



January 2005

Newsletter No. 3

Our last Newsletter to you was in the early Spring of 2004 - we hope that you enjoyed what Summer we had and take this opportunity of wishing you an excellent 2005! Meanwhile things have been moving at the IMT. As those of you who came to our series of Spring lectures at the Waterfront Centre in 2004 will recall, they were all fascinating and very well attended. Our exhibition at the same venue in September, held as part of "Ipswich Heritage Weekend", had over 300 visitors.

NOW YOU CAN JOIN THE TRUST!

The success of these lectures and events and our ongoing developments (see below for details) show clearly that there is tremendous local interest in "Matters Maritime" and the Trust's projects. **To encourage those interested, we have introduced a new membership scheme for the Trust.** Annual Membership subscriptions are £5.00 for individual Membership or £7.50 for Household Membership, including free entry for paid-up Members (or up to 2 people in the case of Household Membership) to whichever is the first Lecture of the Trust's Spring 2005 series of talks you are able to attend (subject to availability of seat reservations). Additionally, you will have the opportunity to have a "say" in the development of the Trust, become involved in our activities - should you wish - and receive regular Newsletters giving details on maritime events in the area as well as news of progress of the Trust's various projects. As in all organisations, new blood, ideas and help are always needed and welcome. No commitment is required when becoming a member but you will be very welcome to become involved in any of our projects. An application form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Maritime Centre.

The developers of the new Cranfields Mill Development have already agreed to provide a display area for us within the new building. Details are now being finalised for this. Meanwhile, we have recently bought a 20' shipping container as a store for maritime artefacts. ABP have kindly provided a location for it adjacent to Haven Marina and members have already lined, insulated and begun filling it. Already we have been given many artefacts including several items donated by Mrs. Whitmore from the family's chandlery/sail-making business on the Dock. More please! There is undoubtedly a wealth of other items tucked away in garages, lofts and corners which need preserving, annotating and storing - hence the container! **Do you have, or know the whereabouts of, any maritime artefacts? Please tell us if you do.** First collect the artefacts, the next step is to display them. We are under way!

Some years ago, we were presented with the 1910 ex-GER passenger launch MV "Pinmill" (her sisters are "Brightlingsea", "Epping", and "Hainault"). Sadly, our application to the HLF for her complete restoration was not successful, but she remains a viable restoration project. However, our commitments in other directions have caused us to seek a suitable new owner for her who will give her a new lease of life. Is anyone interested - she is laid-up ashore at Haven Marina in the boat park behind their offices on the Island Site - you can't miss her, she's "the one with the funnel". Details from Des Pawson - see below.

Future events:

We shall be holding 3 more lectures in early 2005:

Please note that the new venue will be the Ipswich Central Library Lecture Room.

Wednesday March 2nd: Capt. Richard Woodman will speak on “The Battle of Trafalgar a personal view”. A fascinating subject, told from a very different angle. Capt. Woodman of Trinity House has written many books on nautical subjects.

Wednesday, April 6th: Richard Smith will talk on “The Port of Ipswich and its Shipping”. Richard is a founder member of the IMT, has written many books on local maritime subjects and has a wealth of knowledge and photographs to share.

Wednesday, May 4th: Bob Malster on “Ipswich Dock and its Engineers”. Amongst his many publications is the definitive book on the building of Ipswich Wet Dock. He will tell us “who” as well as “what”, “why”, “when” and “how”!

All promise to be at least as popular as last year’s lectures. Do come - joint the Trust and “get one free”! (see above). The lectures begin at 19.30hrs. and should finish around 21.30hrs. Our 2004 lecture series held in the Waterfront Centre proved so popular that this year the Trust has decided to hold the 2005 series of lectures in larger premises, which we hope will enable all to be seated more comfortably. Access to the Lecture Room is from Old Foundry Road, and off-street parking is not far away in the Charles St. multi-storey car park. We hope this proves a success, but we would like to review the situation later in the year, and so all views will be welcome! Advance booking of seats is still recommended! Contact Des Pawson on 01473 690090 or e-mail him at knots@footrope.fsnet.co.uk

Thames Barge Races:

The Annual Passage Race from Gravesend to Pin Mill will take place over the week-end of the 25/26th June, with the 44th Pin Mill Sailing Club’s Barge Match the following weekend on Saturday, 2nd July. When most of the barges berth in the Wet Dock between these two races, we plan to hold “An Event” at the Waterfront Centre and with the Barges. More on this later.

Projects in the pipeline:

Maritime Artefacts. As mentioned, we now have a storage container and the promise of a display area within the Cranfield Mill Development. Artefacts are now welcome! Please pass the word around, and look in the attic, shed, garage, cellar, or even ask at you local boatyard!

Paul’s Maltings have been sold for development. The Trust has been invited to become involved in the planning of this project.

HMS Pickle: is a replica of the vessel which brought home news of the Trafalgar victory. There is a possibility that she may visit Ipswich later this year, and the Trust hopes to co-operate with the organisers of this project should it go ahead.

This year is designated “Sea Britain 2005”. Join us in celebrating it!