

## EAST COAST RIVERS

### Notes and News for the 2010 Season

#### THE RIVER ALDE

##### **Snape**

The MFV that has been alongside the quay at Snape Maltings for many years, has gone. The current residents are the small sailing barge *Cygnets*, which has been joined by a second small barge, *Blackthorn* (currently for sale).

Five boats from the Woodbridge Cruising Club visited Snape earlier this week in the first spell of fine, warm weather that we have had this year. The fleet included Westerlies, plus Paul Webster's Essex smack *Quiz* (originally built by Shuttlewood at Paglesham in 1872, and in more recent years, I believe, re-built by Frank Knights) and Jane Stearn's evergreen Fairey Atalanta *Bluster*.





## **ALDEBURGH**

### **Sad News**

On April 29<sup>th</sup> a huge pall of smoke rising over Slaughden could be seen from Sudbourne, a couple of miles away across the marshes. We soon learned that it was a serious fire at Peter Wilson's Aldeburgh Boatyard near Fort Green.

The fire, which destroyed the workshop, is believed to have started when a stove used for burning shavings and sawdust set light to the roof.

Several fire engines were quickly on the scene, but the nature of the resins, paints and other materials in the shed made controlling the fire very difficult. Four boats could not be got out and were lost. These included one of the small fleet of venerable Bombay Tomtits based at Orford.

Peter Wilson has been running this boatyard, building, re-building and restoring classic wooden boats for over 30 years so this is a devastating blow for his traditional business. Sadly many of the hand tools used by Peter and his work force have also been lost in the burnt out workshop. Plans, drawings and records stored in the office may also have been affected.

At this time of year much of the yard's work preparing boats for launching is done outside, so that can continue as usual. There is plenty of local support including the use of a local barn for indoor work until a new workshop can be built.

Let's hope it won't be too long before the well respected, and in many ways unique, Aldeburgh Boatyard is under way again.

## **RIVER DEBEN**

### **On the posts at Felixstowe Ferry**



### **Felixstowe Ferry Harbourmaster John White coming ashore**



## HARWICH HARBOUR

In mid-May the first of two new Stena superferries, *Stena Hollandica*, started operating from Parkeston on the Harwich-Hook of Holland route. The second ferry, *Stena Britannica*, will be commissioned in October.

Built in Germany, these huge vessels are 240 metres long, carry 1,200 passengers, 300 freight vehicles plus 230 cars, and are the largest of their type in the world. Needless to say, you can see them from a long way off.

## RIVER CROUCH

The construction of an unloading jetty at Ringwood Point on Wallasea Island (for the RSPB Wetland project) was due to start this spring but Crossrail has rescheduled the work to 2011. The first shipload of Crossrail spoil is now due to arrive in July 2011.

## QUEENBOROUGH

Earlier this year Swale Borough Council were offering for sale their moorings at Queenborough. Queenborough YC (who already own and manage the All Tide Landing pontoon) was planning to bid for the moorings. If the yacht club is successful, it is hoped that the existing facilities could be improved and extended.

## **STOP PRESS** DEBEN AND ORE RIVER ENTRANCES

Leaving the Deben (photo below) about two hours before HWN on May 20<sup>th</sup> we found a least depth of 1.7metres below the keel just before passing the West Knoll buoy.



On entering the Ore (from the south) we headed directly for Weir where we found plenty of water at about 1 hour before HW. Just inside (see below) we encountered a shoal patch with the echo sounder showing 1.5metres below

the keel for a short time; and another shoal patch a little further upriver, just inside North Weir Point.



## **RIVER ORE**

### **Orford**

The Orford SC pontoon is being extended further into the river so that access will be possible at all states of tide. In the photo below the Deben Trojan can be seen alongside as the work was being completed. It should be ready in time for the Bank Holiday weekend.

