



## IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS PRESSIES

Neil Foster has a new calendar out for 2013. There are many pictures of owners out and about in their boats and this would make a great gift. The price is **£15.60** (including VAT). If you would like a copy then please call or email Rebecca or Chenda.

Why not treat your boat to a traditional, handcrafted, wooden oak tiller extension with stainless steel fittings, these are **£78.00** (including VAT) each and can be ordered from the office. They will be made to order so please expect delivery time of 1 week from date of order.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

It has been a fantastic year for all of us here at the yard, a record number of boats sold means that the eve of 2013 will see Chenda and I toast all customers, old and new. We hope that you are reading this issue of Moorings tucked up beside the fire with a tot of whiskey – or a cup of tea – in hand and can look back on your year with pride and humour. Chenda, the team, and I would like to wish you and your families all the very best for Christmas and a heart-felt thank you for your continued support. We hope that 2013 sees you in good spirits, good health and good company.

## JUNO'S LAST CHARTER

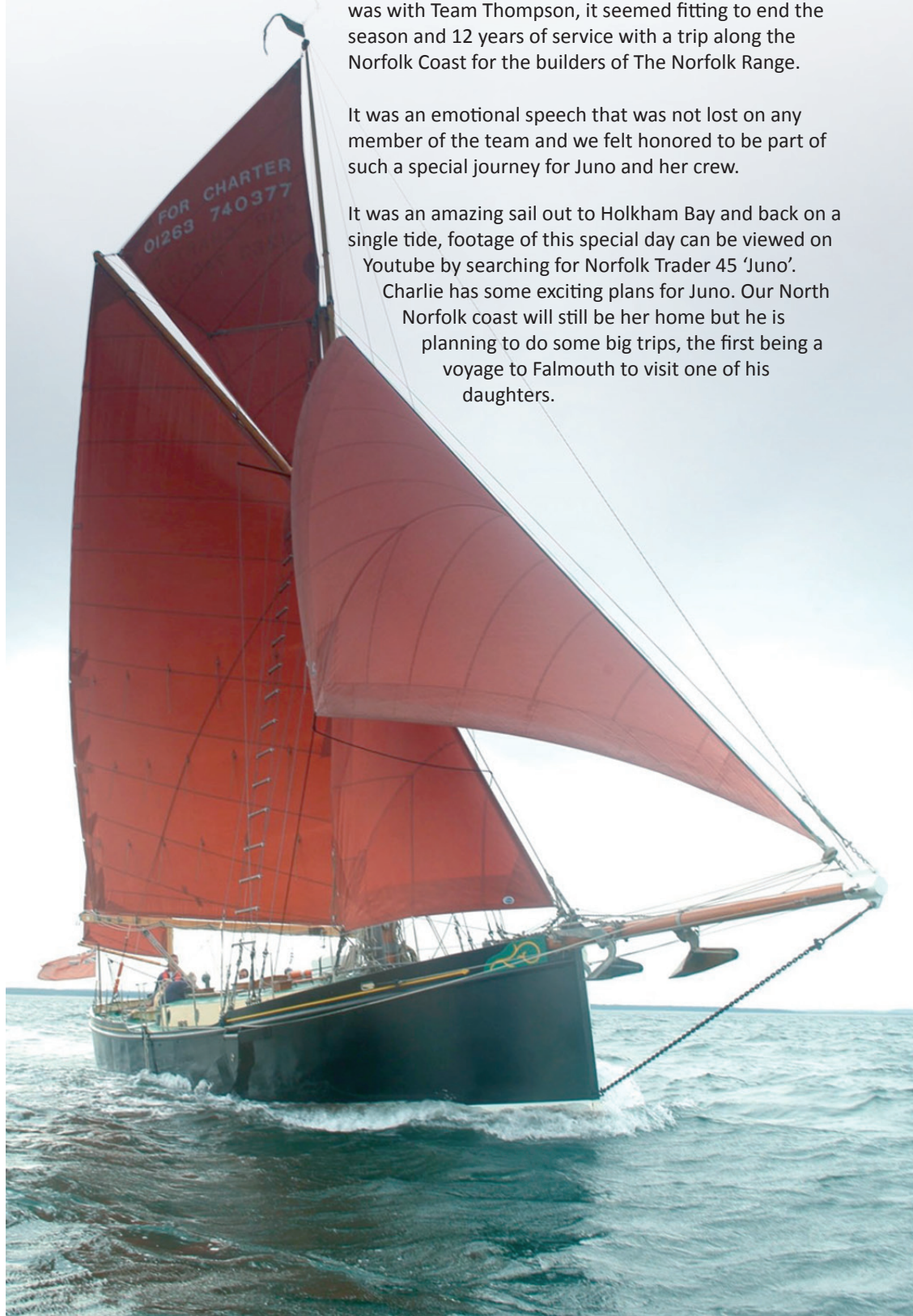
It was a fresh morning in October: our brief from Charlie Ward had been to meet on the Quay at Morston, to bring too many layers of clothing and some good deck shoes. Charlie warned us that it was going to be cold and he was right, the wind and drizzle combined made it feel positively arctic.

Once we were all safely onboard 'Juno' Charlie made the announcement that our Charter was to be the last one that 'Juno' would make and that he was pleased it was with Team Thompson, it seemed fitting to end the season and 12 years of service with a trip along the Norfolk Coast for the builders of The Norfolk Range.

It was an emotional speech that was not lost on any member of the team and we felt honored to be part of such a special journey for Juno and her crew.

It was an amazing sail out to Holkham Bay and back on a single tide, footage of this special day can be viewed on Youtube by searching for Norfolk Trader 45 'Juno'.

Charlie has some exciting plans for Juno. Our North Norfolk coast will still be her home but he is planning to do some big trips, the first being a voyage to Falmouth to visit one of his daughters.



NeilThompsonBoats  
www.neilthompsonboats.co.uk

# MOORINGS

Issue 5 Newsletter from the Neil Thompson Boatyard

## JUST MESSING ABOUT IN A BOAT...



*"There is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."*

Wind in the Willows



It's not quite Tales From The River Bank, tales from the muddy harbour more like, but the Thompson's – both the family and the team, have enjoyed messing around on boats this summer. I can't help but feel that 'Ratty' would've been most proud of us all. As a family we spent an idyllic weekend at the Watch House on Blakeney Point, and as a team we enjoyed evening fishing trips, a point day and a sail on Juno (more on that story to follow). Although the weather has been typically British in it's unpredictable nature, we have made the most of the days available and our stunning location.

Looking back through the photographs at the weekend at the Blakeney Watch House and the days spent down on the quayside with the children playing boats at low water, the regatta weekend, the test sails (and there have been lots this year), the launching of the Thompson family Oyster 'Annie', all in all it's been busy and at times frantic, but so many good memories have been made and lessons learned that I'll almost be sad to see 2012 slip into 2013.

Neil Thompson Boats, Manor Farm, Glandford, Holt, Norfolk NR25 7JP

+44 (0) 1263 741172

www.neilthompsonboats.co.uk

info@neilthompsonboats.co.uk



## PROGRESSING THE NORFOLK EXPLORER



Work has finally begun on the build of the newest addition to the Norfolk Range, 'The Norfolk Explorer'. Chris and Neil are busy making the necessary changes and adjustments to the Oyster hull mould before beginning to create the inner moulding. We anticipate that it should be ready to preview for the Holkham Country Fair.

Two of the glossy boating magazines are already trying to secure the first test sail and review of the boat as their own. Based on this early attention we feel that the Norfolk Explorer is going to be a huge success, more on this in the Spring.



The village of Horning on the Norfolk Broads will be hosting a one-day boat show on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2013**. We will be taking some boats from the Norfolk Range and hope for a good day. We are also attending the Holkham Country Fair, which is a two-day event over the weekend of the **26<sup>th</sup> July 2013**, and something of a highlight in the Norfolk social calendar.

We attended this local bi-annual show in 2011 and it proved to be a very good show for us with interest generated in the boats and the services that we offer here at the yard. We hope to build on the success of the last show and with the Norfolk Explorer being exhibited we hope that many of you will come and take a look at her.

## NEW TEAM MEMBER HENRY



Henry is 24 years old and a local lad who learnt to sail at the age of seven. When he turned 20, he moved to Portsmouth to do his Yacht Masters qualification and he has not stopped playing about in boats since. He has undertaken lots of boat maintenance courses in Southampton followed by 1 year in Greece as a flotilla engineer. Henry returned to Norfolk at the beginning of the winter and sought us out for a job. He has known our yard since we started 13 years ago as his uncle had a business unit next to the yard for a time. Henry has followed our progress over the years and "wants to be able to work to a high standard rather than mend and make do".

Henry loves to sail and windsurf; he feels that his knowledge of sailing is a strength that he brings to the team. He wants to become very skilled at all areas of the servicing of boats and is looking forward to getting to know all of the boats that we have here at the yard.

## WEDDING BELLS



Pierre married long time partner Liz, in a lovely ceremony at Blickling Hall, in early September and the Neil Thompson Boats Team were thrilled to be part of the celebrations. For Pierre, Neil and Chris the stag weekend was also a memorable occasion, not just because of the amount of alcohol consumed by the ten lads attending but mostly because they went out sailing for the day on a Farr 60 racing yacht from Southampton in a force 6. Here is Pierre's account of his third most special day ever (first being the birth of his daughter Tilly, the second being his wedding day).

"With 25 knot winds we knew it was going to be a interesting day. We motored out onto the River Itchen and hoisted the sails and 'Venomous' healed over, with her 16 ft beam, we hurtled down the Solent. We all took turns at the helm, which soon became a competition to see who could get the highest speed. With a slightly smug smile Neil shouts 20 Knots! Game over! Tacking was also a fun experience, with two wheels, running back stays and a lot of rope; there was much winching and shouting. We soon felt like a slick racing team. Watch out Russell Coutts!

After lunch, we again raced around the Brambles Bank, up and down the Solent a few more times until it was time to head back to our mooring.

After a great day of sailing, a lot of nervous faces had turned to beaming, happy, red smiles (a lot of windburn). Even the non-sailors had been converted and loved it!"

## ADVERTISING & MARKETING

We are working hard to raise the profile of the Norfolk Range and of the yard. This year has seen us in many magazines with two good spreads in Anglia Afloat and also in Classic Boat. We now have a good presence on Youtube with footage of the test sail for Anglia Afloat on board Norfolk Smuggler 'Blackbird', footage of the Norfolk Oyster 2012 World Championship and also our Juno trip. Mr. Owen, the owner of Norfolk Gypsy 'Hebe' has also uploaded footage of his time spent sailing on the Norfolk Broads, all of these videos are worth taking a look at. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter where we will let you know of more news from the yard as it happens.

## TRAINING

Given how busy we have been with boat sales this year, Chenda and I attended a practical yacht brokerage course, hosted by ABYA.

Rebecca is doing well with her NVQ in business administration, having some exam results back today in which she passed by 100%. Well done Rebecca, we are really proud.

Chris is about to attend another specialist paint spraying course, which a paint supplier is hosting and Chris is keen to test this new product.

## REGATTA RESULTS

Anglia Afloat and Classic Boat Magazine covered this year's regatta. We had very good attendance for both the practice and race day with many Oysters and Gypsies in attendance. As usual the weather was doing it's best to hamper proceedings with the wind dropping off completely, however a good storm came in from the west and brought with it some strong gusts, so although the first course took over an hour, the second was completed by almost every boat in 20 minutes.

The winner of the Norfolk Oyster fleet was Judith Shallow in boat 146 'Pearl Fisher'. The winner of the Norfolk Gypsy fleet was Tony Langley in boat 65 'Amanda'. Some footage from the race day can be viewed on Youtube by searching for 'Norfolk Oyster 2012 Worlds'. After the race we all met at the Morston Anchor for the prize giving and a fish and chip supper. The nautical quiz was great fun and the winning team 'The Winners' was made up of Judith and Mike Shallow, Charlie and Helen Ward and David and Patricia Dalrymple.

## DATES FOR 2013

The dates for the 2013 Norfolk Oyster and Norfolk Gypsy Regatta are **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August**, there will be a prize giving and nautical quiz in the evening of the **17<sup>th</sup>**. Blakeney regatta is being held on **10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August** and Morston is on **24<sup>th</sup> August**.

