



NEWSLETTER

20 May 2020



Dr Scrubs on his rounds ...

As a Club for all things nautical, the frustrations of recent restrictions on usual water-based activities, especially at this time of the year, have been immense ! And, no it doesn't help that we are all in the same boat, so to speak however, until such time as we can recommence group activities, we thought you may wish to hear a few stories from some members.

To start the *ball rolling* here is Commodore, Nick Havell's story:

Commodore and his wife, Vivienne joined the local volunteer group to make scrubs for the local hospital. Commodore had to learn fast how to cut them out so that Vivienne could sew them up. He became soooooo proficient at pattern

making 😊😊 that he is now responsible for supplying patterns, in all shapes and sizes, from the roll of pattern paper Vivienne had stored away for 30 years, to ALL the volunteers !!!

Here is the Commodore modelling the latest off the production line



As well as numerous pairs of scrubs made for NHS staff, Commodore and Vivienne have produced a couple of bespoke sets for their neighbour, who, very bravely, volunteered to nurse at the Nightingale Hospital in Manchester.

Vivienne knitted teddy, otherwise known as *Dr Scrubs*, for the amazing lady who delivers the materials and collects the finished scrubs twice a week. *Dr Scrubs* sits on the front of her motorbike whilst doing her deliveries !

The day is complete with a well-earned G & T at sundown !

But Commodore and his wife, Vivienne, are not the only members busy at the coal face of sewing machines and scrubs. Here is the story of Past Commodore Mike Slack and his wife, Karen ...

Karen Slack has been doing her bit to help the NHS too ! Karen has put her needlework skills to great use making scrubs and PPE.



So far, Karen has made seventeen bags of kit and scrubs for local care homes and Hospitals in and around their local neighbourhood.

As both Mike and Karen are classified as *vulnerable*, collections are made direct whilst observing the social distancing rules. Karen is so pleased to be able to do something for the NHS as she had cancer and recovered

Vice Commodore Edward Sankey's on-shore story

Although restrictions have been eased a bit more and we are able to talk to family and friends so long as we use a 2 metre voice, we are still spending a lot of time inside.

One of the many ways the internet has changed our lives has been the accessibility to all sorts of video clips of sailing, places to sail, sailing and boat handling instruction as well some very helpful "How To Do It" (not all of which are good and safe practice)!

Favourites are mainly on the sheer pleasure of sailing and here are some great ones to share in a freewheeling five minutes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irmfc3uDGTs> . You will need to go there to know what it is about!

If it interests you, similarly, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZTHDwoeMQU> (loses marks for the music (which is better heard at a jam session!) and the photo quality is of its time).

For a taste of the up-market see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGcEezMzMRo>

One discovered recently is the trailer for a film about Tracey Edwards's Maiden race around the world, <https://variety.com/2018/film/reviews/maiden-review-1202946445/>

It is a reminder of what Tracey and her crew had to go through to take part in the race and their great achievement. If you search your channels you might find the full documentary film, which is great watching too.

And Past Commodore, Norman Woolley's contribution ...

In March, before the more drastic restrictions were imposed, Norman had managed to fulfil the only engagement in his diary for this year which had not been cancelled, viz. a cruise on the *Hebridean Princess*, which was due to sail from its winter port of Greenock on the Firth of Clyde to its summer cruising port in Oban. However, so many places on the published schedule had already been closed, the itinerary had to change, making it more of a 'Mystery Cruise'. Even so, with the shortened itinerary, the cruise was forced to terminate a day early.

Norman only lives just under two miles away from the Marina where his canal boat *Bruin* is moored so, he gets plenty of regular exercise walking down to the Marina, do a few jobs on board, and then walk home.



But to add a little additional *dimension* to exercise time, marina visiting is timed to co-incide with afternoon 4 o'clock drinkies with those self-isolating on board their boats to include a bit of pleasant socialising whilst adhering to the social distancing regulations.

A group of seven such *self-isolators* managed to celebrate the VE Anniversary with two bottles of champagne and WW2 music from Glen Miller, Vera Lynn and other appropriate musicians. A bit unnerving to be the only member of the group who had lived through WW2.

Pushing the margins, somewhat, of the one-hour daily exercise limit, Norman and a couple of other self-isolating boaters have undertaken walks / hikes of 8 to 9 miles and sometimes 12 miles into their lovely local countryside. All quite energetic stuff for someone of Norman's advanced years

The W/E was the first opportunity to take *Bruin* out for a chug on the local waterway since late April but hoping the inland waterways will be fully re-opened by summer to be able to set off on board *Bruin* and compete with previous year's mileages of 700 last year and 950 the year before, perhaps even repeating a trip across the Mersey. Happy days