



Bembridge Breeze

www.bembridgeharbour.co.uk

Bembridge Harbour Authority biannual newsletter
Issue 5 – Spring/Summer 2014



BEMBRIDGE HARBOUR AUTHORITY

Harbour Office, The Duver, St Helens, Isle of Wight PO33 1YB

Tel: 01983 872828 E-mail: office@bembridgeharbour.co.uk www.bembridgeharbour.co.uk

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From Malcolm Thorpe

Welcome to our Spring / Summer 2014 edition of the Bembridge Breeze.

This is our third summer season and steadily our Harbour improvements have added value to our berthing offering. We continually strive to improve our facilities for both our local residents and also our visitors.

As many of you will be aware, I have been critical of the on-shore facilities we inherited on purchase - there is only so far you can go in refurbishing and bettering our showers and toilets. Sadly we have reached that point.

Hence I am pleased to announce that we have submitted a planning application to build new offices that will include shower and toilet facilities at our Visitors' pontoon at The Duver, and also a new shower and toilet block for our Bembridge Marina.

As part of this exciting initiative, and to enable us to fund the new facilities and future proof costs going forwards, we have also included a small number of houses.

All the houses will have spectacular views – most will overlook the Harbour, some will also have views across the Downs and some

will also have views across to the mainland. To be able to construct waterside homes is very unusual and unique – we are taking great care in their design, location and the facilities they offer.

Also included is a small cluster of business units – I am very keen to encourage businesses to Bembridge and believe that we can provide a focal point that will hopefully be allied with marine skills.

We have plans for a "Family Fun Weekend" on 25th - 27th July following last year's successful event. We are delighted that in addition to several Island charities benefitting from individual events, we will also be supporting Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance which provides a vital service to the Island's community. Return acts over the weekend include Bembridge Sailing Club's Bembridge Village Regatta, Brading Haven Yacht Club's Great Bembridge Paper Boat Race, paddleboard/kayak events, beach activities and competitions and Dance on the Duver, which will once again finish with a fireworks display – we hope you will be able to join us!

Best wishes for a great summer

Malcolm

Bembridge Harbour Family Fun Weekend

26th - 27th July

in support of
Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Air Ambulance



Back by popular demand, this year's event will once again feature:

Bembridge Village Regatta
Great Bembridge Paper Boat Race (raising money for the RNLI)
Paddleboard & kayaking races & fun events
Beach activities & a sandcastle competition
Dressed Overall competition
Dance on the Duver (raising money for the RNLI & Mountbatten Hospice)
Fireworks display

Make sure the date is in your diary!

Booking is advisable for visiting boats
Please e-mail office@bembridgeharbour.co.uk



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... AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR



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WIGHT LOCATIONS

To speak to our Team call us
on 01983 811418 or email us
on enquiries@wightlocations.co.uk
local knowledge from an Island company

www.wightlocations.co.uk



Bembridge Boat Storage News

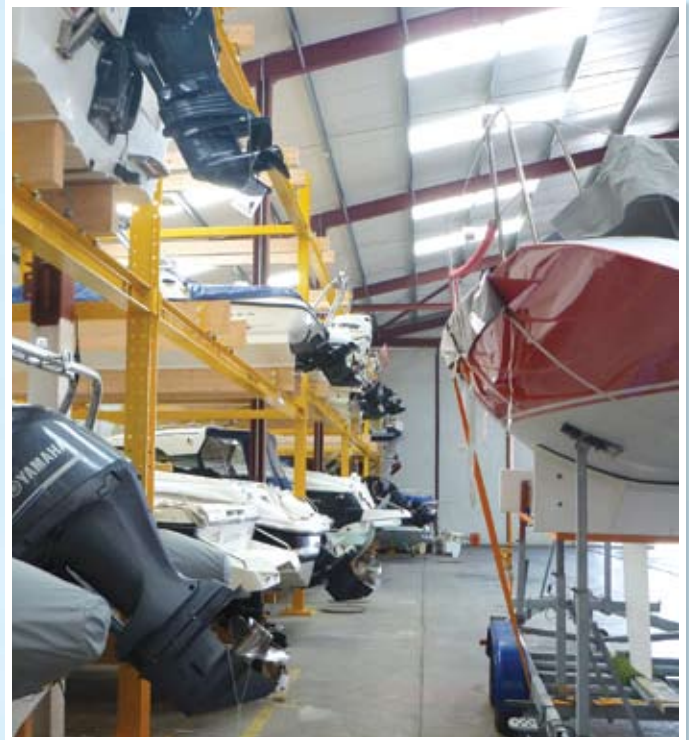
*Don't put your boat in the water!
.....until you want to use it.*

The Bembridge Boat Storage Spring Offer is for a month's trial in their undercover Drystack for only £100.00! This "no obligation" trial period runs until the end of April so if you're quick there may still be time to take it up - suited to RIBs and power boats of up to 30' and 5 tonnes, the offer includes a maximum of 4 lifts and launches, each with a complimentary fresh water wash down.

The idea behind the scheme is to give potential customers an understanding of the benefits of keeping their boat ashore in a modern Drystack, with a bespoke service that offers launch on demand, a fresh water wash down, and the peace of mind that goes with knowing your boat has been returned for storage in a clean dry and secure environment ashore.

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE:

- No Trailers to worry about
- No UV degradation
- No electrolysis problems
- No fouling (and no need to antifoul)
- Peace of mind
- Ample parking
- Fully insured



If you have missed the Spring Offer; rest assured that BBS continue to offer great deals on lift and scrub off, with other promotional offers coming up over the summer and for boats needing a little extra TLC, they operate a separate self-service facility for trade and private use to carry out work undercover. This facility is for short and long term hire, with electricity, lighting and water available.

If you are interested in keeping your cherished boat in pristine condition, with a launch on demand service, feel free to visit BBS and have a chat.



The Duver, St Helens,
Isle of Wight, PO33 1YB
Tel: 01983 872828

e-mail: office@bembridgeboatstorage.co.uk
website: www.bembridgeboatstorage.co.uk

Call Graham Benton for more details at Bembridge Boat Storage Limited on 01983 872828, or email office@bembridgeboatstorage.co.uk



Wildlife Adventures around Bembridge Harbour



Summer is a great time to get out and about and explore all the wonderful wildlife to be found around Bembridge Harbour. Here are a few suggestions of places to visit within easy walking distance.



St Helen's Duver

St Helen's Duver is a low-lying sandy spit of short turf and gently undulating ground managed by the National Trust. In 1882, the Royal Isle of Wight Golf Club was established on this spot, one of the very first golf courses in England. The club closed in 1961/2 and little evidence of this remains today apart from the clumps of gorse scrub, which would have presented natural obstacles to playing golf, and the club house, which is now a National Trust holiday cottage.

However, the Duver is renowned today for its rich flora during the summer months. It is the only example of fixed sand dune habitat on the Island and, for its size, has the richest flora of any site on the Island. Conditions for plants are extreme. The freely drained sandy soil is poor in nutrients and dries out quickly meaning that there is a shortage of water and nutrients for plants during the growing season. Additionally, in recent years flooding from the sea has become a regular event during the winter months. Plants have adapted to these extreme growing conditions. Many of them germinate in the autumn, grow overwinter during mild spells and flower in spring and early summer before becoming desiccated by the heat and drought. These are all small plants and you need to get onto your hands and knees to admire them but, if you are prepared to do so, you will find a host of different clovers, chickweeds and sand dune grasses and bushy Cladonia lichens, many of them being uncommon. Sea Bindweed has more showy flowers during the summer months. It has large trumpet flowers, candy striped in pink and white and held at ground level.

Best known of the special plants of the Duver is Autumn Squill, a rare relative of the bluebell. This plant survives the adverse condition by having a bulb, buried deep in the sand. During August and September it sends up heads of purplish-lilac flowers. In some years you can find them in abundance on the Duver. Later on, they produce a rosette of narrow leaves which die back in the spring. The stronghold of this plant is on rocky coastal headlands in Devon and Cornwall and this is one of very few sites away from there.

Apart from plants, a range of specialised insects can be found on the Duver. These include digger wasps that dig tunnels into low sandy banks to lay their eggs and spectacular Wasp Spiders which appear in the autumn in some years. The females are large and have black and yellow stripes, but are quite harmless. These spiders have colonised from the Continent and are gradually spreading northwards in response to our changing climate.

Rock pool adventures

On a falling tide, you can follow the beach around eastwards to Forelands or northwards into Priory Bay. At low tide, rocky shores are exposed at St Helen's Ledges and Bembridge Ledges. These are platforms of hard Bembridge limestone ridges with softer pockets amongst them giving rise to abundant rock pools and lagoons at low tide. Together, they provide the best examples of rocky shores on the south coast, east of Poole Harbour. They are great places to look for sea life. There are a host of different seaweeds in reds, browns and greens, many with intricate, delicate patterns. You can find a range of crabs, small fishes, worms and shellfish trapped in the pools. Just make sure that you keep a wary eye open for the incoming tide!

Take the Water Taxi over to Bembridge Point

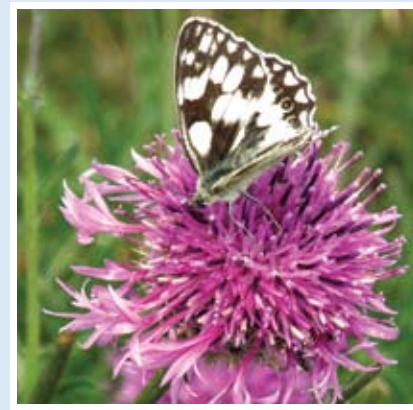
This is the sandy headland which protects the harbour from on-shore winds. The Point is covered with spiky bushes of Sea Buckthorn which screen the car park and Bennett's aggregate yard. Sea Buckthorn bears clusters of golden orange berries in late summer, rich in vitamin C and a popular source of food for thrushes and other birds. We know that Sea Buckthorn was first planted on the dunes at the entrance to Bembridge Harbour in 1858 by the Victorian naturalist Alexander Goodman More, who lived in Vectis Lodge in Kings Road.



Flowering Autumn Squill



Bee Wolf Digger Wasp



Marbled White Butterfly



A small Shore Sea Urchin



A Wasp Spider in it's web



Bladder Wrack seaweed

The sand dunes hold plants which need free draining coastal locations to thrive. Look for the big tufts of Marram Grass which stabilise the sand and help to bind it together. There are usually lots of Fragrant-Evening Primrose plants growing amongst them. They are upright plants with yellow flowers which open fully in the evening to attract moths and other pollinators. When they go over, the petals turn a fiery orange unlike other much commoner types of evening-primrose. This plant grows in the wild in Chile. It is another of the plants introduced by A G More. He first sowed it on St Helen's Duver but, by 1894 it had found its way naturally across onto Bembridge Point.

Look for the strangely named Duke of Argyll's Tea Tree, a low bush with tubular purple flowers, growing behind the Tollgate Café. It was first introduced into this country in the 1730s as a hedging plant for coastal localities. The orange-red fruits are known today as goji berries and are eaten because of the high levels of anti-oxidants and vitamin C which they contain.

Also to be found here are bushes of Tree Lupins with lemon yellow spikes of flowers from early June onwards. Yet again, these were introduced, but only within the last sixty years. They thrive on sandy soils because their roots have swellings or nodules containing special bacteria which can fix the nitrogen in the air into nitrates which the plant can use for growth and which would otherwise be scarce in well drained sandy soils.

In some years there are plenty of bushes of Tree Lupins and in other years there are very few. This is because the soft stems are attacked by a particularly large blue-green aphid which is specific to lupins and can be present in sufficient numbers to kill the plant.

A flowery meadow

If you're heading into Bembridge village, take some time to explore the cemetery behind St Luke's chapel along Lane End. The cemetery was constructed in the 1880s on one of the small flower-rich meadows which were once frequent around Bembridge. Although the cemetery no longer looks quite like a meadow, the wild flowers survive. The habitat is described as unimproved neutral grassland and you can find such plants as Corky-fruited Water Dropwort, Squirrel-tail Fescue grass, Oxeye Daisy, Meadow Vetchling and Salad Burnet. In some years, you can also find the purple flowering spikes of Yarrow Broomrape, which is quite a rarity. Look out also for a range of butterflies, bees and other insects attracted to the flowers as a source of nectar.

Colin Pope,
Senior Ecology Officer, Isle of Wight Council

Open March
to September





The Beach Hut

Forelands Beach, Bembridge



Mediterranean food by the sea

- Seafood our specialty
- Beachside setting
- Reservations recommended
- BYO
- Seasonal flavours
- Mediterranean sharing platters

- Local crab and lobster
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The Beach Hut, Forelands Field Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, PO35 5TR
Call: 07832 127737 www.thebeachhutbembridge.co.uk

BEMBRIDGE SAILING CLUB

The Commodore and Flag Officers of Bembridge Sailing Club invite you to visit their beautifully appointed Clubhouse, which boasts excellent sailing and catering facilities. All visiting sailing clubs and associations are assured of a warm welcome from General Manager Daniel Jehan and his friendly team.

We are proud to support three keelboat classes and a large dinghy fleet, as well as a variety of members' powerboat interests. Our structured training programmes particularly focus on developing our young sailors' sailing and racing capabilities.

We provide excellent catering in unique surroundings and offer visiting rallies the opportunity to arrive on an evening tide, race the following day in some of the best waters around the south coast; dine at the Club that evening and race home the following day. Equally, for motor cruisers we can offer a range of challenging competitions.

If you are organising a cruise or race to the eastern end of the Isle of Wight, you will be able to moor overnight in the shelter of the Harbour and within easy reach of the Clubhouse. If you only have one tide to play with, why not come for lunch? Our Dining Room seats 100 in comfort and enjoys panoramic views over the Harbour. From here you are perfectly placed to soak up the maritime atmosphere whilst enjoying one of our Chef's first-class menus, which always make use of the best local produce available.

The Club enjoys a busy social programme of activities and we are fully licenced to hold civil ceremonies and wedding receptions throughout the year. For further information or to make a booking, please telephone or email Jo Pascall with details of your requirements (01983 872237 / jo@bembridgesailingclub.org).



BEMBRIDGE SAILING CLUB

Visiting yachtsmen from RYA affiliated clubs always welcome

Lunch available every weekend
(Rallies by prior arrangement)

01983 872237

email: sec@bembridgesailingclub.org
www.bembridgesailingclub.org



Best Dressed Crab Ltd

This family run business has been established in Bembridge for 18 years. The latest incarnation of the Best Dressed Crab opened its doors in 2013 - moored on the Fisherman's pontoon on Embankment Road, the distinctive lilac coloured purpose built processing plant prepares and sells locally caught crab, lobster and prawns. The daily catch is unloaded off the fishing boat straight into the BDC's processing room and from there directly to the counter for sale or onward delivery to local restaurants - you can't get fresher than that!

By popular demand owner Graham Henley has, over the winter, extended the premises to create an indoor restaurant area, complete with wood burning stove, for 20 or so covers, with more seating on outside decking - all with wonderful views over Bembridge Harbour. The paint is still drying but Graham is planning to be open by Easter for customers to be able to enjoy his fabulous fresh crab, lobsters and prawns in this relaxed and quite unique, idyllic setting - all washed down with a chilled glass of white wine



**OPEN FROM 10AM
7 DAYS**

**INCLUDING
BANK HOLIDAYS.**

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White Crab, Lobsters
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NEW THIS YEAR

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The Best Dressed Crab Ltd., "Fisherman's Wharf",
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Tel: 01983 874758

The building is floating.
Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

BOOKING ADVISABLE

GANDERS RESTAURANT

Established in 1998, Ganders Restaurant is a family run business in an idyllic setting overlooking St Helens Green - about a 10 minute walk from Bembridge Harbour and St Helen's Duver.

Iain and Kim and their small team of friendly, helpful staff offer freshly prepared "classic dishes with a modern twist" and hugely popular home made puddings. The seasonal menu uses local produce wherever possible, with meat from Island farms and locally caught fish. Open for weekday lunches as well as evening meals with a traditional Sunday roast always a firm favourite. Special menus can be arranged to suit a family event or celebration.

Comments from customers include:

"We have dined at Ganders on many occasions and have always had delicious, beautifully-prepared meals in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere." "Everything is freshly cooked and of the highest quality." "The menu is so mouth watering that my husband and I can't decide what we want as we want to try everything"

Opening Hours:

Wednesday to Sunday - Lunch 12pm - 2pm

Tuesday to Sunday - Dinner 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Ganders Restaurant

Upper Green Road, St Helens, Isle of Wight PO33 1UQW
Telephone: 01983 872014 www.ganders.co.uk



BRADING HAVEN YACHT CLUB

Brading Haven Yacht Club is a friendly informal club which welcomes visiting yachtsmen and their families. We are to be found at the inner end of the Harbour adjacent to Bembridge Marina. A short water taxi or tender crossing from the Visitors' Pontoon, or an easy walk along the back of the Duver across the Old Mill Wall, is all that is required to reach us. Our bar is open at both lunchtime and evening and our changing facilities with showers are free of charge to visitors who wish to use them.

Catering is provided by Tara and Greg of Gail Force Catering with meals taken in our restaurant, bar, or on fine days on the terrace. Booking is not essential but may be advantageous at busy times. To book telephone 01983 872289 or 873911.

At weekends and summer evenings the club's dinghy fleets make a colourful show as they compete in the comprehensive racing programme that takes place throughout the year. Look out in particular for the Scows, each of which, by tradition, sets a colourful patterned sail

different to every other. We also take a particular pride in our growing fleet of Swan heavy displacement dinghies, in the past of wooden construction but new boats now manufactured in GRP by a club member and his Swan Boat Company.

In August we hold our annual Sail Training Week when eighty or more cadet and adult members spend a week on the water learning to sail or improving their existing skills. These courses and others throughout the year result in the award of RYA sailing qualifications; we are a registered RYA Training Centre.

This year we are holding a programme of Open Days, on 5th April, 31st May, and 26th and 27th July. Visitors are especially welcome on these days during which committee members and club staff will be on hand to answer questions. Details of our programme, sailing results and much more including a weekly newsletter can be found on our website at www.bhyc.org.uk - or if you would like to talk to us about the club please call in or telephone us on 01983 873911



BRADING HAVEN YACHT CLUB

Welcomes new members,
visiting yachtsmen and club rallies.

At the west end of the Harbour with easy access from the visitors' pontoon by tender, water taxi or on foot along the mill wall.

Bar snacks, lunches and evening meals.

Sail training instruction for all ages.

Please telephone for information and bookings.

Embankment Road, St Helens, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 1XQ
www.bhyc.org.uk e-mail: office@bhyc.org.uk Tel: 01983 872289




Baywatch on the Beach Restaurant

The Baywatch seafood restaurant, situated on the water's edge to starboard as you pass marker buoy number 6A in the approach channel to Bembridge Harbour, is unique in offering one of the finest views of the Eastern Solent.

From majestic cruise ships such as the *Queen Mary 2* and *Oriana* passing by en route to exotic locations, to the myriad of small craft plying back and forth, and local fishing boats bringing back the day's catch, to be served at the Baywatch the same evening, the view is constantly changing and there is always something interesting to watch.

This family run business specialises in fresh seafood - local crab, lobster, sea bass and their famous signature dish - Moules Mariniers. There's also a daily specials board together with a selection of steak, pasta, meat and vegetarian dishes. From the Visitors' pontoon at The Duver go across the sand dunes to the waterfront and along past the beach huts - about a 5 minute walk.

Baywatch opening times vary according to season and weather so please check daily times.



Baywatch on the Beach Restaurant

Great food in a stunning location

Perfect for a relaxing
breakfast, lunch & evening meal... by the waters edge
and only a 5 minute stroll along the shore from the marina

Tel: 01983 873259
The Duver, St. Helens, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 1YB
March - October

CRAB AND LOBSTER INN

One of the Island's hidden treasures, the Crab and Lobster Inn is popular with tourists and locals alike and has a renowned reputation for food, winning the prestigious Good Pub Guide Dining pub for the Island twice in the last four years.

Perched on the cliff tops, its patio has stunning sea views over Bembridge Ledge to the Nab Tower and beyond - great for whiling away the hours on a sunny afternoon with direct access to the beach. Fresh seafood, including locally caught lobster brought directly to the kitchen door is its speciality, however, younger and more traditional readers should not be put off as there is an extensive children's and pub favourites menu as well as daily specials. There is also a lunch time menu for when you just want a quick bite.

If you are over for slightly longer, why not stay in one of their five AA 4 Star B&B rooms? Offering free WiFi, and accepting well behaved dogs in the main bar area, booking is advisable as they can be very busy in the Summer.

CRAB AND LOBSTER INN

32 Forelands Field Road, Bembridge, PO35 5TR
01983 872244



Award Winning • Family Friendly • Stunning Sea Views • Beach Access
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