



## Gravesend Sailing Club Newsletter - September 2016

### **The Crane**

The good news is that we have a new crane on order. This will have a 1 tonne lifting capacity, which will be a significant improvement. We have removed the column for the old crane, leaving the way clear for the new installation, and we are now in the detail of the work with the installers.

### **New members**

Please welcome Lee Ottery to the club if you see him. Lee is living on his boat in the basin and is hoping to buy a larger one.

### **Tera Weekends**

The RYA has a fleet of Tera dinghies. These are small, fun, single-hander dinghies suitable for adults or children. Harriet has got hold of the fleet for a couple of weekends on the water.

High winds meant that we had to cancel the August weekend, so fingers crossed for the September weekend - 10th & 11th September. Saturday will be aimed mainly at youngsters, and Sunday mainly for us oldsters. Do please contact Harriet for more info or to register interest, it helps her a lot to know who's thinking of coming! [training@gravesendsc.org.uk](mailto:training@gravesendsc.org.uk)

### **Power boat course**

We are planning a Power Boat course on 17th & 18th September, and a possible further one on 1st & 2nd October. This is a very useful course, either for those wanting to operate the club safety boats, or cruiser owners (or partners etc) needing to enhance their skills operating under engine. Please contact Harriet with expressions of interest: [training@gravesendsc.org.uk](mailto:training@gravesendsc.org.uk)

### **Grain chimney**

Grain chimney comes down on Wed 7th Sept at about 11am (Southend LW 10.37). Dee Gee thought she might potter down there to watch. Leave Gravesend about 07.30 (Gravesend HW 0508 and 1723). Any other boats fancy cruising down there?  
Contact: John Green

### **Moorings news**

At the beginning of August, a visiting boat lay on one of our unoccupied deep water moorings. The mooring parted and the boat, with the buoy and chain still attached, fetched up alongside a tug downriver. Fortunately no damage was done. When the PLA examined the chain they found that the swivel had worn away.

They then checked the other three unoccupied moorings and found that the swivels on these were similarly worn. The swivels were located 3m below the surface. The PLA were concerned that another boat might go adrift and decided to replace every mooring from the ground chain up. In order to achieve a speedy outcome (the divers could only work around low water) they asked GSC to help move the boats around. This we did and the operation was complete in 2½ days. The moorings now have a swivel where it is visible i.e. above the buoy. Two chains were lost but replaced a week later. One set of mooring ropes is still missing.

# GSC Events for September 2016

September Tides	
01	01:28 (6.3m)
Thu	13:46 (6.2m)
02	02:10 (6.3m)
Fri	14:25 (6.2m)
03	02:48 (6.3m)
Sat	14:59 (6.2m)
04	03:24 (6.2m)
Sun	15:32 (6.2m)
05	03:57 (6.1m)
Mon	16:03 (6.2m)
06	04:28 (6.0m)
Tue	16:34 (6.0m)
07	04:59 (5.8m)
Wed	17:06 (5.9m)
08	05:32 (5.7m)
Thu	17:43 (5.7m)
09	06:10 (5.5m)
Fri	18:28 (5.5m)
10	06:57 (5.3m)
Sat	19:25 (5.3m)
11	07:59 (5.1m)
Sun	20:44 (5.2m)
12	09:25 (5.1m)
Mon	22:14 (5.3m)
13	10:46 (5.4m)
Tue	23:22 (5.7m)
14	11:45 (5.7m)
Wed	
15	00:15 (6.0m)
Thu	12:33 (6.0m)
16	01:02 (6.3m)
Fri	13:17 (6.3m)
17	01:46 (6.5m)
Sat	14:00 (6.4m)
18	02:29 (6.6m)
Sun	14:44 (6.6m)
19	03:13 (6.7m)
Mon	15:27 (6.6m)
20	03:56 (6.6m)
Tue	16:10 (6.6m)
21	04:39 (6.4m)
Wed	16:54 (6.5m)
22	05:22 (6.2m)
Thu	17:40 (6.2m)
23	06:09 (5.9m)
Fri	18:32 (5.9m)
24	07:04 (5.6m)
Sat	19:41 (5.6m)
25	08:20 (5.4m)
Sun	21:08 (5.6m)
26	09:47 (5.4m)
Mon	22:26 (5.7m)
27	10:57 (5.7m)
Tue	23:30 (6.0m)
28	11:55 (5.9m)
Wed	
29	00:22 (6.2m)
Thu	12:43 (6.1m)
30	01:07 (6.3m)
Fri	13:24 (6.1m)

<b>Sat 3rd, 09.30 Gravesham Thames</b>	<b>Sat 3rd, evening - GTT social</b>
<p>An open handicap race for sailing cruisers from Gravesend to the London. This year, finishing at Woolwich to make way for the Great River Race</p> <p style="text-align: center;">sailing@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk</p>	<p>Join the racers, line parties and everyone else associated with the race for a social and prizegiving in the Cruising Association, at Limehouse Dock. There will be a reasonably priced buffet meal, and a few drinks will be taken by the exhausted crews.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">contact Paul, sailing@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk</p>

<p>Come along from 10 am to help maintain the club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Chris Steer: chris.steer@btinternet.com</p>	<b>Wed 7th - Working Wednesday</b>
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<b>Thu 7th, 1900 - Knowledge &amp; Nosh</b>
<p>This month, a session on single handed sailing, followed by a light meal. Please let Harriet know if you're coming so she can ensure sufficient food!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Harriet: training@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk</p>

<b>Tera Weekend!</b>	
<b>Sat 10th 1700 - Kid Friendly Afternoon in Teras</b>	<b>Sun 11th, 1800 - Dink about evening in Teras</b>
<p>We've got hold of the RYA fleet of Tera dinghies! Saturday will be a day focussed on the youngsters, getting out on the water in fun single-handers. Sunday will be a dink-about evening for the grown-ups.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">training@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk</p>	

<b>Sat 17, Sun 18 - Powerboat course</b>
<p>Learn how to handle boats under power, either displacement (like a cruiser, or Aggie) or planing (like Clifford, or a rib).</p> <p>Leads to RYA PB level 1 &amp; 2 qualification.</p> <p>Contact Harriet for details or to book your place.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">contact Harriet, training@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk</p>

<b>Sat 24th, 1900 - Film Night: <i>The Heart of the Sea</i></b>
<p>Based on real life maritime disaster that inspired Hermans Melville's classic novel Moby dick : the loss, in 1820 of the Nantucket whaling ship, Essex.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dave: social@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk</p>

<b>Preview: October</b>	Sat/Sun 1st & 2nd: Powerboat course
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**Grain Power Station Chimney.**

Next Wednesday, 7th September, we will lose one of the most recognisable (certainly furthest visible) navigation marks in the Estuary. Grain Power Station Chimney is due to be demolished at 11am, close to low water Sheerness. See Medway NtM 20.

**Woolwich Barrier Closures**

You might want to note the planned Barrier closures in PLA notice 20. These are once a month, generally a day in the first week of the month (except April). The October closure will be on Sunday 2nd, and Greenwich Yacht club will be taking advantage of the lack of commercial traffic for a dinghy regatta!

**Great River race**

Note that the Great River Race will be taking place on 3rd September, the same day as the Gravesham Thames Trophy race. For this reason, the GTT will only be as far as Woolwich this year. The GRR starts from Millwall Dock at about 12.25, heading up river.

Your attention is drawn to the following Notices to Mariners:

**Thames Portwide Notices to Mariners**

No.20 of 2016 - Woolwich Reach - Environment Agency - Thames Barrier Closure  
 No.19 of 2016 - Vessels Licensed as Ship Towage Tugs By The Port of London Authority

See: <http://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Regulations-and-Guidance/Notices-to-Mariners/Notices-to-Mariners>

**Thames Lower Notices to Mariners**

L11 of 2016 - Gravesend Reach - Tilbury Landing Stage Lower Dolphin  
 L9 of 2016 - Gravesend Reach - Coalhouse Point Pipeline Survey  
 L8 of 2016 - Princes Channel - Re-positioning of Princes Outer Buoy

See: <http://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Regulations-and-Guidance/Notices-to-Mariners/Notices-to-Mariners>

**Medway Notices to Mariners**

NtoM No 22 of 2016 - Demolition and Construction works Gillingham.  
 NtoM No 21 of 2016 - Jetty Works BP Isle of Grain No 1  
 NtoM No 20 of 2016 - Grain Power Station Chimney Demolition

See: <http://peelports.com/ports/sheerness/port-information>

**Sources.**

As well as the Notices to Mariners sites, I am indebted to the following sources:

East Coast Pilot website: <http://www.eastcoastpilot.com/>

Crossing the Thames Estuary site with notices to mariners: <http://www.crossingthethamesestuary.com/page9.html>

YBW East Coast Forum: <http://www.ybw.com/forums/forumdisplay.php?60> in particular, postings by Roger Gaspar (Tillergirl), author of Crossing the Thames Estuary.

Got any good sources of local navigation news? Let me know!

*Tides on the Events page are indicative only and not to be used for navigation. All times are local (BST or GMT as appropriate). High tide times in italics are before sunrise or after sunset.*