

REVELATIONS

The newsletter of the
Morning Star Trust



Editorial

Welcome to the latest issue of Revelations. This issue comprises news from the past few months and recollections from last summer's Tall Ships Races, the Annual Conference and a work party.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this issue.

Happy reading...

News

The middle of March saw the end of the winter refit. Yet again, the team have put in a tremendous amount of work, ably assisted by several volunteers.

Amongst the work on Morning Star, a new engine has been installed, new electronic equipment fitted, the generator repaired along with several other improvements. The work on Dayspring has involved bringing her up to the Department for Transport Coding Requirements.

The new season started on 19 March with a new weekend, one for mates. This was intended as an opportunity for mates to meet together and discuss issues. Despite spending the Saturday gale bound in Stangate Creek, it was a very successful and enjoyable weekend. Then followed the Skippers' Weekend and Team training.

Currently the Easter individual

Spring 2004

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activities are underway. Dayspring is also in use for a Day Skipper course.

The end of March saw the retirement of Tim Millward, and I am sure that you would like to join me in thanking him for his amazing work over the years and praying that he and Sara will be blessed as a new stage in his life unfolds.

Have you booked your holidays yet? *If not then why not come sailing...?*

Listed below are some of the opportunities that still exist for sailing on Morning Star this season. For more information, prices and to make a booking, please contact the Office, or visit the website at www.morningstar.org.uk.

South Coast Visit

Both these trips are ideal for those wanting to gain experience of longer passages

South Coast Delivery (Chatham to Plymouth)	27 April-4 May
Homeward Bound (Plymouth to Chatham)	24-29 May

Main Summer Programme

Opportunities to combine significant passages across the North Sea with cruising either in the Dutch waterways or the Frisian Islands

Dutch Cruise 1 (from Chatham)	26 June-3 July
Dutch Cruise 2 (from Chatham)	3-10 July
Frisian Hop (Cuxhaven, Germany to Chatham)	16-30 August

At the time of writing there still may also be some opportunities to join the Tall Ships crews—contact the Office for details.

Late Season Programme

The final opportunities to sail before the season draws to a close

October Weekend (from Chatham)	22-24 October
Late Season Cruise (from Chatham)	25-30 October

Don't forget that Dayspring is also available for use, again contact the Office for more details.

Morning Star Trust, Crews Quarters Offices, The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, ME4 4TZ

Tel/Fax: 01634 403890

Email: sailing@morningstar.org.uk Web: www.morningstar.org.uk

Dayspring Launch

Nick writes

On Thursday 25th March the Trust organised an official launch day for our new training yacht *Dayspring*. The purpose of this was threefold:

1. To enable us to thank our generous sponsors and show them what we had spent the funds on, in the hope of developing an ongoing relationship
2. To promote the new facility to a range of local youth organisations.
3. Press publicity opportunity.

The guests were invited to the Chargeman's Offices for 12:00, a venue located between the warship and submarine exhibits in the dockyard.

Here they were met by staff and members of the committee and offered a glass of wine or soft drink. Time was given for greetings and introductions before Nick addressed the guests to thank and explain the vision for the Trust and the role *Dayspring* would play. At the end of the address Nick unveiled a plaque thanking and listing the names of all the organisations who had supported the project. This will be displayed in *Dayspring's* saloon.

The fourteen guests we then divided into three groups for a guided tour of both *Dayspring* and *Morning Star* led by Mike Ling, Sandra and Clive Miller. It was clear from the conversations and response that people were impressed with the work of the Trust and the development we were undertaking. The sponsors in particular were very pleased to see the fruits of their donations and some even encouraged us not to be shy to re-apply as and when funds were needed.

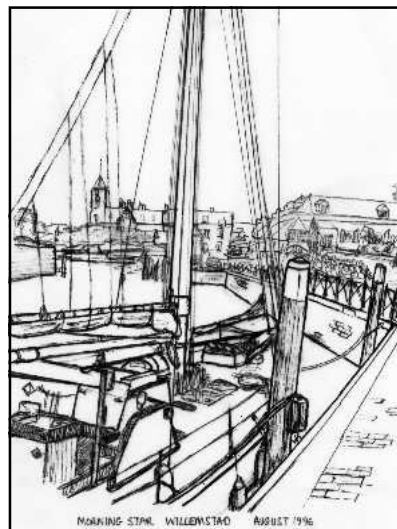
At 13:30 the guests were lead back to the Chargeman's Offices for a buffet lunch and photographs. Last but by no means least, Arnoupe Jhass, one of the crew who sailed aboard *Morning Star* in the 2003 Small Ships race, gave up his school lunch hour in order to be interviewed about his experiences and impressions of offshore sailing. The guests finally departed just after 14:00 and we all breathed a sigh of relief at the success of the day.

Work Party Fun

By Lizzie

It was raining and miserable and as I lay in bed and the last thing I wanted was to travel for three hours through London for a day spent outside getting wet! How wrong was I! Admittedly staying in bed for another three hours would have been good; however finally arriving in Chatham was great! It really was exciting to see everyone again and nice to meet those I hadn't met before for the first time. The prospect of a day spent on a *Morning Star* work party scrubbing etc, suddenly seemed like quite a good idea and loads of fun! Which indeed it soon turned out to be.

The evening arrived quite quickly (or so it seemed) and we all (Catherine, Andy, Helen, Shona, Steve and me) headed to Steve's new house for, as Catherine put it a bit of a 'House warming' – not sure Steve knew what he was letting himself in for. Tim, Sara and Dave all soon arrived with Paul and we all settled down for an excellent evening, after a totally yummy meal prepared by Sara and Catherine we all managed to make it to the lounge. After playing silly games for a while, the conversa-



tion drifted to Tall Ships and after Tim, Sara and Dave had left the rest of the evening was spent admiring photographs, playing with play-dough and recalling funny stories! Bedtime seemed to come far too soon, but I was tired.

Sunday morning seemed to come far too quickly (as most things seemed to do this weekend!), however this was soon made much better by another totally yummy meal – a fry up and a half. Many cups of tea later we finally cleared breakfast away and headed off to Steve's Church. Everyone there was really friendly and nice and we were all persuaded (very easily) to stay for ANOTHER cup of tea afterwards (there were also biscuits). However we soon had to leave to catch the train home and Steve dropped Catherine, Helen, Shona and myself at the station.

It had been a truly ace weekend and worth every bit of lost sleep! A big thank you goes to Steve for letting us stay, to Catherine for co-ordinating everyone, to Sara (and Andy) for cooking and to everyone else for coming.

The Admiral's Visit

Nick writes

The Morning Star Trust was paid a visit by a special guest on March the 18th. Vice Admiral Michael Gretton, Director of the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award, inspected the office and was taken on a guided tour of *Morning Star* and *Dayspring*.

The Admiral was interested to see an example of a Medway Duke of Edinburgh's 'Access Organisation' and the sorts of residential and expedition sailing opportunities we offer to young DofE candidates.

Following this he attended a luncheon at the Victory Centre in the Historic Dockyard where he presented the region with its new DofE operating licence.



Vice Admiral Michael Gretton aboard *Dayspring*

Tall Ships Summer

By Emma Feggetter

I signed up for a Tall Ships Race on Morning Star not really knowing what to expect having only been on Morning Star for a week in 2001. I arrived at the airport with Mike and was greeted by two strange blue coated people and immediately started fantasizing about coffee with two other crew-

This was a great opportunity to firmly place Morning Star on the DofE map with the Admiral going on to suggest that an article on the work of the Trust should be written for the Award Journal magazine.

It is important that all Skippers and MS leaders realise that The Morning Star Trust is an 'Access Organisation' meaning that we are promoters of the DofE award. We do this by offering DofE credits, meaning that if a young person sails with us for a week or more it can count towards a DofE award section even if they are not involved in DofE, thus encouraging them to enrol. In return for this we get lots of DofE bookings as we are promoted in their Award Journal magazine.

members. From then on I can truly say I had an amazing six weeks away from the worries and responsibilities of normal life.

I was originally going to be on board for three weeks, however the night I was meant to be coming home someone dropped out and I leapt at the chance of staying, there followed a very tense night waiting

for a phone call from my mother saying I could stay on. I couldn't have made a better choice as the best holiday of my life continued. The second leg was very contrasting to the first but on both occasions we came very close to Jolie Brise and overtook her only to be overtaken by her again! Never have I felt so much excitement or exhilaration.

The atmosphere in port is like nothing I have ever experienced with all the arranged events, I found myself doing things I would not even normally consider doing such as singing on stage. The crew parades were also very different and a great chance to properly let your hair down.

Morning Star brings out very extreme emotions, coping in a force eight storm and hardly moving at all. Anyone who has ever sailed knows how frustrating these are.

While on board things, which are usually important to me, were thrown out the window cleanliness, hearing the news, universities. These were replaced by worries about whether the sails were flapping, helming as accurately as possible, caring for other people and cleaning the boat. When I returned home I heard the news for the first time in six weeks and I felt so angry at the problems in the world, usually you are immune to it because you build up resistance. However if you haven't heard it, it has a profound effect on you.

Morning Star has amazing warmth and capacity and brings out the best in everyone who sails on her; I feel that I have grown as a person and that my religion has been strengthened.

Remember when...? Recollections from the Conference

by Catherine Bertrand

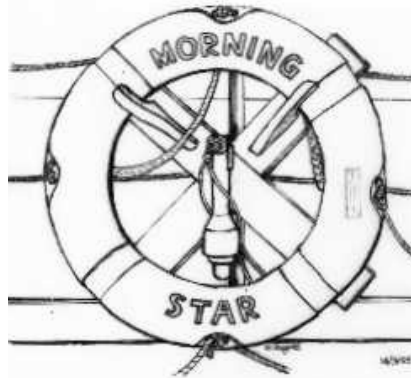
It seems such a long time since the Morning Star Conference all those months ago. The hawthorn is in leaf, the birds are singing, hard to picture those misty days at Dovedale. This year's conference was rather a special one for me. The conference is always a looked forward to date, a time to meet up with old friends and greet the new faces swelling the ranks of the Trust (especially all those new children!), but this one I was particularly excited by with so many new things about to happen.

Friday night was the usual meet, greet and eat session thanks to all those glorious cakes and biscuits, and the midnight walk, though not as well attended by old hands as in other years, had a bumper crop of fresh and raucous faces scrambling up the hill.

The next two days followed the usual pattern of prayer, praise and fellowship, but this year I felt there was a wonderful sense of hope and expectancy, a driving forward and feeling of optimism for the next year. We all ooh-ed and aah-ed at the pictures of the thankfully re-named Scampertrix, perused the budgets, ate more cake, and spent very valuable time in prayer bringing our fears, hopes and praises to the Lord and listening for his voice to guide us into Morning Star's future.

One of the most powerful moments for me came from Olly's vision of the winch with the three turns on it. The idea of those turns being the people involved, and being surrounded by so many new and eager faces at the conference, helps to reas-

sure me that Morning Star is going to go on well into 2004 and beyond. I hope that we can all stay strong through fellowship, encouraging and heartening each other and reaching out to those we have sailed with, or think would benefit from sailing on board. I am sure those new faces will blend in soon enough, and help to welcome the new faces at gatherings in the years ahead.



The Saturday night meal, thanks to Clive's hard work at the logistical nightmare of the dinnertime shuffle, was a great success. Prizes and acknowledgments were given out as usual, and as it is a rather special time, the evening was given over to Tim to regale us with how the boat and, therefore, we, came together. The book of greetings that Dun-

can and Joy put together for Tim and Sara was very well received, along with the narrow-boat network map with those of us who live on it marked on as a reminder to drop in on their epic maiden voyage.

All too soon the weekend was over, bags packed, walking boots cleaned off and stowed and all those frantic goodbyes said. But I would encourage you all, if there are people you haven't spoken to since those dark November days, to put pen to paper, or pick up the phone, and reminisce over some past adventures before its conference time once again.

Contributions...

Please will you send any contributions that you have for future issues to the Office (address on the front page).

Stories from trips, pictures, poems, thoughts or anything else that you think would be of interest to the Revelations readership would be most welcome.

The next issue will be produced towards the end of June.

