

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

### Watch Report

**Hi to everyone!** - It's been a busy Summer with plenty of exciting news and over 500 people enjoying activities and Taster Days with us and a busy Autumn programme already underway! (see page 3 for an article on one of our Autumn groups)..



Fundraising for our new building and programmes – 'Pulling Together' and 'Show Me Why' continues and we are close to getting the new building on-site. Our rowing activities are already expanding rapidly with 4 teams completing The AHOY CCRC (Cross Channel Row Challenge) and 6 potential teams set to challenge the current Champions in 2012. Our current cross channel champions are *The AHOY Buoys* who also came a very close 2nd in this year's Great River Race (22 miles from Greenwich to Richmond). *The AHOY Buoys* are excellent ambassadors for AHOY's rowing and we are very proud of their commitment and support..

We have secured funding for our new rowing programme 'Pulling Together' from The Mayor of London's Sport Participation Fund and are delighted to have the following testimonial from the mayor, Boris Johnson: *"The work the AHOY Centre charity is delivering on the River Thames is both innovative and inspiring. By working with those most in need of support they are helping those with disabilities and providing excellent diversionary activities for young people. Taking those most at risk off the streets and away from the path of negative and anti-social behaviour they provide extensive training and, most importantly, teach the citizenship & life skills that are fundamental tools for finding future employment"*

We are also pleased to now be an 'Inclusive and Active 2' partner with Interactive East London whose core remit is: "To work strategically across London in partnership with sport and physical activity providers and the health and disability sectors to achieve disability equality in sport. ..."

As autumn arrives and the Christmas cards appear on the shelves... it is time to invite you to our annual Christmas Awards Dinner on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December. This event celebrates all of our achievements throughout 2011 and is the opportunity to thank and award our dedicated volunteers - without whom we would not achieve our aims.

As always a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helps to make the AHOY a success!

*Clair* (Operations Manager)



### Press Gang

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

- ✓ **DIY**
  - ✓ **Admin & Reception**
  - ✓ **RYA & BRA qualified Instructors & Coaches**
  - ✓ **Competent Helms**
- We also need help with:
- ✓ **Planning and running events**
  - ✓ **Grant research & applications**
  - ✓ **Members for The Volunteer Committee**

Please call Patsy if you know of anyone who can help us.

### Update - Procedures

In August we underwent our yearly RYA inspection and received very good feedback. The inspector stated how impressed he was with AHOY and its water operations, how well the AHOY team worked well together and that the Centre has a great atmosphere.

I recently had a conversation with the PLA and they commended us on the good safety reputation we have demonstrated over the past few years. These are great comments and just go to show how important it is for a team to communicate and work together.

To move forward with developing safety and communication we are introducing a 'Safety Board' in Reception so please take the time on a weekly basis to update yourself with changes to procedures and Notices to Mariners. We are currently setting a number of dates where we will be running several compulsory powerboat sessions. These will be for everyone who holds RYA Level 2 powerboat and who drive the charities RIBs. Tim Evans will be in touch shortly.

*Well done guys and keep up the good work. Thanks – Tony* (Water Sports Officer)

### WATCH



### Lighthouse

We passed our annual RYA inspection and with the summer's 3 tragic fatalities on the Thames it highlights the constant need to review and uphold all of our safety procedures.

Welcome to Luke Graham a new sessional instructor who is helping Tony and Tim deliver the Autumn programme. We're also pleased to welcome 2 new potential trustees – Andrew Buckmaster and Victoria Hall.

This edition of The AHOY Newsletter

Is Sponsored By

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



Bookings for our centre hire are increasing with several couples enjoying the centre use for wedding receptions throughout the summer. We are now working closely with 3Step Ltd – a wedding and event planner



Future Plans & Ideas



## Rowing

### Cross Channel Row 1<sup>st</sup> October

Following on from Oorient Express and Channel No 7's successful Cross Channel Row in August, the spotlight now turns to our next two teams of intrepid rowers.

'Blu3' – a team of Tarmacers and 'Smartodds' – a team of Quantitative Analysts, will be rowing their way to glory on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October. They are raising £24,000 between them and this much valued source of funding will be used to deliver activities to disadvantaged and disabled people at AHOY.

We will be holding a Victory Party for all our 2011 Rowers on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and we hope those people who have expressed an interest for 2012 will be able to join us!

If you would like to make a donation to our brave rowers please log onto [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and look for the AHOY Centre Charity where you'll find the teams' pages.



Team 'Smartodds' with AHOY's Rowing Instructor Bailey Thomas

Team 'blu-3' take up the Challenge!



### Do you want to take up the challenge?!

We have a range of distance rows to suit the novice through to the sports fanatic so please contact Pat—email: [pat@ahoy.org.uk](mailto:pat@ahoy.org.uk)

## Funding

Two of our Shipmates were able to attend a 5 day residential course thanks to 2 bursaries funded by

The Royal Thames Yacht Club. Brodie Mc Bride and Brendan O'Shea (both aged 14) thoroughly enjoyed the experience and passed the course - which was the 'RYA Competent Crew/Day Skipper/Coastal Skipper Under 18s'. They were both excellent ambassadors for the AHOY Centre and kept detailed diaries and took photos to report back to the funders. *Excerpt on next page 'Shipmate Funding'*

The **Royal Thames Yacht Club** is the oldest continuously operating yacht club in the United Kingdom. Their members participate in a wide range of sailing events in home waters and worldwide and we are very grateful for their funding and support.

## From the 'Foredeck'

Clive – Chair of Trustees

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

*"I worked for 30 years in the Construction Industry running a building & development company."*

### What brought you to The AHOY ?

*"For me personally I had learned and gained so much from my sailing & boating experiences that my thoughts were why couldn't others have the same opportunity. Back in 1998 the chance arose to create an opportunity for setting up a charity to offer the opportunity for everyone to enjoy and partake in Sailing & Rowing. After 4 years of 'negotiations' and hundreds of meetings finally we were able to secure the land and The AHOY Charity was born. It took a further 3years to raise the funding and a lot of very hard work by volunteers working on site to create the AHOY building. From here the Centre has grown and the rest, as they say, is history!"*

### What do you enjoy about your role?

*"Being part of a team of volunteers and staff and seeing how the youth that come to AHOY develop their skills and how their confidence grows"*

### Your best day yet..?!

*"So many 'best days' to recount as it has been a fabulous journey getting to where we are today. Maybe the most succinct day for me was- after working very long hours for 3 months on getting the AHOY Freedom completed I was exhausted and wondered why I was doing it! – However when the first group of people with special needs went out on the boat to see their enjoyment and excitement on having the opportunity to be on a boat all, my 'problems' faded into insignificance – a very humbling experience."*

## Volunteer Profile

*'We are here to help others'*

**Name:** Dawn Collins

**Age:** Over 21!!

**Job/Career:** Business Administrator for the Probation Service

**How long have you been involved with AHOY?** Over a Year

**What do you do at AHOY?** Being a volunteer at the AHOY I do many varied roles such as Safety Boat Officer, Assistant Safety Boat Officer, Duty Officer plus a bit of Shoremaster and lead in Maintenance.

### What do you enjoy most about AHOY?

I like people from various backgrounds and the passion for the AHOY and boating opportunities that The AHOY gives to volunteers and kids

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

Fun, Enjoyable and the opportunity to develop skills and discover opportunities for life.



**Name:** Colm O'Hagan

**Age:** 13

**Job/Career:** I go to Prendergast School in Ladywell

**How long have you been involved with AHOY?** I have been with The AHOY for 1 year and 6 months

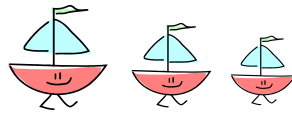
**What do you do at AHOY?** I am a Shipmate and youth volunteer at The AHOY - I am learning how to sail and to volunteer as an Assistant Safety Boat Officer.

**What do you enjoy most about AHOY?** I enjoy everything plus you get a lot from AHOY and I like meeting lots of different people.

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

I'd recommend The AHOY to anyone who is considering it...!





## Autumn—Programme

all the children involved and will be telling them, and their parents, all about the Shipmates Youth Volunteer Programme we run at AHOY.

In addition to this, some of the children will be invited back in Spring 2012 to take part in Sailing Courses where they will be able to gain a Nationally recognised RYA Qualification.

This project was made possible through funding from the RNVR Youth Sail Training Trust and The Alfred & Peggy Harvey Charitable Trust as well as the schools' consortium collaborative funding through Sage.



I (Pat Farrell) joined one of the first groups from St John the Baptist on the water on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and had the most wonderful afternoon. I was amazed at how confident the children had become in the boats after just a few hours sailing on the Thames. We were blessed with a wonderful, sunny day for the time of year and had a great time catching the plastic balls which were thrown onto the water by the safety boat crew. The children did a grand job steering the boats. We all got thoroughly drenched from the huge water fight battle between the boats. Tim and Luke managed to stay fairly dry ducking behind the sails (spoilsports!).



## Shipmate Funding

Our UKSA experience by *Brendan O'Shea and Brodie McBride*

We set off from the AHOY centre at 09:00 for Southampton where we got on the ferry. When we arrived at the Isle of Wight we got the chain ferry to UKSA. We got changed into our sailing kit and went out in small boats called Picos.

We came back and settled into our accommodation for the night, but before we went to bed we went crabbing from the UKSA pontoon and caught five crabs, after an hour we felt it was time to head to our rooms to update our Log books and headed off to sleep. The next morning we were introduced to our instructor, his name was Andy and we went to have a look around a few yachts for about half an hour. Once we were shown our yacht we went down river and headed towards the sea there we got shown how the rigging works.

The next day we went up river to do 'coming alongside' then went to the mouth of the river and set sail for a local bay where we dropped anchor for the night. We got up at 2:30am on Brodie's Birthday to do some night watch hours - this was a long day.

We sailed to Portsmouth to go bowling for Brodie's birthday, we then sailed back to the UKSA. The next morning we sailed to Portsmouth and Beth (who was our new friend) had to leave. In the evening we went to MacDonald's and when we got back on the boat we went to bed. We got up and Brendan and Tom showered and went back to the UKSA to be picked up by Brendan's mum and sister.



**Thank You to The Royal Thames Yacht Club For Funding this project**

## Making Waves in Deptford

### Shipmate Update

Over the past 5 weeks

the Shipmates have progressed due to the vast improvement in regular attendance. Our aim is to have 80% of Shipmates on their Silver Shipmate award at the same time as their RYA Stage 3. In order to achieve these high numbers we are running extra Stage 1 & 2 courses which you can book by contacting Patsy. Over the past few months we have had a number of Shipmates arrive really early and sometimes very late so in order to ensure the duty staff have the time to prepare and that the activity starts on time we wish to reiterate the timings:

- 09:20 – Gates Open – Sign in – Change – Collect waterproofs – Meet in Class room 1
- 09:45 – Briefing will be given by Lead Instructor – gates closed, anyone later than 09:45 will have to attend the afternoon session which starts at 13:30
- 12:30 – Session one finishes
- 13:30 – Session two starts
- 16:30 – End of session 2 – Centre closes

## Sailability

After a busy summer of visiting groups the AHOY Sailability sessions have started once more. In September we enjoyed the first Youth Sailability sessions integrated with

Shipmates on Saturday mornings. Shipmates new to sailing enjoy the stability of the traditionally rigged Long Boat which is also ideal for those with limited mobility.

The Adult Sailability sessions on Wednesday afternoons are now integrated with an open adult session. Sailability volunteers who have completed the gold Sailability awards are now working on their RYA Sailing Level 1 awards. A Powerboat Level 1 course is being held this autumn for our Sailability volunteers.

We will be welcoming various Sailability groups on Wednesdays and Thursdays and greatly look forward to the return of Brent Knoll and Lewisham College.

Adult volunteers took the opportunity, in the recent glorious weather, to complete training on the Martin 16—this has two bucket seats for wheelchair users and is controlled by a joy stick/lever instead of a tiller. Volunteers found it a pleasure to sail, as despite its weight from the large drop keel, it handles like a dinghy—only needing the slightest breeze for her to be able beat even the strong spring tide!

We need to raise £500 towards a bucket seat for the Long Boat. This will allow wheelchair users to join in sailing sessions without needing to load a wheelchair. *Can you help and raise the money or are you able to donate money towards the cost?* - Please contact Liz or Clair

## Calendar &amp; Events

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

Sat	01-Oct	Shipmate - Sailing / Maintenance + Sailability - Youth	09:30	16:30
Mon	03-Oct	RYA Sailing Taster Session	10:00	15:00
Tues	04-Oct	RYA Powerboat Level 2 (day 2)	09:30	17:00
Tues	04-Oct	SCUK CHILD Protection Course + RYA Sailing Taster Day	18:30	21:45
Weds	04-Oct	Sailability - Adult	14:00	16:30
Fri	07-Oct	RYA Sailing Taster Session	10:00	15:00
Sat	08-Oct	Shipmate - Sailing / Maintenance + Sailability Youth	09:30	16:30
Sat	08-Oct	RYA Powerboat Level 2 - day 1	09:30	17:00
Sun	09-Oct	London Regatta + RYA Powerboat Level 2 - day 2	08:00	16:00
Mon	10-Oct	RYA Sailing Taster Session	10:00	15:00
Tues	11-Oct	RYA Sailing Taster Session	10:00	15:00
Weds	12-Oct	RYA Powerboat Level 1 - day 1 + Sailability Adult	09:30	17:00
Thur	13-Oct	RYA Powerboat Level 1 - day 2	09:30	17:00
Fri	14-Oct	RYA Sailing Taster Session	10:00	15:00
Sat	15-Oct	Shipmate - Sailing / Maintenance + Shipmate Rowing	09:30	16:30
Sat	15-Oct	Steering Committee Meeting	09:30	10:30
Sat	15-Oct	Sailability - Youth	10:00	13:00
Sun	16-Oct	VHF Radio Course	09:30	17:00
Mon	17-Oct	RYA Sailing Taster Session	10:00	15:00
Tues	18-Oct	RYA Sailing Taster Session	10:00	15:00
Weds	19-Oct	Sailability - Adult	14:00	16:30
Fri	21-Oct	RYA Sailing Taster Session + Big Funders Day	10:00	15:00
Sat	22-Oct	Shipmate - Sailing / Rowing	09:30	16:30
Sat	22-Oct	RYA Sailing Seamanship Skills - day 1	09:30	17:00
Sat	22-Oct	RYA First Aid Course + Sailability Youth	09:30	17:00
Sun	23-Oct	RYA Sailing Seamanship Skills - day 2	09:30	17:00
Mon	24-Oct	RYA Sailing Stage 1 - day 1	09:30	17:00
Tues	25-Oct	RYA Sailing Stage 1 - day 2	09:30	17:00
Weds	26-Oct	Assistant Duty Officer Training + Sailability Adult	17:30	20:30
Thur	27-Oct	RYA Sailing Stage 2 - day 1	09:30	17:00
Fri	28-Oct	RYA Sailing Stage 2 - day 2	09:30	17:00
Sat	29-Oct	Shipmate - Sailing + Maintenance	09:30	16:30
Sat	29-Oct	RYA Powerboat Level 2 - day 1 + RYA Sailing Level 1 - Day 1	09:30	17:00
Sat	29-Oct	Sailability - Youth	10:00	13:00
Sun	30-Oct	RYA Sailing Level 1 - day 2 + RYA Powerboat Level 2 - day 2	09:30	17:00
Sun	30-Oct	Social Event - Race to Erith Yacht Club	08:30	18:00
Mon	31-Oct	RYA Sailing Taster Session	10:00	15:00

Dates  
For Diary

**30th October**  
**8:00 to 18:00 hrs**  
Social sail to Erith  
Yacht Club

**12th November**  
Lord Mayor's Show  
rowing regatta

**5&6th November**  
**9:30 to 17:00**  
RYA Start Racing  
Courses

**3rd December**  
**18:00 to 23:00**  
AHOY's Xmas Awards  
dinner

**3,4,10,11th**  
**December 9:30 to**  
**17:00**  
AHOY's Winter Frost  
bite sail Race

**18th December**  
**8:30 to 17:00**  
Sail to Erith Yacht Club

Course/Training	Date	Time	Places	Places
RYA Powerboat Level 2	8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> October	09:30 to 17:00	3	0
RYA Seamanship Skills	22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	09:30 to 17:00	3	3
RYA First Aid	22 <sup>nd</sup> October	09:30 to 17:00	4	8
RYA Stage 1 Course	24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> October	09:30 to 17:00	3	3
RYA Stage 2 Course	27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> October	09:30 to 17:00	2	4
RYA Level 1 Sailing	29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> October	09:30 to 17:00	3	3
RYA VHF Course	6 <sup>th</sup> November	09:30 to 17:00	2	10
RYA Powerboat Level 1	19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> November	09:30 to 17:00	0	3
RYA Sailing Level 2	26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> November	09:30 to 17:00	0	3



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)