

# Cruising Fleet *Tidings*

Flying the Parkstone flag near & far



## Hard on the wind

Mike Parsons and Pelican, a team which has lead 14 PYC Cruises

Welcome to the first issue of *Tidings* – the new newsletter of the Parkstone YC's Cruising Fleet – our Club's largest with approximately 300 boats.

Your new committee, in place since our AGM in November, want to build on the communications which have been successfully developed over previous years and *Tidings* is a first step in that process. We also plan to develop our website so it captures more of the dynamism of Parkstone's cruising sailors.

Parkstone cruising people can be incredibly intrepid. Every season you will find members heading beyond the horizon on all points of the compass. Many enjoy re-tracing previous passages while others yearn for new cruising grounds.

The Fleet's years are filled with social events and rallies where members cruise in company but for others the freedom to take their boats on lone adventures is irresistible. Some crews will be absent for weeks, others for months and some members are on global cruises whose duration will be measured in years.

Our ambition for *Tidings* is to capture all of this sailing excitement and social enjoyment which abounds and so your participation is essential. Send us reports on rallies or on individual passages.

We also need your photographs capturing the spirit of cruising. If yours is chosen for the front page of one of the 2020 issues of *Tidings*, a £40 West Quay voucher will be yours. *Peter Baillie, Tidings Editor*

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## “How lucky we are to be Parkstone cruising people”

**Malcolm Parker, Cruising Fleet Captain**



When I joined our Club the last thing I expected was to be your Fleet Captain eight years later. Sandra and I moved to Dorset from Hertfordshire, following retirement, to be nearer our sons and after over thirty years racing dinghies as well as basing various cruising yachts in Porthmadog North Wales, to base Enfys closer to France.

It was a big wrench; we were much involved with both the sailing and yacht clubs and for many years I took a very active part in their management, including serving as Commodore and Treasurer.

When I joined Parkstone, I volunteered to help where needed and continue work as an ARO on the platform particularly during Poole week, to drive Pearl and to organise the odd rally. As well as being enjoyable things to do and playing a small part in keeping the Club's wheels turning, there is no better way to get to know members and to get the most out of our fabulous club than by getting stuck in. However, at that time I resolved to leave anything to do with committees to others!

But time marches on and I quickly realised how lucky we had been to join Parkstone. The Club's richly deserved reputation for highly competitive racing fleets together with exceptional development programs, particularly for young sailors producing sailors literally at the top of their game. The fleets have a clear identity and their racing programmes ensure that they meet up on a regular and frequent basis this results in very cohesive groups both on and off the water.

It took a me little longer to fully appreciate the equally high quality of our cruising fleet and when it was suggested that I stand as Fleet Captain I was both delighted and flattered.

The cruising fleet which makes up well over a third of the club's boats is also exceptionally active but has very different dynamics. Many members, cruising in company, regularly take large fleets to clubs and harbours to the East and West of Poole. Each summer sees boats flying the Club ensign in many West Country harbours and further afield including the Isles of Scilly, our French cruises and rallies frequently visit the Channel Islands and Normandy ports and have encouraged many first time Channel crossings. The Parkstone ensign is likely to be found more frequently than those from other British Clubs in North and South Brittany and along the West coast of France to South Biscay.

Several of us have sailed from the Baltic, cruised Ireland and Scotland, and circumnavigated the UK, others have sailed to Spain, Portugal, The Canary Islands and the Azores and some exceptionally, have not only crossed the Atlantic but have circumnavigated the world. Others are perfectly happy day-sailing closer to Poole and why not.

There can be not the slightest doubt that that from an alternative perspective our very active Cruising Fleet lives up to Parkstone's goal and "*Brings Sailing To Life*".

# **Cruising Fleet** *Tidings*

## **Flying the Parkstone Flag Near and Far**

Whatever you sail and wherever you go, the company of like-minded sailors is a real joy. Relaxing over a glass of wine in the cockpit with friends old and new in lovely surroundings is only surpassed when you have all covered many sea miles to get there, particularly when the passage has been a bit of a challenge.

The discomfort is soon forgotten and before too long the conversation turns to the next port of call and inevitably somebody will say "what lucky people we are to be able to do what we do". How right they are.

My principle aim is for your committee to continue to create opportunities, for us to get together to enjoy each other's company on and off the water, for us to learn from shared experiences and to help us build on existing and make new friendships. I am particularly keen that with an aging fleet profile, we go the extra mile to attract and welcome new members into the fellowship of our Fleet.

Our well-established Rallies, suppers, dinners and the very well supported coffee mornings introduced by Peter Brown last year will be the cornerstones.

In addition, your committee will be looking for new ways and dusting off some old ones with the simple goal of adding value to your Club and Cruising Fleet membership. Your ideas will be most welcome!

My very best wishes for a happy Christmas, may your stocking be bulging with things nautical.

Malcolm

### **Your Cruising Fleet Committee :**

**Fleet Captain - Malcolm Parker,**

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**Sailing Programme - Tony Stattersfield,**

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**General Committee Representative - Peter Stacey**

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## Our Winter Talks programme kicks off in January 2020

Our club's Winter Talks programme is organised on behalf of PYC members by the Cruising Fleet. Aim of the programme is to enliven dark winter evenings with interesting talks on an eclectic range of subjects.

The talks are held in the upstairs presentation room in our clubhouse at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of October, November, January, February and March.

On November 12<sup>th</sup> PYC member Nigel Pearce, gave an illustrated talk on St Helena which was incredibly well attended.

First talk of 2020 will be on **Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** when Kevin Patience, well known to Winter Talk regulars, uncovers the tragic tale of how the Flying Lady adorned the radiators of Rolls Royce cars.

On **Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**, PYC member Alex Batten will give an illustrated talk on what he calls his "undefined ramble around the North Atlantic and Mediterranean".

Details of the March winter talk will be communicated in due course.

We are happy if members wish to bring along non-members

## Flotilla of hardy PYC cruising sailors enjoy annual Fireworks Cruise

The annual November 5th Fireworks Cruise to Weymouth, organised by Nigel Wrigley, is the final Cruising Section rally of the year.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 95knots were recorded at The Needles but by the 4<sup>th</sup> a weather window appeared and five boats prepared to sail.

On the 4th *Serenade* met lumpy seas left over from the stormy weekend but the morning of 5<sup>th</sup> November dawned clear with a forecast F4-5, N and *Ruby Max*, *Thais*, *Equinox* and *Appreciation* left for a glorious sail.

Even at St Albans ledge the water was like a mill-pond. All boats were moored up in Weymouth soon after 14:00. Crews de-camped at 18:00 for Weymouth Sailing Club for an early supper and then walked to the beach to enjoy a close view of the bonfire and fireworks display.

On the 6th the tide allowed crews leisurely breakfasts before casting off around 10:00 with forecast sunny periods and wind of F2-3, SE which veered to S. Showers did arrive later but did not affect an enjoyable mixture of sailing and motoring home after a very pleasant winter break.

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## Parkstone Yacht Club – Cruising Programme 2020 as at 1<sup>st</sup> December

Please contact Tony Statterfield [tonystattersfield@icloud.com](mailto:tonystattersfield@icloud.com) if you could fill in one of the blanks and/or if you have suggestions for other rallies

Date	LW Local Time	Rally/Cruise	Destination	Possible Organiser
3-5 Jan		Frostbite Rally	Solent	Nigel Wrigley
10-13 Apr		Easter Rally	Bembridge	Kevin Cullimore
17-19 Apr		Early Cherbourg Dash	Cherbourg	Nigel Wrigley
8-10 May		Early May Bank Holiday Rally	Weymouth	Malcolm Parker
23-25 May		Spring Cruise	St Vaast/Cherbourg	
30-31 May		Christchurch SC	Christchurch	Graham Reed
29-31 May		Beaulieu	Bucklers Hard or RSYC Gins	Louis Browne
6 Jun		Summer Cruise	France or West Country	Mike Parsons
12-14 Jun		Portsmouth	Hasler	
19-21 Jun		Swanage SC	Swanage	
17-19 Jul		West Solent Rally	Keyhaven	Graham Reed
14-16 Aug		Portland Rally	Portland	Alan Butcher
31 Jul		Summer BBQ	Poole Harbour	
26 Aug		Yarmouth BBQ	Yarmouth	Peter Taylor
11-13 Sep		Late Cherbourg Dash	Cherbourg	Phil Simmonds
12-13 Sep		Christchurch SC	Christchurch	Christine Stevens
2-4 Oct		Lymington Town SC	Lymington	Nigel Clark
TBC Nov		Weymouth Fireworks	Weymouth	Nigel Wrigley

Tide times in Local time, BST where appropriate.

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## UPCOMING CRUISING FLEET EVENTS

### **Friday Evening Carveries**

The first Friday of the month is when the Cruising Fleet can come together and enjoy the Friday evening Carvery. Please contact 01202 743610 Ext 1 or [catering@parkstone.co.uk](mailto:catering@parkstone.co.uk) to book your table.

Your new Fleet Committee will be present and look forward to meeting you around the table

### **The 2020 Frostbite Cruise**

Nigel Wrigley will be leading the annual Frostbite Cruise for the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### **Midwinter dinner**

Steve Town will be arranging the dinner for Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020. In the absence of Fleet Captain Malcolm, who will be away on a holiday arranged over a year ago, Nigel Wrigley will welcome our Flag officer guest, Vice Commodore Gary Wakefield and his wife Nicola. Further details with booking form and menu to follow.

### **Cruising log and small boat cruise log competitions**

Gary will be judging our log competitions and announcing the winners on the evening, so if you have a story to tell of a passage near or far then please submit your entry, in the format of your choice, to Secretary Adrian via PYC reception, no later than Saturday 4th January.

### **Fitting out supper**

A note for your diary, will take place on Saturday 21st March

### **Coffee and chat mornings**

We will be getting together on Wednesday 18th of December 1000 to noon and on each third Wednesday as usual in the New Year. All are most welcome.

### **Cruising Fleet Winter Walks**

Graham Reed will lead two winter walks, the first to blow away our Christmas excesses from Worth Matravers on Monday 30th December and from Lymington to Keyhaven on Sunday 23rd of March.

**Cruising Fleet Bike Ride - Pump up your tyres!** Howard Stocker will be leading a gentle bike ride starting from the Club on Wednesday 8th January. Look out for details on a Fleet Update