



SMACK DOCK SOUNDINGS

SPRING 2001



issue 28

**PIONEER OPEN DAY
7TH JULY FROM 10.00 HRS TO
16.00 HRS AT: SCRIPPS FARM,
GOAT LODGE ROAD, GREAT
TOTHAM, MALDON, ESSEX**

**C.S.P.S
SAIL AND PICNIC
SUNDAY 22ND JULY
RING 01206 304 204
01206 302 863
If you would like to join us.**



99 Sail and picnic. Seen here are young smacksmen learning the art of fishing.

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Pioneer CK18

I have been asked to give members an update on progress on Pioneer. For those of you who don't know, Pioneer is the only example of a Class 1 Colne smack to be complete enough to rebuild. Built originally in 1864 by Peter Harris of Rowhedge and lengthened by Robert Aldous in 1889, she has an impeccable pedigree, and is very recognisable as a local boat. She was exhumed from the mud at West Mersea in 1998 by Rupert Marks, owner of Hyacinth, Shaun White, a boat builder well known to Brightlingsea members, and myself. The Pioneer Sailing Trust was formed, funding to start was sourced, and in November 1999 a new keel was fitted to the old boat.



'Pioneers' Stem head looking aft

Work has progressed rapidly since then. Framing, the wet well bulkheads and the framework of the counter stern were completed late last year. Planking is currently



'Pioneers' Massive rudder trunking

well under way and should be finished by July. Then the beamshelf, beams, decking and rails will follow. Launching is scheduled for August of next year, with sailing trials in 2003. The aims of the trust are two-fold, to preserve the only surviving example of a skillinger smack and to charter her to children's groups and special needs groups. **Members are very welcome to visit us at any time during working hours. An ideal time to see us will be on our open day, Saturday July 7th. Between 10a.m. and 4p.m.**

All are welcome, and there's free tea and cakes, as well as plenty of chat!

Brian Kennell.

IT is the most prestigious project on the East Coast and deserves our support.

This is a massive project carried out by top class shipwrights and will give our members a good insight of the rebuilding a class one smack. ED.



Re creating the 'wet well'

NATIONAL HISTORIC SHIPS COMMITTEE

3rd February 2001

CORE COLLECTION AND DESIGNATED VESSELS REVISED LISTS

As you kindly commented on which vessels should form the Collection Core (CC) and Designated Vessels (DV) lists (of Historic Vessels of the United Kingdom) I have pleasure in giving you advance notice of the changes which will be made. These are summarised overleaf and I enclose also a revised statistical analysis.

The Revised Lists are being forwarded to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and to the Heritage Lottery Fund, without whose this project would not have been possible. The Revised Lists will be formally issued during the week commencing 26th February and until then the proposed lists, issued in November 1999, may still be viewed at <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/institutess/sims/ukcore.htm>

The National Historic Ships Project team (Doctor Robert Prescott and Miss Deanna Groom), who created the database which contains the National Register of Historic Vessels (NRHV), has now completed its work and has been disbanded. The NRHV database has been transferred to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich and queries about it should be sent to nrhv@nmm.ac.uk.

The formal publication of the Revised Lists will complete my public involvement with NHSC. I still have a few loose ends to tidy up but these involve only internal NHSC/NHSP work. Thank you for the tremendous help and advice you have given me during my thoroughly enjoyable time as Secretary NHSC. It has been much appreciated and made my life very much easier. I shall watch future developments with interest – but from the sidelines.

Finally a reminder that John Paton, my successor, can be contacted at:

- 98 The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex. PO19 4JR
- 01243 784873 (also answerphone and fax)
- john.paton@thehornet.freeserve.co.uk

C G Allen
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We would like to thank the National Historic Ships committee for reconsidering there core list which now includes the Essex smack 'Maria CK21' built by Harris of Row-

hedge.

We would also like to congratulate Paul Winter, the owner, who saved her from the clutches of our Dutch neighbours.

When I bought Ellen CK222 she was the only Harris smack sailing but with 'Maria' and 'Pioneer' it is looking a lot more healthy.

Peter and Enos Harris built some very fine smacks and it is to their credit that some have survived into the Millennium.

Ed.



Maria CK21 seen here on her mooring at Fav-ersham Creek.

Brightlingsea Harbour Nature Notes 2001

Its that time of the year again, to look back through the nature notes in the harbour log, and to report on what has been seen:-

20th May 2000 - noticed a Canada goose "on guard" off the Eastern of Cyndry Island. His mate is probably nesting nearby.

22nd May 2000 - a Mallard duck and ten ducklings walked up the C.Y.C dinghy launching ramp and jumped off the other side, making their way under the hard causeway into James and Stone shipyard.

25th May 2000 - when we moved a boat to a different mooring we found a Pied Wagtail nest with four nestling in the cabin. The boat was moved in 50 yard hops to keep the parents in attendance. These youngsters eventually flew from the new mooring.

10th June 2000 - a Guinea Fowl was seen roosting on the work bench in the smack dock (an escapee from Lime street), and a badger was spotted on the St. Osyth priory saltings.

27th June 2000 - the Canada geese nesting on Cyndry Island successfully hatched leaving five empty egg shells remaining. Later in the day I saw a pair of Canada's with five young on the sea wall on "Howlands marsh" one youngster being albino.

Reg Arthur, warden on Howlands told me that an albino Grey Lag had been resident on the reserve, perhaps it had laid an egg in the Canada's nest!

24th August 2000 - A dead seal was reported on Ray creek, shingle point. I sailed over after work finding it was our old friend Dunlop, having been hit by a fairly large propeller, by the look of it.

I first noticed Dunlop six years ago and he was a mature seal then so he had a good "innings".

28th August 2000 - one of our visiting yachts had a racing pigeon fly into its sail and flopped into the water from where it was retrieved with a landing net. It spent the night wrapped in a towel down below fed on museli. It recovered and flew off the next morning.

14th September 2000 - whilst giving assistance to a sunken boat on the Cocum hills off Mersea I saw three female Eider's diving inshore.

18th September 2000 - saw the first Dabchick (little Grebe) of the autumn.

17th October 2000 - first flock of Brent geese in the river today.

30th October 2000 - severe weather experienced. Wind gusts to 84 knots recorded. Whilst on the wide pontoon checking fenders I saw three Dabchicks diving close in to the lee of the yachts.

21st November 2000 - surprised a Pochard close in to the end of the wide pontoon today. Plus twenty Dabchicks feeding in the south channel.

25th November 2000 - saw two young seals, one with a fish in its mouth in "Bumpkin bay".

7th December 2000 - a pair of swans with seven well grown cygnets were seen in the Smack dock. A late brood.

20th December 2000 - counted 11 Mergansers in the south channel.

23rd December 2000 - Bernie was called to a Cormorant tangled up in a fishing line off Batemans tower. He disentangled it and then released it. It had a British museum ring number JAG1323142 on its leg.

30th December 2000 - saw a green woodpecker digging into the hard mud "cliff" on the western end of Cyndry island.

31st December 2000 - severe frost over night. I was able to get within 15 feet of a king fisher on the C.Y.C hammer head.

Counted 33 Dabchicks between the hard and Morgans moorings in the south channel.

29th January 2001 - a Great Northern diver was seen in the entrance to the Pyefleet by the police launch, Alert 3.

31st January 2001 - sailed over the Pyefleet and was delighted to find Great Northern diver by 'Helen and Violets' mooring. This is the first one I have seen since a 'Scottish' some years ago.

21st February 2001 - counted 15 Drake red breasted Mergansers off James and Stone ship yard.

4th March 2001 - red breasted Mergansers numbers increasing to 19 today, all Drakes.

1st April 2001 - a pair of Canada geese have taken up residence on Cyndry island as they did last year.

With the Canada geese returning to Cyndry island, hoping to nest, the season has come round full circle.

The place of our semi-tamed seal Dunlop has not been filled by any one recognisable seal, I have seen up to three younger seals in the harbour at any one time, during this last year perhaps a special relationship will develop with one of them, who knows ?

Best Regards

Brian Percival

(Senior Assistant Harbour master, Brightlingsea)

James Wentworth Day would be proud of these notes Brian, I always look forward to this article and I am never disappointed .Thanks again Brian .

Letters to the Editor

The Editor

Colne Smack Preservation Society
Newsletter

Dear Sir,

Alf Wakeling and I are writing a book about Brightlingsea, and one chapter is devoted to the shipyards. We have not managed to find anything on the history of the Aldous yard.

If any of your members can turn up documents or photographs referring to the yard and its workers (not the individual boats) we would be glad to hear from them.

Roger Walker will kindly act as a link if e-mail messaging is not convenient.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Moon.

Rowhedge

The Village of Rowhedge have invited our Members smacks to their Summer Fayre which will take place on the 21st July. A brass band has been promised and you are welcome to join in the activities shore side. Moorings are available along side the quay.

To the Membership of the C.S.P.S

Would you like us to arrange a barbecue and music on East Mersea Stone in the last week in September. We can arrange to transport you by smack to the location.

If you would like this event to happen please show an interest and phone Jim Lawrence on 01206 304 204 or Andy Rule on 01763 208 564.

Final Reminder

THE C.S.P.S SAIL AND PICNIC IS ON THE 22ND OF JULY PLEASE COME AND JOIN US ON OUR SMACKS.

Ring Jim Lawrence on 01206 304 204 or the Sail Loft on 01206 302 863

We apologise for the small newsletter, this is mainly due to the weather holding up projects that we were going to cover.

However we have planned a news letter for late august to compensate for this short fall.

In August we will be reporting on the launch of Transcur and ADC's first sail after a 4 year rebuild, progress on the Bawley Gladys, report and results on the Medway match and the Blackwater barge and smack race, sail and picnic.

We will also be covering Charlotte Ellen's major renovation at Tollesbury, we would like to thank James Bardrick for allowing us to do so.

Ed.

News: Hot of the Press
First smack race of the season

Medway Bawley and Doble Association
Annual Smack Race held 17th June 2001

This year the race was held on Sunday to avoid clashing with the Medway Barge Match, held the previous day.

The morning of the race dawned grey and cold with a north north west wind force 4-5. The start time was 12.00 noon, and by then ten smacks had assembled for the start at Gillingham. All ten were local either from Medway or Faversham which was a bit disappointing as the Kent crews relish international competition.

The course set kept the smacks in the river with three down tide legs and two uptide legs and a finish at Queenborough. Thistle (Whitstable smack) made a good start with Ploughboy, Primrose and Mary close behind. With the wind off the northern shore there was little windward work and the leading boats fetched all the marks. The wind was quite gusty which made for some excitement particularly aboard the tiny ploughboy which had at times water within an inch of the hatches.

The first smack home was Ethel Alice with Primrose second and Thistle third.

The prize giving was held at Queenborough Yacht Club where an excellent meal was served followed by lively musical entertainment provided by Geoff Gransden and friends.

Edwin Bracken

Thanks Edwin for this report on the first smack race of the season and congratulations for coming in 2nd to 'Ethel Alice'. It is also nice to see Geof Gransden with the Whitstable smack 'Thistle' do so well.

I did speak to Geof about the Medway race and he was going to organise a berth in Chatham maritime dock for the 'international' team but alas he probably ran out of time to organise this. Perhaps next year?.

Ed

