

NEWS

The Restoration of the Alpha



- CR

The coble made famous in the book printed by the CKS - **The Building of the Alpha** has been rescued from the beach below Tynemouth Castle by Dave Peel who is pictured above with CKS's Harry Chamberlain. The Alpha has been taken to Corporation Quay at South Shields and Dave has begun work to restore her to her former glory. Dave and Harry both expressed the view that she was in remarkably good condition for a boat of her age.

BRIDLINGTON SAILING COBLE FESTIVAL

Saturday 1st – Sunday 2nd July 2017

Following a week of disappointing weather the 2017 Bridlington Sailing Coble Festival got off to a glorious start on Saturday 1st July. The sailing cobles escorted by the safety boat **Gannet**, skipper Albert Brownhill and the motor coble **Harlequin** set out from a busy harbour to be greeted by the splendid replica of HMS Pickle which had made the journey to Bridlington especially for the event. A cannonade heralded the sail past of cobles which set the tone for the excitement of the morning. The sailing cobles were **The Three Brothers, Madeleine Isabella, Imperialist, Gratitude, Bethany of Bridlington, Free Spirit**.



L/R Gratitude, Free Spirit, Three Brothers – CR

Following a short lunch break sails were raised again and an afternoon of fine sailing completed the Saturday on water events. The evening saw those involved in the Festival enjoying an excellent dinner at the Balmoral Hotel.

A 10 o'clock start on Sunday morning had the red sails on the cobles heading out and travelling southwards across the bay with a good breeze showing the boats off at their best. The afternoon session again had good conditions that allowed those on board and on shore to experience the excitement of historic craft doing what they always did best. A flypast of a Spitfire especially arranged for the day topped off a great weekend.

The organisation of the festival by the Bridlington Sailing Coble Preservation Society, the Bridlington Harbour Commission and the Coble and Keelboat Society was exceptional. Many members of all three were involved with Paul Arro and John Clarkson smoothing any minor problems as they arose over the weekend.

On a personal note, this was my first Festival and hopefully it will not be my last. I was made very welcome by all concerned and I would urge all members of CKS to attend if they can – you will enjoy it! – **CR Note: For any individual or organisation willing to take a coble next year there is financial assistance for transport costs and launching/recovery – Contact Paul Arro for details.**

More Pictures of the cobles at sea – CR



Auction at Eyemouth

The CKS trustees have been monitoring the sale of the internationally important collection of boats that are located in Eyemouth, Cardiff and Lowestoft. The auctioneers, Sweeney-Kincaid, have been appointed by the liquidators to sell the whole collection of the International Sailing Craft Association Limited including boats, archives and maritime related artefacts. The collection started life as the Exeter Maritime Museum in 1968 and includes the only surviving examples of many inshore craft from around the world. Two particular vessels that relate to the North East coast are the lifeboat **Bedford** built in 1886 and originally based at South Shields and the Sunderland Foy coble **Leslie**. The online-auction has a deadline for bids of 26th July which does not give any organisation time to address fundraising to save these boats. It is certain that the collection will be dispersed and many craft may be lost if not sold.

CKS Chairman David Sells has been in touch with a wide range of organisations including maritime museums to draw their attention to this sale, sadly as stated above there has been little time to develop plans to save this precious resource of maritime history.

Interesting Web Sites

Bridlington Sailing Coble Festival 2017

There is an excellent film of the 2017 festival on You Tube just search for the above title to watch it.

The Coble and Keelboat Society now has a Facebook Page the purpose of which is to allow members to post their coble photographs (over which they hold copyright) that can be included in the Society's archive. Any photographs so posted would be used in promotional literature, videos and presentations to meet the aims of the Society. Any member who posts photographs will be told before their use so they can say they are happy with that use. Members can also use the page to post short articles for use in the Coblegam. If any member has a problem relating to this please e-mail Colin Robson at ckscr48@gmail.com

4] Next Events to be supported by CKS -

Beamish – 15th. July David Carrick has sent the Secretary information. He will be attending with Edgar. David Sells, Colin Robson, John Burn and Stuart Morland have so far indicated their intention to go.

Tynemouth Lifeboat Day – 16th. July

Scarborough Seafest – 22nd. July

Newbiggin Lifeboat Day – 30th. July

Runswick Bay – 5th.and 6th. August

5] NEMT – To enable them to complete the work on the Tyne Foy boat “Joan” NEMT are looking to raise £1,500 for a sail and rigging. The Trustees agreed to endorse the contributions of our individual members and support the appeal by donating £25.00 pounds. There will be an official launch of Joan in September. She will be the last Tyne Foy boat sailing.

6] North East Labour History Society. This organisation celebrates its Golden Jubilee and to mark it a special edition of the Journal "North East History" will be published. We have been offered the opportunity to congratulate the NELH Society and to recognise its valuable contribution by taking a quarter page in the Journal and associating ourselves with the good wishes. The Trustees agreed to pay the £25 pounds it would cost.

7] Old Lowlight. At the Fish/Mish event which took place adjacent to the Old Lowlight Heritage Centre and with their assistance, we were pleased to meet with Pearl Saddington who is Centre Director. Provided with the facility of a historic building, Pearl's enthusiasm, expertise and dynamism has in short time established the Centre as an enterprising community hub that recognises the Tyne's remarkable heritage and its inspiration for the future. With the partnership of the Society, Pearl had recognised an opportunity to celebrate the inshore fishing tradition by mounting an exhibition in the Centre. We are to have further discussions.

8] ISCA. David reported that he had learnt that the World of Boats at Eyemouth is closing and its craft auctioned off. He hoped that those craft such as the Sunderland Foy coble "Leslie" might be obtained and returned to the North East. There was also the matter of the Tynemouth lifeboat Bedford. David was hoping that some kind of cooperation between organisations on this coast might help retain the craft and had been in touch with several to alert them.

9] Old Gaffers Association – The Trustees agreed to affiliate to the OGA and it was proposed to have discussions with them about future collaborations.

10] Any other Business –

Historic England. Trustees agreed to the Society being included on their data base.

Shetland Boat Week. This marvellous event is on between 7th. and 13th. August. Worth visiting the website to see what is programmed. [www. Shetland boat week.com](http://www.Shetlandboatweek.com)

Coble B12. This coble was retrieved from the bottom of the river Blyth and is being restored by John Allen. He had asked us at the Blyth Regatta if we knew of her. It was suggested that we ask Dave Durward.

Fish and Seafood Recipes. Secretary had been introduced to two booklets beautifully illustrated with marine paintings by well known artists and published by J.Salmon Ltd of Sevenoaks which contain seafood recipes from around the British coast. He intends to include them in our book offer.

Widows and Bairns of Eyemouth. The 125 Memorial Association is committed to commemorating the disaster of 1881 when a Euroclydon [cyclone] caused the loss of 189 men along the Berwickshire coast. It also left 107 widows and 351 fatherless children. Eyemouth lost 26 boats and 129 men. The Association since it was formed in 2004 has commissioned several sculptures about the disaster and the most recent of these was completed in 2016 and installed at Eyemouth. We have acquired a booklet about the disaster and about the making of the sculpture which depicts the women and children in some distress watching their men folk seeking landfall in the storm.

[A further 12 boats were lost from Staithes as well as 130 ships around the British coast in that same storm].

Blyth Tall Ship. Latest news is that the organisation is to build a Zulu and the funds to do so are committed.

Shipbuilding on the Tyne. We learn that there is a photographic exhibition at the Side Gallery in Newcastle of photographer Bruce Rae's images of shipbuilding on the river which he took during 1983. This was the period when British Shipbuilders had closed half the previously independent shipbuilders they were managing and the government wanted the rest privatised. It is on from 22nd. July until the 8th. October 2017. Great photographs of the folks who built great ships.

Seaham Fisherman's Sculpture. The new sculpture commemorating fishermen is completed and erected next to the marina at Seaham. Crafted by Ray Lonsdale who made the remarkable sculpture "Tommy" and who is now working on the North Shields sculpture the Seaham fisherman is made using weathering steel called Cor - TEN. It is of a seaman, wearing a cork lifebelt, at the wheel and gazing out to the North Sea.

Model Boat Builders - we have been asked to provide a list of model boat builders able to build a model coble .We had been asked by a women visitor to the Fish/Mish wishing to gift to a an elderly relative who had been a coble fisherman .Secretary asked for recommendations to help update the list.

Cullercoats School. There is to be a talk about the Cullercoats school of artists at the Hearth Studios, Horsley, Northumberland at 19.30hrs on 20th. July 2017

10] Date and time - the next meeting of the Trustees will be on the 1st. August 2017 at 18.15 hrs in the Crescent Club.

Coblegrams

This Coblegram is a key communication tool for the CKS. It will only be a success if members provide news and views on a regular basis to the editor. Short articles (250 words max.), updates on location and ownership of cobbles and news items relating to the environment and infrastructure around cobbles ie changes to harbours\launching sites. The survival or otherwise of other inshore craft (ie Foy Boats, lifeboats etc) would also help to set the context for the long term sustainability of endangered craft. Members who presently receive hard copies of the Coblegram through the post and have access to the internet are asked to consider receiving the Coblegram on-line. This will help to reduce CKS costs. Anyone unable to do this will receive their copy by post as usual. Many thanks to those members who have assisted with this.

Notice

The CKS Trustees have agreed that any expenditure which members intend to claim for promoting the Society's aims and objectives must be agreed in advance with the Chairman David Sells. This is in order that the Trustees can control the finances of the society in accordance with the constitution and the Charity Commission.

Diary Dates

30th July 2017 Newbiggin Lifeboat Day

5th and 6th August 2017 Runswick Bay

19th August 2017 Staithes RNLI Event

26 - 28th August 2017 - Newbiggin by the Sea Festival

7th September 2017 19.30 Morpeth Town Hall, 'Collingwood's Midshipmen a talk by Dr Tony Barrow

9th and 10th September Staithes Art Festival. **Highly Recommended**

26th September 2017 19.30 Trinity House , Newcastle upon Tyne, 'The Early days of the Royal Marines' -speaker to be confirmed