftsmanship that set our boats aside from the mass produced competition.



The new office is up and running and this area next to it is our brokerage viewing area

More news and information inside...

NEWS FROM THE YARD

(Continued)

NEW FACE IN THE YARD



Pierre Caston is a young man who has grown up in the area. He attended the local school, Gresham's, where he enjoyed sports but developed a passion for Rugby and Scuba diving. After school Pierre took a gap year and obtained his UKSA ocean master qualification and also completed his dinghy instructor's course. He then worked for three years on

the BT Challenger Yacht on the Isle of Wight, after this he returned to Norfolk to help run the family business.

Wanting a change in lifestyle and having been a customer of Neil Thompson Boats for the past eight years Pierre began his involvement with the team by helping out at the Holkham show last year and then at the London Boat Show with Neil in January. Pierre showed such enthusiasm for our team, love for the boats and a keen knowledge of sailing that we decided to take him on as a full time member in April.

Despite April being our busiest and most stressful time of year, Pierre kept his cool and has now completed his first three months with us. He is working with the boys in the yard, learning all aspects of the business and helping Chenda with selling the smaller sailing dinghies and motor boats that we have for sale. Pierre has said that he could *"see that Neil Thompson Boats is a nice local family business, specialising in great quality sailing boats"* he also said that he *"loves working for a team that cares and has enjoyed being back with boats, working on and in the water and it's great that no two days are alike"*.

We are thrilled that Pierre is onboard and think that he makes an excellent addition to the team. Pierre is a new dad to Tilly (seven months) and will be marrying Elizabeth in September. We wish them all the very best and look forward to the wedding day. Summer may have arrived by then!

REBECCA GOING GREAT



It has been nine months since Rebecca joined the team and she has quickly become a key member. She has begun her NVQ in Business Administration and is keen to learn. The lads and I are often asked to explain the terminology and parts that are used. We love this, as Rebecca is obviously keen to gain a greater understanding of boats and sailing. She is also going to be taking her first trip out onto the water this summer with a sail in Juno with Charlie Ward.

Rebecca has said that she is proud to be part of a well-respected business and team; she enjoys the challenge of her busy working day and has taken on more responsibility with ordering and despatching parts. Rebecca conducts herself with the utmost professionalism and has shown a real pride and dedication to her role within our small business. We all enjoy her positive, friendly nature and look forward to many happy years working with her.

NEW 12ft DHINGY

We are pleased to be building 4 new 12ft dinghies for 'Norfolk Adventure' to be used as rowing boats for hire on the lake at Holkham Hall. This has given us the chance to revamp the internal design of these sturdy little boats. They now have an integrated sole which increases buoyancy and reduces maintenance.

We are going to be building these boats and selling them locally for £2,200.00 plus VAT, this price includes oars, rowlocks, internal buoyancy, seating for five adults, fixed bilge pump, none slip sole, PVC fendering, RCD category D.



BOAT JUMBLE

Following the success of last year's impromptu event, we have decided that we shall run another **Boat Jumble** this summer. The date is set for **Saturday 11th August** and it will start at 8am and shall run until the afternoon. We have spaces available so anyone wishing to book a pitch to sell their own unused equipment should contact the office for a booking form.

We are also setting up a 'boats for sale' area and for a small fee will try and sell your boat for you. We are hopeful that it will be a good day, that the sun will shine and that there will be bargains to be had for all.



REGATTA 2012

We are very excited by the new Norfolk Oyster and Norfolk Gypsy World Championships that are being held in August. Let's just say with a reporter coming from Classic Boat Magazine to cover the event we have decided to do things a little differently this year. There will be a master-class from Norfolk etc after the practice race and a fish and chip supper prize giving and nautical quiz night at the Anchor Inn after the race. We hope that many of you will be able to attend.

The practice race is to be held on **Friday 24th August**, the race day is scheduled for the following day, **Saturday 25th August**. Friday's practice race is free of charge and all entrants for the World Championships held on the Saturday will be asked to pay a £10 admission fee.

The prize giving and nautical quiz in The Anchor pub, Morston (includes fish and chip supper and complimentary drink on arrival) is an additional £19 per head. For a menu and to book a table for your crew/quiz team please contact **Rebecca** or **Chenda** on 01263 741172.



The master class by Norfolk etc will be held after the practice race on the Friday at 4pm, there will be a complimentary drink and a couple of BBQs that will be fired up.

For more information and to book a place please contact **Rebecca** or **Chenda** on 01263 741172.

SAILING BOAT 'BLAKENEY' IN THAMES JUBILEE PAGEANT

We would like to say congratulations to our customer Anthony Blanchfield and his Skipper Dave who took the 16ft working sail boat 'Blakeney' to sail in the Royal Pageant on the Thames. As you know, the day was wet but Anthony told us that *"Being part of the pageant was amazing....We went into West India Dock on the Friday morning and moored up with 200 of the Dunkirk little ships. It was great to meet some really interesting people and be surrounded by so many amazing boats"*. Our team did the work needed to get Blakeney ready for the pageant so when we saw her on TV (we won't comment on the coverage of the event!) it was a very proud moment for us too.

A special mention needs to be given for the flotilla at Blakeney Quay and to all of our customers who took part. Well done, everyone had a great time and it was a great sight to see from the Quayside. What a fantastic way to mark her Majesty's Golden Jubilee.



HAPPY TIMES

Even though we, in the East of England, have experienced the wettest drought since records began, the days that we have had for sailing have been great. On one lunchtime tide Chenda and I took the children for a sail in the Gypsy. It was a sunny day with a good strong breeze and I was itching to get out on the water and to hoist the sails. I started to get everything ready whilst Chenda went into the cabin with the children.

I was impatient with the excitement of wanting to get going. I stowed away the covers, hoisted the mainsail and slipped the mooring without giving a thought as to what was going on down below. I unfurled the jib and started on a close reach through the moored boats, she picked up her heels and was off at a pace. It took a minute or so to work out what was happening in the cabin. Chenda had set the children out at the table with their lunch and when the boat had heeled over Grace, who was sat on the leeward side of the cabin, end up wearing both her and Archie's lunch.

All I could hear was Archie's hysterical laughter and Grace's crying. The situation was soon remedied by re-filling Gracie's plate with food. We have now learnt that it is probably a good idea to let the kids eat and get settled aboard whilst on the mooring. Another parenting lesson learned whilst afloat!

NEW OWNERS

We would like to welcome all new owners and customers to **Neil Thompson Boats**, we hope that you have a great summer sailing with your family and friends and that you enjoy reading this latest edition of Moorings. We are here for any advice, help or spares that you may need. We are excited to have you onboard and look forward to building a lasting relationship with you all.