

*Sailing for Everyone — A Sailing Charity not a Sailing Club*

## Watch Report

*Hi to everyone!*

Over the past 9 months many changes have taken place and with the new staff and management team in place planning for the future now becomes easier. Over this year we will continue to reorganise and expand the activities and courses at the Centre.

During 2011, subject to obtaining funding, we are looking to put into place the organisation and structural procedures so we can start running courses that will include NVQ Levels 1 to 3, apprenticeships and employment related projects. This will then give AHOY the ability to run courses and apprenticeships that are directly linked into the nationally recognised qualifications which will be structured to lead directly into employment.

It will also offer the opportunity for some AHOY volunteers to become 're-skilled' and in turn be able to assist on a more varied range of activities and duties at the Centre. This will also mean that they can become of greater assistance to the Centre and at the same time offer them the chance to look at personal career changes and opportunities.

For our youth volunteers—by participating and completing the Shipmates course - not only will they have a very impressive CV, but they will have the opportunity to continue at AHOY gaining further qualifications/apprenticeships which will set them up for their future within the working environment.

Through 2011 the number of participants and the programme for Shipmates will be continually expanded and by the end of the year we wish to achieve and have in place a minimum of 6 'Shipmate Teams'.

Whilst the general economic outlook still does not look encouraging - we at AHOY, through the assistance of our volunteers and commitment of the staff, will continue to expand the facilities and courses at the Centre to ensure that as many people as possible will have the opportunity to participate.

I hope that everyone has a successful and great 2011!

With all best wishes & thanks,

*Clive*

**Chair of Trustees**



## Press Gang

We are always looking for committed volunteers with the following skills:

- ✓ DIY
- ✓ Admin & Reception
- ✓ RYA & BRA qualified Instructors & Coaches

We also need help with:

- ✓ Planning and running events
- ✓ Grant research & applications
- ✓ Shipmate Suppers
- ✓ Members for The Volunteer Committee

Please email Patsy or Clair if you know of anyone who can help us.



## Lighthouse

**Join the AAA's**

### Sailability

During this year the Sailability section will become more self-sufficient with the aim of our AHOY Volunteers

running all the activities and courses without the assistance of paid staff. This can be achieved through the training programmes available to volunteers and, subject to gaining funding, through having additional equipment and facilities for people with disabilities that can allow them more access and self help.

Sailability Sundays are now on alternate Sundays and if you would like to participate in our Sailability Sundays just contact Patsy.

We have launched the AHOY Ambassador Association (AAA) which is for both individuals (Adult & Youth) and companies to become our Ambassadors. As an AAA member they pledge both their time and also a commitment to raise funds for the charity.

If you know of anyone who may be prepared to be an AHOY Ambassador please contact Clair - Email: [clair@ahoy.org.uk](mailto:clair@ahoy.org.uk)

**This edition of The AHOY Newsletter**

**Is Sponsored By**



**The Dog & Bell Pub**  
Princes Street SE8  
*'An Oasis in Deptford'*

**Cross Channel Row Challenge**—it is very important to continue with the work we started in 2010 and engage more Companies to be directly involved with AHOY through sponsorship, team building days and corporate rowing days. We are looking for 12 teams to take up the Cross Channel Challenge - so if you know of anyone or any companies that may be interested in taking up this fantastic challenge then please contact Pat.

**Future Plans & Ideas**

## Rowing Challenge—are you up for it?

Are you interested in testing your abilities, getting fit, raising money for an important local London charity and, above all, achieving a once-in-a-lifetime feat that you will never forget?

### Take up the challenge

In June 2010, two teams of London business men and women undertook a challenging and gruelling four hour row across the English Channel in Thames Waterman Cutters. In the process, they raised sponsorship money for the AHOY Centre Charity and in doing so they have now set the bench mark for other teams to beat!



This year, the AHOY Centre is offering the unique opportunity for teams of dedicated men and women to do the Cross Channel Row and attempt to beat the previous record time. The Centre will provide boats, equipment, expert safety cover for the cross-channel row plus a fun and varied twelve-week training package designed to fit around your existing work commitments. All you need to do is commit to raising a minimum of funding per boat for the charity.



### Interested?

If you are interested in being part of a crew, or if you think your organisation or somebody you know would be interested then contact



## From the `Foredeck`

**Patsy— our Volunteer Coordinator**

### Hi Patsy—what's your work history?

*"I worked for nine years as a Central Control Operator on behalf of the DVLA - clamping untaxed vehicles on the public highway! This involved travelling all over England and visiting places such as Fife, Belfast, Southampton, Guildford, Suffolk, Oxford, & Newport."*

### What brought you to The AHOY ?

*"I became unemployed in 2005 and while looking for a new job I decided to do a Business & Administration course and part of the course was to do work experience. I came to The AHOY for an interview for Admin duties and did my work experience here which I enjoyed very much because I never had the same day twice!"*

### What do you enjoy about your role?

*"Besides working here with other like-minded staff - I enjoy working with different people and booking courses for our volunteers and seeing the Shipmates and other users have a great time on the water!"*

### Your best day yet..?!

*"My best day was when I went for the interview for the Volunteer Coordinator role and got the job...! Also, taking part in the Great River Race last year which was a challenge for me because I am not a very strong swimmer but I did it and enjoyed every moment of it. Plus I rowed in the Lord Mayor 's Show."*

## Funding

### Secret Millionaires needed..... or not so secret..!

The great news is that we now have planning permission for a 2 storey building in the yard which is essential for the launch of our new "Show Me Why" programme, the introduction of AHOY delivering NVQs, Apprenticeships and the expansion of our rowing programmes.

Please let Clair or Pat know if you have any funding contacts or fundraising ideas... or of course if your 6 numbers have come up !

### Our Special Thanks to .....

- ◆ Marks & Spencer for the 6 laptops donated
- ◆ Thames Water for funding a new Thames Cutter—fantastic!
- ◆ Four Acre Trust for their funding for the Volunteer coordinator
- ◆ The Girdlers Charitable Trust for once again providing support funding for the Centre's running costs
- ◆ BOOST Trust for their funding for towards the Shipmates costs

## Volunteer Profile

*' We are here to help others'*

**Name:** Bill Blanco

**Age:** Over 21!!

**Job/Career:** Teaching Photography

**How long have you been involved with AHOY?** 9 months

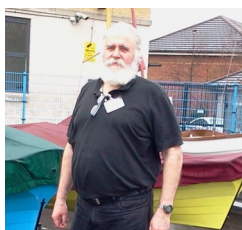
**What do you do at AHOY?** I assist on the maintenance of the boats and other jobs that need doing around the Centre

### What do you enjoy most about AHOY?

Working with my hands especially on the boats and meeting different people that are very nice

### What is your 'Message in a bottle'?

To get in touch with the Thames by doing RYA sailing courses



**Name:** Brodie McBride

**Age:** 12

**Job/Career:** Student & Shipmate

**How long have you been involved with AHOY?** 3 Years

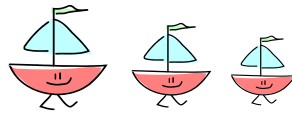
**What do you do at AHOY?** Water Activities and helping out

**What do you enjoy most about AHOY?** I enjoy the freedom I feel when I am on the water

### What is your 'Message in a bottle' ?

Come and feel free





## Bring A Friend to The AHOY Shipmates



### “Bring A Friend Day”

On the 5th march Shipmates could bring a friend along to expand on the present numbers of our Shipmate members. The day was successful with more Youth signing up and it is now planned for a another day to be arranged in June.

We are now looking to build the numbers over the coming months so if you know of anyone else who would like to join speak with Patsy



**The first Wednesday evening Shipmates starts on April 27th.**

Sessions start from 18:00—20:30 p.m. and a Shipmate Supper will be provided!



**Thanks Shipmates!**

## Making Waves in Deptford

### A Day of Sailability

Lewisham College always seemed to bring the sunshine to the Ahoy as 12 young people with learning difficulties and their supporters came sailing. It was their third week of their twelve weekly sessions when they arrived eager for the next adventure. It was a gentle beam reach with the tide down the river and then we anchored just off Greenwich Yacht Club. We received a kindly welcome by the members of Greenwich YC and enjoyed our well earned lunch sitting at the picnic tables on the balcony in sight of the boats bobbing on their anchors in the sunshine – a true picture. Wind and tide now with us we sailed home in time. A real adventure for the young people who are only just beginning to sail and great fun.

We have a great group of volunteers but we are always looking for more help on shore or on the water.

*Liz Chowiniski* - Sailability Officer

The sky is grey and the weather cold it is nice—not the perfect sailing day but



## More Rowing Challenges !!

We are looking for up to 4 teams to enter into the Great River Race—the second biggest contestant event in London after the London Marathon .

The Great River Race takes place on Sunday the 17th of September—This is truly a ‘Great Race’ event and one that if you are up for both an experience and a challenge cannot be missed.

All you need is 6 oarsmen/ women, 1 Cox and the commitment and stamina to complete the row and to have the added satisfaction of knowing you’re raising invaluable sponsorship for the charity.



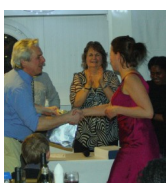
Get on board now and start pulling together for AHOY

*For more information please contact Pat Farrell*

## Christmas Awards Dinner 2010

**The AHOY centre was the place to be on Saturday the 5th of December at the 2010 Awards Dinner!.**

Despite the heavy snow during the week we had a fantastic attendance and a great evening celebrating all of our volunteers’ achievements though out the year. Entertainment was courtesy of Shipmate, Storm’s Jazz Band - magician and caricaturist



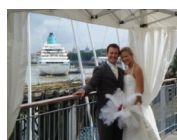
The 2010 Youth Volunteer Award went to *Hassan Kamara* and the 2010 Adult Volunteer of the year was *Becky Witting*

Congratulations to them and all the other Award Winners - all of them were greatly deserved—keep up the excellent work



## Party or Special Occasion ?

**Centre Hire**—our centre has all the potential for a beautiful venue with it’s unbeatable river view. All our long term



volunteers are entitled to a discount so book that special occasion now with Pat—email: [pat@ahoy.org.uk](mailto:pat@ahoy.org.uk)



## RYA Courses are available !

RYA Courses are available for private paying customers so please do spread the word that our charity provides most of the RYA courses with the added bonus of gaining a “coastal ticket”.

## Calendar &amp; Events

See our Website for the whole years activities &amp; events

01-Apr	Social Event - Dog & Bell Quiz Night	TBC	
02-Apr	Shipmate - Sailing / Maintenance	09:30	16:30
02-Apr	RYA Sailing Level 1 - day 1	09:30	17:00
03-Apr	RYA Sailing Level 1 - day 2	09:30	17:00
03-Apr	Sailability	09:30	12:30
03-Apr	Rowing Training	09:30	12:30
03-Apr	Open Sailing	13:30	16:30
03-Apr	Rowing Training	13:30	16:30
04-Apr	YEP - Powerboat Level 2	09:30	15:00
05-Apr	YEP - Powerboat Level 2	09:30	15:00
06-Apr	Powercat Crew Training	17:30	20:30
09-Apr	Shipmate - Sailing / Maintenance	09:30	16:30
09-Apr	RYA Powerboat Level 2 - day 1	09:30	17:00
09-Apr	Steering Committee Meeting	09:30	10:30
10-Apr	RYA Powerboat Level 2 - day 2	09:30	17:00
10-Apr	Tactician Training	09:30	12:30
10-Apr	Beach Support Training	13:30	16:30
10-Apr	Assistant Instructor Training	13:30	16:30
11-Apr	RYA Sailing Stage 1 - day 1	09:30	17:00
12-Apr	RYA Sailing Stage 1 - day 2	09:30	17:00
13-Apr	Shipmate week	09:30	16:30
14-Apr	Volunteer Social event	17:30	20:30
14-Apr	Shipmate week	09:30	16:30
15-Apr	Shipmate week	09:30	16:30
16-Apr	Shipmate - Sailing / Maintenance	09:30	16:30
16-Apr	London Marathon - Pasta Supper	TBC	
17-Apr	Rowing Training	09:30	12:30
17-Apr	Rowing Training	13:30	16:30
18-Apr	RYA Sailing Stage 2 - day 1	09:30	17:00
19-Apr	RYA Sailing Stage 2 - day 2	09:30	17:00
23-Apr	Shipmate - Sailing / Maintenance	09:30	16:30
23-Apr	RYA Start Racing - day 1	09:30	17:00
24-Apr	Christening	13:00	22:00
24-Apr	RYA Start Racing - day 2	09:30	17:00
27-Apr	Shipmate - Sailing / Maintenance	17:30	20:30

Dates  
For Diary**9th April**

Maintenance Day—  
please sign up to help

**10th April**

Beach Support &  
Tactician Training

**13th to 16th April**

Shipmate Week

**14th April**

Volunteer Social event

**23rd & 24th April**

RYA Start Racing

Contact the Centre for  
more details on any of  
the above.

Course/Training	Date	Time	Places Taken	Places Left
RYA - Adult Sailing Level 2	Two days 26th & 27th March	09:30-1700	6	6
RYA - Powerboating Level 2	Two days 9th & 10th April	09:30-1700	3	3
RYA - Youth Sailing Stage 1	Two days 11h & 12th April	09:30-1700	6	6
RYA - Youth Sailing Stage 2	Two days 19th & 20th April	09:30-1700	6	6
RYA—First Aid Course	One day 8th May	09:30-1700	12	12
RYA—Sailing with Spinnakers	Two days 14th & 15th May	09:30-1700	6	6



Training Programme

Contact Details—Tel: 020 8691 7606—Email: [info@ahoy.org.uk](mailto:info@ahoy.org.uk)—Web: [www.ahoy.org.uk](http://www.ahoy.org.uk)