



# 'THE HARBOUR CHAT' BSC



(2, 2020)

If there is anything you wish to post in your newsletter, Just drop me an email and I'll include it. [Mark.donnely168@gmail.com](mailto:Mark.donnely168@gmail.com)



Well it's that time of year again. Christmas is almost upon us. At least it feels like it with the mass sprouting of Christmas lights throughout the town. Again the volunteer Christmas lights committee in the town have done a superb job cheering us all up with a spectacular display. Well done to them. We wait with baited breath for the best decorated boat in the Harbour. Last year the fishing boats took the crown. 'Rhiannon' was particularly well dressed last season. With the abundance of battery timer lights this available there is no excuse. And its started there's a couple of yachts lit up. Will there be more by Christmas? Thanks to Marcia for the picture.

## A Note from the Commodore

This year has been an interesting and challenging year for us all. Our boat, The Zephyr, has provided us with a few hours of light relief and delight at the wonder of our lovely coastal waters and wildlife. I hope you too have had a chance to enjoy some sailing.

We are all hoping for a great year in 2021, with events on the water and the opportunity to meet again face to face, even if it might still be with a mask! The committee has lots of ideas to develop the club and get the programme going again. There are a couple of events detailed in this newsletter. It would be great if you could support the club and participate. These events are for all of us as members.

Please let me know if you would like to help, have any ideas or any comments.

Finally I hope you all have a lovely festive time and look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Helen.

## Sailing Club 2021 Calendars.

**Now sold out.** Well done the winners of the photo competition and a big thank you from the club committee to all the contributors to the calendar and those who purchased them. A much needed boost to sailing club funds.

## So what's been happening around the Harbour of late?

After all the heavy rain the sea in the whole bay as far as Blackpots by Whitehills was stained brown by the water loaded with soil washed down the Deveron river. The harbour was no exception with a mat of detritus (mainly pine needles) carpeting the waters between the boats. It may be worth cleaning out the raw water filters before starting your engines.

Another public Zoom meeting took place on the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 chaired by the councillor Cox. A lot was discussed and the minutes will no doubt be available on the council web site in due course.

In summary.

The compensation to berth holders is now in place and reimbursement to those affected as published previously has now been offered.

A fee for the storage of trailers in the compounds will be introduced next financial year. The figure quoted was £75 per month. It was felt that trailers take up almost as much space as boats and there is a significant number stored in the compounds throughout the year. This is in line with many other marinas.

The negotiations with prospective contractors are now complete and it's hoped that work will commence on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021. On the 11<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm the contractors will deliver a presentation on the construction work (via Microsoft teams

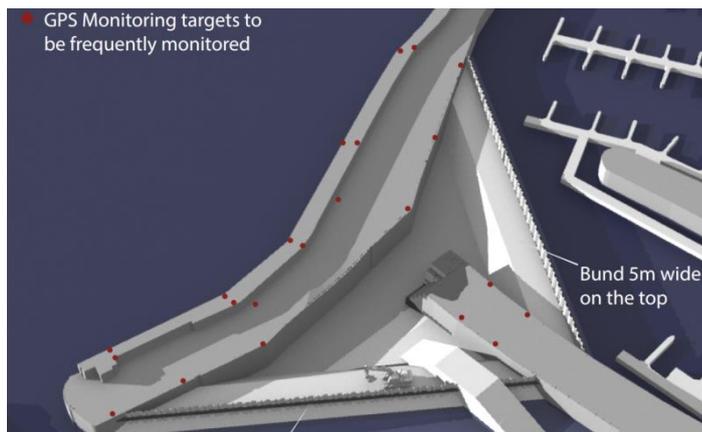


meeting) for interested parties. I think it is by invitation, so if you have not received an email about this you might have to contact the Harbour team at Aberdeenshire Council.

The work to the outer side of the pier will require divers and for reasons of health and safety it will not start during the worst of the winter weather. A membrane will be secured over the damaged area on the outside wall to prevent further deterioration of that area. It is proposed to dam the area around the East and Railway pier inside the harbour to facilitate the required work. This will be done by inserting two temporary walls, or 'Bunds' to hold out the water. The inner harbour where the boats are mainly kept will not be drained, so the boats should remain afloat. I hope they're right because I have doubts the pontoons are sufficiently robust to support all the remaining boats. Those boats moored inside the proposed dammed area will be repositioned in available spaces elsewhere, mainly in the inner harbour.

Please see below extract of a notification from Corrie McCall the Principal Officer - Harbours.

See attached for a sketched model of the proposed bunds location.



The Sketch shows two bunds making a triangle from the Railway Jetty to the East Pier to create a dry area to complete the works to the Railway Jetty and the inner side of the East Pier wall.

To clarify, the bunds will not dry out the harbour basin, so boats will not be lying on the bottom.

Again, just to highlight that at the time of publishing this a contract had not been signed/finalised so this may change.

### **Boats being lifted out.**

Both the club 707s' have now been lifted out and along with the rib are now safely stored under cover in a storage facility out towards Cullen. The area along the wall of the lower compound is now full, the bilge keel Hunter now occupies the last space. Any boats lifted out now will require transport in addition to a crane to move them either off site or to the back compound.

### **Club Boat Maintenance**

A work schedule has been drawn up for the winter period for all the club boats as well as the club house. Any volunteers willing to help out would be greatly appreciated. We are all part of the club community and as the saying goes "many hands make light work".

### **Winter Sailing.**



Work on the harbour will not start imminently which means that those boats still in the water have the opportunity for a bit of winter sailing. We have had some clear crisp days. Once the frost burnt off we had fantastic sailing days. Magwitch, touched 8 knots sailing back from Cullen with the cruising kite up. For a long keel, heavy displacement 26 footer it was a real treat. There are still plenty of seals and dolphins to be seen too.



Here are a few snaps from the last week or so. These give a taster of the local waters at this time of year. Other boats have been out to play. Ivor in his UFO was spotted single handed up near Gardenston. He was a bit quick so missed out on the photo opportunity. Pogo was out too and as always handled superbly single handed by John



### **Future events.**

Online quiz night

In previous years we have had a number of club events for the winter season. Unfortunately this pesky virus has made life difficult and many events have been cancelled or not arranged. After the relative success of the AGM via Zoom we are looking into the possibility of an online quiz night. We are still working on the logistics but are hopefully this will take place soon and we look forward to publicising a date for this.

### New Year's Day walk

Saturday 2nd January 2021. Meet at the Clubhouse at Banff Harbour for 11am to walk along the coast towards Whitehills and back. This event has taken place in previous years and would be ideal for an excuse to get together in an outside and COVID-19 secure environment.

Clearly we cannot all enter the club house, so the plan is to meet outside before setting off. Please bring along family and friends for a walk in the fresh air and to meet other members of our club for a chat. Bring along a drink, a flask and snacks for your return. If the weather is not pleasant we can change the date to the Sunday (3rd January) at the same time.

Please do make the effort to get some exercise outside and meet up with other members and friends for a catch up. The more the merrier.

Pam will confirm the date nearer the time.

### Items for sale.

Jane is having a clear out of unused and in many cases still wrapped items which she offers for sale.



- 'Ankarline' mooring line (boat size 6.5m),
- Rubber snubber,
- Gas Cylinder Trays (2 of)
- Welcome Mat
- Skirt (2.25m)
- Self-adhesive tread
- Master Steps (412 x 203mm)

if anything takes your fancy email Jane  
<mailto:jsbowie71@gmail.com>

Merry Christmas to one and all and hopefully next year will be safe and prosperous and we'll all get plenty of time out on the water.