

Editorial - Three Newsletters a year seems to be working out about right; one after our socials and before the season really gets under way, one to report on the early rallies and another at the end of the summer, when only the Annual Luncheon and General Meeting remains. It does mean, however, that it is now a full six months since our last and we have a great deal of news for you.

Robert and Elisabeth Barrett joined the Association back in October having found the Victoria 30 that had eluded them for some considerable time. Welcome to our Association.



'Klome of Sark' had been renamed 'Nana' and was discovered languishing in the Netherlands. She is now back in Plymouth and will sail out of Exmouth this summer under her original name.

Welcome also to **Ken Capstick** with his Victoria 26, 'Bonny Flighty', based at Pyefleet, Mersea Island. Ken had often been spotted by our East Coast sailors and decided last November that it was time to join us!

Also joining us last November, and most welcome, were **Frank and Yvonne Fowler** with their Frances 26 cutter, 'Barbican 3'. This Frances 26 has been out of commission for awhile, but Frank intends to have her sailing again this summer and based at Shotley.



Historic note - 'Barbican 3' was originally built for Bernard Hayman, ex-editor of Yachting World and featured on early Victoria brochures and magazine reviews.

We take a brief break from introducing new members because in November, as you all know, the most important event

of the year is the **Annual Luncheon and General Meeting**. And, what a meeting it was! At the London Corinthian Sailing Club, the Commodore's Room was full for our three-course luncheon and then downstairs the Captain's Room was packed to capacity; almost standing room only.

After the formal business had been concluded, **Jon and Lynda Spencer** set out to acquaint us with the voyages of 'Albertine' on their Retirement Cruise. Jon proved to be an outstanding speaker, ably assisted by Lynda at the computer showing many beautiful photographs of the places visited. Thank you both very much for a fantastic show.

You will already know that in December, whilst trying to sort out tickets for the London Boat Show, we learned that **Peter Gregory** had suffered a serious accident that had left him effectively paralysed. He had dictated an e-mail, which we published in a letter at the time.

At the end of February, our Committee Members discovered that Peter had fallen on some stone steps at his home and damaged his neck. Without wanting to say too much, as we are not entirely sure of all the facts, it seems there have been some signs that Peter may be able to make a slow recovery. What we can say for certain is that everyone in the Association wishes him the very best and hopes that he will make a full recovery.

Dick Walters was kind enough to pass on a message from **Alan and Sally Smith** towards the end of December. Their Victoria 34, 'Jack Nesbitt', was about to sail from San Francisco to Mexico, at that time, and due to set out across the Pacific Ocean in April, about now!

Early this year, **Dick Walters** had some more news for us; rather sadly he and **Beryl** had sold 'Symphony', their much-loved Victoria 34. 'Symphony' attended almost all of our Solent based rallies and was last spotted at Yarmouth in 2006.



London Boat Show and Dinner - After an exhausting day at the Show what could be better than dinner with friends at the Tai Pan Restaurant in Wapping.



We were particularly pleased to meet Dick, who sometimes crews with John Cade (collecting a spare rib), but also has his own Westerly Fulmar in Ipswich, and to be joined by Paul Brittain and Lesley Whitfield (on the left) down in London, from their Chester home.

Last summer, **Paul and Lesley** sailed their Victoria 26, 'EverGreen' to the Orkneys. Here is another picture of Lesley, with Gill, on the beach at Eday and 'EverGreen' at anchor (NW of Stronsay)!



Simon and Janet Fraser were also at our Boat Show Dinner. Simon, in fact, organises it! Simon was being asked how often he was able to take his Victoria 34, 'Simoon III' out of Limehouse Basin, which is the mooring mentioned in our Handbook. No, that is well out of date. 'Simoon III' is in Lagos, Portugal and even more interesting, she will be sailing from Las Palmas on Gran Canaria to Barbados next December. Who on earth is going to organize our Chinese next year?

David Mitchell and Lynn Ruddick have moved house and now live at Snape, near Aldeburgh. 'Blue Leopard', their Victoria 34, remains in Ipswich Haven.

Derrick and Alison Thorington have sold 'Amorelle' and resigned from the Association. Derrick was largely responsible for our Frances 26 Technical Manual, much of it based on 'Amorelle'. Derrick and Alison now have a Freedom 35 called 'Green Flash' and besides wishing all our members well, invite any of us, that spot her in harbour, to come

aboard for a drink! I shall keep my eyes peeled.

Welcome to new members **Mark and Sheesh Bloomfield**, who have bought 'Symphony' (mentioned earlier). Their plans include basing her at Hoo Marina on the River Medway.

Rodney and Jacqueline Brotherwood sail 'Saltram Lady', a Victoria 30, out of Weymouth. Welcome to our Association. Rodney has already offered to assist with planning for our forthcoming rally to Weymouth and we look forward to meeting you both there.

Not exactly new members, **Keith and June Hardy** joined with the intention of buying a Victoria yacht. They weakened in their resolve and have purchased a fine Contessa 32, 'Jemma of Bosham' instead. Naturally, they have joined the Contessa Association but would like to remain members of the Victoria Shadow Association, as well!

East Coast Social to Walton-on-the-Naze

- Anne Grubb, East Coast Organiser, was first off the mark this year with a social on the 11th February. We enjoyed an excellent lunch at the **Walton & Frinton Yacht Club** before driving up the road to Thames Coastguard. Kevin gave us a very thorough briefing on the tasks carried out by **Thames Coastguard** and on the bang-up-to-date equipment at their disposal. Kevin Straw proved to be incredibly enthusiastic and is pictured here in the classroom, and err, out on the water...?



Then, it was on into the Operations Room itself to see Anthony directing the 'action'. It was actually fairly quiet and so there was plenty of opportunity to ask questions and look around.



Thank you, Thames Coastguard, Walton & Frinton Yacht Club and Anne for a splendid day out.

Two weeks later, Roy Dawkins, South Coast Organiser, held his **South Coast Social at Sarisbury**. The buffet luncheon, provided by the members themselves, was excellent. There were some minor alarms when certain items of cutlery could not be found, but it transpired that a new system was in operation and these were lodged with the barmaid, and all was well.

Many of us were in some doubt as to the speaker and the subject of the special talk, which had been kept under wraps until the last possible moment. We were very fortunate indeed to obtain the services of **Cdr. Bruce Nicolls O.B.E.**, eminent naval historian and vexillologist, pictured here with Brian Smith (Chairman Yachting).



The talk was absolutely fascinating and certainly altered my understanding of Cherbourg, French 'Iron clads', and the need for those strange forts at Hurst and dotted around the Eastern Solent; never mind the others up on the hill. Bruce Nicolls didn't leave it at that, however. He brought the subject right up to date giving us details of the present owners and uses of the forts; even providing estate agents brochures for St. Helens and No Mans Land (pictured above) forts, should we be tempted to make an offer. A well deserved vote of thanks was given by Jon Spencer.

Shadow Motor Cruiser News - is somewhat limited at this time. In fact, we don't seem to have any snippets of news or items of gossip.

Dave Probert is making a real effort this year with two rallies. The first, to Pangbourne Meadows at the end of May, can be a three-day affair continuing into the Bank Holiday but with members dining at the Peking Garden Restaurant on the 27th May. The second, on the 8th September is to Cookham.

Victoria Shadow Association Website

In March, a subtle change took place without too much ceremony. Until that time our website had been purely passive. You could look at the script and the pictures and follow the links but you couldn't change what was already there

in any way. The website has now taken its first faltering step to becoming interactive! It is now possible to leave a comment, question or answer on the 'Open Forum', and some members have actually tried it!

Mowbray Whiffin tells us that all the little problems on 'Samphire', his Victoria 34, are now fixed, but they are staying in Norfolk, Virginia to be present at 400th Jamestown celebrations in May. Then they will set sail up the eastern seaboard to Maine.

Mowbray has also discovered that Morris Yachts (who produced the very first Frances 26 yachts) are coming over to the Southampton Boat Show this year. Their smallest yacht now is a 36-footer, designed by Sparkman & Stephens and called the M36.

Welcome new members **Philip Kempster and Barbara Litz** who recently joined the Association with their Frances 26 cutter, 'Cajun Joy' based at Port Cogolin (just around the bay from St. Tropez; in case you didn't know.) This picture showing 'Cajun Joy' was found on the Port Cogolin website.



Richard and Gill Burley have just advised us that 'Moonstone', their Victoria 34, has been sold. 'Moonstone' featured in several 'Waterlines' articles, over the years, and this is clearly a sad moment for Richard and Gill. We understand they may obtain a part share in a motor boat for 'harbour use' and hope they will remain Victoria Shadow members for many years. We will be in touch with the new owners, who hope to keep the boat in Weymouth. We conclude with a picture of 'Moonstone' when she was based in Croatia and cruising the Dalmatian Coast.



Wishing you all a happy sailing and cruising season.