



## Up River Yacht Club Newsletter August 2013

# FLOTSAM

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## Summer's here at last



## Oh! what fun we had



# Up River Yacht Club Newsletter

## August 2013

### Commodore's Report

I do realise that this is the first issue of Flotsam for this year. However, we have tried to keep you all informed with various emails, notices and the website.

We have had some additional events this year to encourage members along to the club on Friday evenings. As these have been well attended we hope to plan some more later in the year.

In January, Craig Osler and his brother Dean gave us an interesting presentation about their Fundraising circumnavigation of the UK.

In February Clifton Warry, RNLI Safety Officer at Burnham came along to do a Lifejacket talk. He also checked some members' lifejackets and made some people realise that their check was indeed long overdue! Clifton also spoke about the RNLI On-Board Safety Advice sessions. Those of us who have made use of this service thoroughly recommend it.

Keith Musto kindly agreed to come along to the club in May and spoke very modestly about all his achievements in the world of sailing and sailing equipment.

We welcomed members and guests along to our Fitting Out Supper in April and some of us have, in return, visited clubs at Benfleet, Wakering, Eyott and South Woodham Ferrers. Once again Up River provided assistance at West Wick's Open day.



In this current heat wave it is hard to imagine that not so long ago we thought the rain was never going to stop! Fortunately it did and eventually the ground conditions improved enough for us to start launching. The new National Handicap for Cruisers is being used this year and we hope this will encourage more cruiser owners to join in racing. The first club cruise has taken place and eight club boats went up to St Katharine's.

On the dinghy sailing side we have had some good turnouts for the Sunday racing in spite of some variable weather. The



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club was buzzing for the Phantom Open and also for the Lightning and Comet Open. I am sure that more information on the racing and cruising will be covered by others elsewhere in Flotsam.

We have just had the first Kids' Fun Day and it was a delight to see the club grounds full of members and their families enjoying some good old fashioned fun. The RS Teras that we hired proved to be ideal for the youngsters to sail. The grown ups had fun too! We are looking at plans for future family events.

The Regatta is of course one of the next major events for the club and we will be making the usual requests for help.

Once the Regatta is over we will be starting the improvements on the Gents' changing rooms, showers and toilets.

In October we have the RNLI Quiz. This will be followed by the Dinner, Dance and Prize-Giving. Full details of which will be sent out to all members in due course.

I would like to welcome the following new members to the club this year:

John Brady is an ex Commodore of URYC and it is a pleasure to welcome him back. Grant Cobbing is the new owner of *Windsong*. Richard Favier sails with Graham Garner on *Kiss of Sweet Reason*. Keith Podd sails a Tepco. Laszlo Potondi and his partner Rita and their baby son Oliver are the new owners of *Cestria*. Pip Rodgers has come from Brandy Hole with his Gull and Laser.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who give up their time to assist in the running of the club in many different ways. You know who you are!

I look forward to seeing you all at the club or out on the water.

Julia Hall, Commodore





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### John Cowling

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to John Cowling in January. John had been a member of Up River for many years and had served as Commodore. Holy Trinity Church in Rayleigh was full with John's family, friends and colleagues from all aspects of John's life. After the service everyone was invited back to Up River where John will always be remembered as the gentleman that always sailed so seemingly effortlessly onto his mooring.

John's final visit to the club before he sadly passed away was for Craig's talk about his voyage in *Nebula*. Craig paid tribute to John in thanking him for teaching him navigation.

It was a pleasure to see Carol, Jeni and Amy at the club for the Kid's Fun Day. John would have been very proud indeed to see how quickly his granddaughter Amy took to sailing the Tera.



### Note from Carol Cowling

*A very big thank you to everyone who gathered in the Club and gave John such a fitting farewell and to the Officers and House Committee who made it possible.*

*The URYC had been part of John's life for over fifty years and the support and friendship we have received has helped so much at this difficult time.*

*Carol and Family.*



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### UP RIVER YACHT CLUB

Pooles Lane, Hullbridge, SS5 6PA

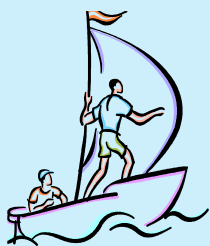
# REGATTA

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September

From 12 Noon

Free Admission

Yacht Racing & on-shore activities  
for all the family



Duck Race

Bouncy Castles

Books

Tombola

Refreshments



White Elephant

Children's Games

BBQ



PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS &  
NEIGHBOURS!





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### Summer cruise 2013

After frustratingly losing the first day to bad weather resulting in not having enough time for the planned visit to Chatham, the cruise got underway on Sunday in much improved conditions with 10 boats heading for the River Medway.

After an overnight stop at Queenborough 8 boats including *Dreamcatcher*, *Krystal jak*, *Bacchante*, *Attila*, *Samphire*, *Tripper*, *Footloose* and *Mirari* (*Permata* and *Miss Clare* electing to stay on the Medway and Swale) then enjoyed a downwind sail up the Thames to St Katharine's Dock for a three night stay. After passing notable landmarks such as the new London gateway container port, QE2 Bridge, Thames barrier and Millennium dome the first boats tied up on the waiting buoys outside St Kath's at 16.45, 2 hours ahead of schedule.

It was quite a bumpy wait for the first lock into the marina at 18.30 due to the chop caused by the pleasure boats and river taxis.

Two sunny days in London allowed us to take the river bus to Greenwich with visits to the Cutty Sark, Royal Observatory and Maritime Museum with the second day taken up with shopping, a day on HMS *Belfast* or a visit to the Tower of London. The last evening in St Kath's was spent with everyone enjoying a dinner at the Dickens Inn overlooking the harbour followed by drinks back on the boats, with half of us ending up on the back of Gerry's boat!!!!!!!!!!



We left St Kath's on a grey and murky Thursday morning with very little wind coming from the east which meant motoring all the way back to Queenborough, even for Gerry! Unfortunately a couple of boats suffered engine problems with *Footloose* having to be towed into Thurrock YC moorings due to a fuel line blockage. Fortunately John was able to remedy the problem and carry on. Well done to Alan on *Mirari* for the tow.

Next almost at the same time was Alan on *Tripper* who suffered overheating problems probably due to the fact he was running almost flat out and steaming along at 10kn!!!!!! Once he backed off a bit all alarms cleared and no further problems arose.

It was 17.30 when the first boats arrived at Queenborough where we all moored on the 'concrete Lighter' which allowed us to hop on and off each other's boats



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for yet more drinks. Also there we met up again with *Permata* and *Miss Clare* who had enjoyed their time on the Medway and Swale.

Friday morning saw us sailing back home with a good SW breeze giving some of us the chance to break out the spinnaker with a downwind run to the Whitaker and a beat up the Crouch.



This year's cruise was a great success with some good sailing and even better company.

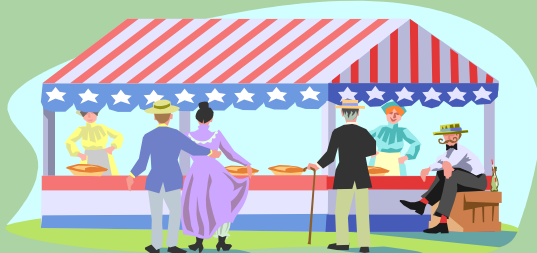
Time to start thinking about next year's cruise!!!!

Graham (*Dreamcatcher*)  
Cruiser Class Captain.

### UP RIVER YACHT CLUB REGATTA

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September

As usual we are looking for people to run the stalls at the Regatta. If you can help for an hour or so please put your name on the list at the club or contact Derek, Adrian or Julia. Thank you.





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### URYC REGATTA

SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
2013

***Donations of the following would be greatly appreciated:***



**Plants**



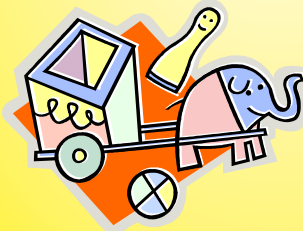
**Cans, Bottles, Gifts etc.  
for Tombolas**



**Cakes**



**Books**



**Items for the 'White  
Elephant' Stall**



**Sailing items**





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### Tips from our Mooring Officer

A couple of years ago I had a Rodent Ulcer (cancerous growth) cut out of my forehead, because in our pursuit of sailing we are attacked by the sun not only from above but also from the sun radiating off of the water, wearing a hat doesn't help much. Every time I came home my girls would slate me for not using suntan lotion, but my excuse was that it was dangerous being slippery and it would get in my eyes, which was a nuisance and painful. I met up with Allen, the previous owner of *Footloose*, and he had the same Ulcer problem and also hated suntan lotion. I noticed recently that one of our members has the same so this looks like it is becoming quite a problem. My girls made some enquiries and came up with an alcohol-based sun block made by Nivea simply called "SUN" invisible protection spray. Because it is alcohol based, it simply sprays on and immediately disappears which makes it perfect for on-boat use. You can buy it from all major chemists and it's no dearer than other lotions. I hope this is of use to you and you heed my warning so you may be prevented from getting skin cancer.

Also when you do get your boat launched don't forget that the Crossrail project of dumping spoils on Wallasea Island is in full swing so the shipping has increased 20 fold rising from 80/90 ships a year to 1,825 ships working 24 hours a day. Hopefully when our first members gets past Burnham they will let us know exactly what it's like.

Thanks for letting me bend your ears and I promise I won't mention checking your moorings BEFORE you launch and also during the season, as I am confident that we won't get any early drifters.

*John Footloose Smith.*



Please do not deposit unwanted oil or cans in the club grounds as we do not have the facility to dispose of large quantities of oil.

Please take it home with you – the local amenity recycling centres allow individuals to take engine oil for disposal in their tank.

*Thank you*



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### URYC One and two at Manor Park SC

In April, the Lightning fleet gathered at Manor Park SC in Staffordshire, starting the 2013 Grand Prix season in style with a training day on Saturday and Championship racing on Sunday.

With a bright and frosty start, the wind gods certainly weren't with us in the morning and a short on the water postponement was inevitable as R.O. David Norris waited valiantly for any sort of breeze for us.

Eventually, a whisper started to establish itself and all credit to Dave for managing to get courses set with the wind coming and going in patches. It was going to be a challenging day for all parties with much discussion of 'wind shift lottery' later in the clubhouse.

In race 1, with 23 boats, a short line and a very port bias, being on the front row was going to be paramount.

First to tack off into clear air was Simon and Matt Hopkins who match raced up the first beat. Matt had the superior boat speed, however, and was first round



the windward mark followed by Simon, Paul (Dave) White, Caroline Key and leading the chasing pack much to everyone's surprise, Wayne Jenner.

The front 4 made a clear break from the pack to extend a sizable lead but none more so than Matt who sailed off into the distance to be so far ahead at the finish the next boat was several legs behind. In the battle for the minor places local Alex Shaw managed to cross the gap to join Caroline, Paul and Simon and it looked like this would have been the final order until the fleet caught some breeze to close up the entire length of the race. In the shake up on the last lap Caroline held



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on for second but Penny Yarwood sailed though from nowhere to take third on the line from Paul.

Lunch was then taken with hope the breeze would stabilise for the back to back races in the afternoon.

Race 2 start was similar to race One with everyone aiming for the pin end. The breeze was more settled and on the line Matt was over but being by the pin gybed round and threaded the needle on port through the starting starboard pack to find clear air

On the right hand side of the course: Simon went left and, as in race One, they rounded the first mark side by side with Penny in close company for an Up River YC 1, 2, 3. Once again Wayne was in the leading pack chasing the front runners with Alex, Paul Beven and Adam Styles - eyebrows were raised as Wayne was sporting the new cross cut Dacron that was obviously working very well in the light airs. Simon, Matt and Penny extended their lead to the leeward mark when Simon mistakenly protected the inside for a port rounding only to realise late it was starboard and by that time Matt and Penny were through.

In the next lap Alex once again used his local knowledge of the shifts and joined in the battle with Matt and Simon. The wind gods played their hand on the next beat and Matt got caught out on the left with no wind and was caught by the chasing bunch of Rupert, Caroline and Paul from which he would not recover. On the final beat Penny had extended her lead for a fine win and Simon was easily covering Alex for second when he sailed into a hole yards from the line. Alex picked up the new breeze from the right and sailed over the top to win by about an inch (I have the video; it's painful!).

Going into the last race Penny had the lead but Matt, Alex, Caroline or Simon could take the title if they could win the last race. The wind went hard right just before the start and it was a bit of a drag race off the line and Paul led round the first mark with Matt, Alex, Simon and Penny in close pursuit. Although there was many place changes and Rupert made a storming recovery after a 720 at the start it was the final beat that decided the meeting. Paul rounded first followed by Alex. Matt having had mainsheet issues had dropped back and that was enough for him to round on a completely new wind and sail directly to the line closely followed by Penny who sneaked over inches ahead of Alex followed by Rupert. Paul who had led most of the race had to settle for 5th.

In the end, with 2 first places, Matt Hopkins added the Northern Championship Shield to his 2012 Inland title, one point ahead of Penny Yarwood both from Up River YC with Manor Park SC local Alex Shaw in third.

*Simon*



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**Up River Yacht Club**  
**Saturday 12th October 2013**

**R N L I**  
**Mini Quiz**  
**&**  
**FISH 'N' CHIP SUPPER**

**8pm**  
**£5 per person**

*All profits to the RNLI*



**RNLI Christmas Cards, Calendars, Gifts etc. will also  
be available to purchase**

**Please put your name on the list if you will be  
attending**



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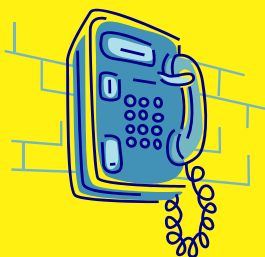
### RNLI On Board Safety Advice



In February many of you attended the RNLI talk by Clifton Warry where he gave a demonstration about checking Lifejackets. Clifton also mentioned the On Board Safety Advice sessions. Some members have followed this up and found Clifton's input most helpful. If you were thinking of arranging a session but had not got round to it his contact details are Clifton

Warry, Lifeboat Sea Safety Officer, Burnham-on-Crouch. Mobile: 07780 815977 email: [cliftonwarry@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:cliftonwarry@dsl.pipex.com)

The RNLI offers a free, friendly and confidential service that looks at the safety aspects of your boat. Conducted by one of their highly trained volunteers, Advice Onboard is a personal, face-to-face safety advice service that takes place onboard your craft. You set the time and they tailor their visit to your vessel and the type of boating you do. Whether you're a newcomer or an experienced boater, the unique one-to-one service will give you an opportunity to ask any niggling questions on equipment or emergency procedures.



The club telephone has now been disconnected as it was very expensive to have in place and was not being used as most people now have mobile phones. If you do need to contact anyone, the telephone numbers of the Officers of the club are in your URYC Programme booklet and on the club notice board. All Cruiser and Dinghy Members should have a copy of the Cruiser or Dinghy Register which includes members' contact details.





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**Clifton's demonstration showed us just how many things can go wrong with a lifejacket. Listed below is the RNLI advice for suggested regular checks:**

### **Every month:**

#### **Check the gas cylinder is tightly screwed in**

The CO<sub>2</sub> cylinders in lifejackets can work themselves loose and should be checked for tightness every month. Always carry re-arming kits for each type of lifejacket you have onboard. If a lifejacket is accidentally inflated, you will then be able to get it ready for use again straight away.

### **Every 3 months:**

#### **Check the gas cylinder for corrosion**

Check the CO<sub>2</sub> bottle for corrosion every 3 months. Rusty cylinders should be replaced. Also, check any areas of material that were in contact with a rusty cylinder as the fabric may have been damaged.

#### **Check the webbing**

Every 3 months, check the webbing and the stitching that holds the webbing together. A lifejacket with a colour thread that strongly contrasts with the webbing makes it much easier to spot worn stitching. While you're at it, check zips, buckles and other fastenings.

### **Every 6 months:**

#### **Check for leaks**

Every 6 months, inflate the lifejacket manually with a hand pump (use a hand pump to prevent moisture build-up inside the lifejacket). Leave it inflated for 24 hours to ensure there are no leaks or damage. Repack the lifejacket according to the manufacturer's folding instructions.

See more details in the RNLI's Caring for your Lifejacket leaflet available on the RNLI website [www.rnli.org](http://www.rnli.org)

**Visit our club website at [www.upriver.org.uk](http://www.upriver.org.uk)**



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### **Launch and Recovery Syndicate Second Work Party Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2013 9.00am**

To refresh your memories, all members of the syndicate must attend a L&R Work Party where maintenance is undertaken on:

Mobile Hoist, Launching & Recovery Trolleys,  
Tractors / Launch & Recovery Cable & Drum / Lifting Chain  
Blocks / Lifting Strops / Turning Block / Stern Lines Warning  
Boards / Tender Trolleys

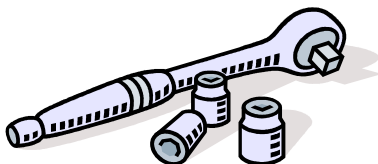


#### **You should bring:**

Chipping Hammers / Wire Brushes / Paint  
Brushes / Files / Grease Guns / Socket  
Sets / Ring Spanners etc.



See You There!



**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CRUISER CLASS AGM WILL  
FOLLOW AT 12:30pm.  
*MINUTES OF THE 2012 MEETING WERE INCLUDED IN  
THE 2013 CRUISER REGISTER WHICH WAS CIRCULATED  
TO ALL CRUISER MEMBERS***



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**The New Club Website is up and running at  
[www.upriver.org.uk](http://www.upriver.org.uk)**

### **Registering on the Site**

It is well worth registering, it takes just a few moments and only requires a name and an e-mail address. These are needed to help prevent spam.

Only club members will be allowed to register.

Registering gives you access to many more membership features, also allowing you to post in the forum or view Flotsam.

Once you have registered you will be issued with a password. You can then change this to a more suitable or memorable password if you so wish.

As suggested at the Cruiser Class Meeting the Forum can also be used as a “meeting place” for people who wish to sail in company.

**Find all the latest news and reports at [www.upriver.org.uk](http://www.upriver.org.uk)**





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### COACH TRIP

It is planned to arrange another coach trip towards the end of the year, probably a Saturday in November.

I have listed a few suggestions below:

Chatham Dockyard, Greenwich, Bury St Edmunds Christmas market, Portsmouth, Sandringham House, Brick Lane Music Hall, Leeds Castle Fireworks

Anyone who has an alternative venue they think would be of interest, or would like one of the suggestions, please contact me by phone or e-mail [alanparker050@aol.com](mailto:alanparker050@aol.com).

When the most popular venue has been chosen, I can then contact Kirbys for a price and confirm availability and date.

Many thanks, *Alan Parker (Tripper)*

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR THE OWNERS OF TENDERS

There are too many unmarked tenders in our tender park. There are also several tenders marked with the names of Cruisers that have not been in the club for years!



The Executive Committee have decided that 4 weeks from the date of this notice, any tender that is not clearly marked as Tender To (T/T) a Cruiser on our current Cruiser Register will be moved to a separate space. This will make easier access for the tenders that are in regular use.

One month later any tender still unclaimed and unmarked will be disposed of.

It is a requirement by the CHA that tenders on the river are clearly marked as Tender To ("mother vessel") in order to be exempt from Harbour dues.

If your tender is unmarked and you are unable to get down to the club for any reason please send me full details/description of your tender and its position and I will add a temporary label on your behalf.

*Thank you, Julia*



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It may seem terribly early to mention "Christmas".

However, it has been suggested that rather than all URYC members sending cards to each other, we have a display board in the clubhouse for members to add one card to all members if they wish.

We would then have a collection box for the money you would otherwise have spent on cards to go to the RNLI.

You may, of course, still wish to send cards to family and other friends and we will still be having the usual RNLI Mini Quiz Night on 12<sup>th</sup> October for you to purchase cards, calendars and other RNLI gifts.



### URYC GROUNDS MAINTENANCE Calling All Boat Owners!



Unfortunately it is not possible to access all areas of the club grounds on Work Party days. Discarded chain, paint rollers, wood blocks, dinghy mooring spikes etc. cause damage to the club mowers!

Would members please take responsibility for maintaining the area under their own dinghy, cruiser, tender, trailer etc.

Thank you, URYC Executive.





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**THE PLACE TO BE ON  
SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

## **PRE-REGATTA WORK PARTY**

**We would really  
appreciate a good  
turnout for this  
event to get the  
club**



**grounds ready for the  
Regatta.**



**Thank you**



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## Kid's Fun Day

