

NEWSLETTER FROM WATERMOUTH HARBOUR MASTER - MARCH 2024

Hello to Watermouth boat owners and a very big welcome to everyone new to the 2024 season. Last season certainly wasn't the best for weather and lots of us didn't get to use our boats as much as we would have liked. On the plus side, the Mackerel turned up in numbers, which was a great addition to our harbour BBQ's which we enjoyed with many of you, we still managed to have a lot of fun!

Here are a few reminders of last year's goings on -

WAYFARERS ASSOCIATION - On the 13th May we had the pleasure of Jeremy and the gang coming back to the harbour on their annual Watermouth to Lundy trip. Super weather for them all, nice to see so many of them setting off. So I hear, the numbers have grown significantly for this year!

HARBOUR SCHOOL - On the 12th June we welcomed our first school for an educational visit. Shirwell School were so pleased to be invited to Watermouth and brought 52 children, 4-11 year olds with them! When they were all getting off the coach and lining up, we thought what have we let ourselves in for! They were good as gold and hopefully will remember a bit about how tides work. We did a rock pool treasure hunt, learned two knots and dammed the stream. They were thrilled to see the JCB in action to demolish what they had done! The highlight for them was to be welcomed aboard 'Last One' by Captain Gus, who was so kind to let them have a look at a boat, we didn't expect them all to climb in the bed though! An ice cream watching the tide come in was perfect for them. Word has spread around local schools, and in future, we plan to invite two schools a year to experience a 'Harbour School'.

THEATRE NIGHT - On the 28th July we had Watermouth's first Theatre night with the wonderful outdoor theatre company 'Folksy'. The Merry Wives of Windsor was a huge success! A very popular night with much laughter and corks popping, I'm not one for theatre but it was absolutely brilliant and very funny! We are looking forward to the next one.

BRITAIN IN BLOOM - Storm in a Teacup entered the competition again with the display around Teacup and planters, baskets and little boats at the harbour. Sadly, we were so adversely affected by the weather, they nearly pulled out of judging. However, the weather did get better and everything came right in the end with Teacup getting another GOLD.

HARBOUR ENTRANCE - Last summer the former emergency entrance was widened and re-tarmacked. This will be open during the summer months for use in the busy periods and kept locked in the autumn/winter.

LYNMOUTH TO PORLOCK WALK - A few of us from Watermouth joined in the 125th anniversary of the overland launch by the RNLi from Lynmouth to Porlock. If you don't know the story of the 32ft, 10 tonne Lifeboat Louisa being pulled up Countisbury Hill, you should look it up. A mission and a half to rescue the ship the 'Forrest Hall', with 100 or so volunteers and 18 horses. We had an amazing day out and raised over £500 for the charity from Team Watermouth! We even ended up in a music video for the amazing Punk Shanty group 'Skinny Lister' - look them up too, brilliant band.

Plans for this year -

SHOWER & TOILET - Some of you are not aware that as part of your harbour fees, you have use of the toilet and shower near the harbour office. It is having some improvements at the moment and a new key system will be fitted. We will be offering boat owners only, an access key and will email you all with the procedure at the time.

FUTURE EVENTS - We have events coming up which we can't wait to share with you and will keep you posted very soon!

CHANDELRY - I will be re stocking the chandlery with much more this year with boat supplies, chain and rope. Any input you may have on stock to carry will be welcome.

FISHING SUPPLIES - The most asked for thing is fishing bait so you will see a bait freezer in the harbour office very soon. We will also enlarge the stock of general fishing gear, again, happy for requests.

And finally -

SEASON LAUNCH BREAKFAST HAR-BE-CUE! - We would like to invite you all to the Harbour Masters Office on **Saturday 20th APRIL 10am - 12pm** for a coffee and a breakfast bap. We thought it would be nice to have a get together before the season starts to meet your boat neighbours! We will be asking for numbers nearer the time so we can cater properly and will send a reminder.

Looking forward so much to this season and getting together with you all.

ROB