

Revelations

Welcome to the first edition of "Revelations" in 2010. Your views and opinions are always most welcome. If you have any comment to make on any part of this publication then at least it means you've read it!



Have you seen the new brochure and sailing programme? If not, then somehow you got left off the list, because all those who sailed with us last year should have received one through the post.

You can solve this in one of two ways:

- Contact the office (details below) to give them your name and address and they will gladly send you a copy.
- Find it on our web-site: www.morningstar.org.uk.

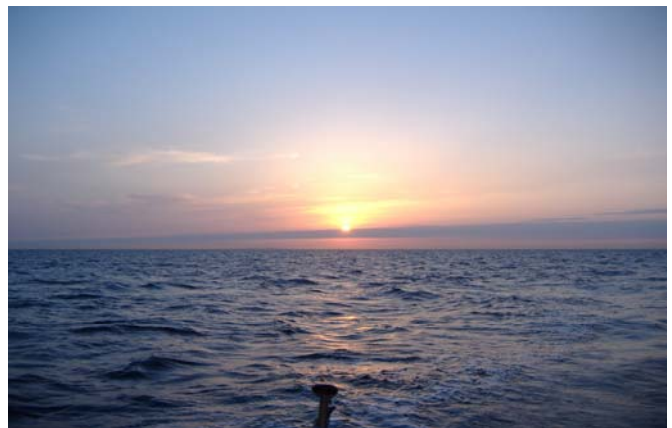
What does the sea do for you?

Leaves you cold?

Makes you feel ill?

The constant movement fascinates you?

It's ever changing state absorbs you?



Whatever, you can experience it for yourselves - along the East coast; across the Dover Strait; the length of the Channel; the Solent; Lyme Bay.

Read on!

My last Channel Crossing

A few days ago I set out to cross the English channel from St Malo to Portsmouth. Yes, you've guessed—it was the Brittany Ferry.

It was an odd experience. For a start I was not in charge. It was bad enough not being involved in the decision making, but when we were informed

that the decks were dangerous and therefore “out of bounds” because of the bad weather conditions, then I was not even able to see what decisions were being made and that was really bad! So I was cooped up below in my cabin as the boat bumped and lurched and shuddered as it hit each wave. But was it waves? I don't know—I was not allowed to see.

I felt strangely redundant. I wanted to be where the action was. I wanted to feel the wind and the spray on my face (however cold!!). I wanted to be part of the trip. But in truth I was just a piece of baggage; an item that the crew were paid to get from one side to the other. Not even the great food in the restaurant could console me.



And at that moment I found a new excitement in sailing Morning Star or Dayspring. Even when I am not in charge I am involved. Whether we get to our destination or not depends in part on me, not only in my experience at sailing but also my ability to join in with the others and be the team that helps to get us all to our destination.

And that great feeling you too can have. Get yourself booked onto a trip!

Michael



Winter work parties - what really goes on...

I have been a member of the Trust now for over 15 years and during that time have been to many different MST work parties. These have been held in various locations - Number 7 slip at the dockyard, Thunderbolt Pier, Otterham quay and most recently Chatham Maritime Marina.

During that time we have done numerous tasks on the boats, such as taking the rudder off; opening up the cockpit so that we could alter the height of the floor; remove all the masts and spars, strip down, bleach and re-varnish them and clean out the anchor chain locker. These are in addition to the many routine, annual tasks, such as anti-fouling, painting and varnishing that have to be done simply in order to keep the boats looking good.

At the last work party that I went to I spent a half hour or so in freezing conditions removing some treadmaster from the deck and bowsprit of Morning Star, followed by a somewhat warmer, but smellier session of varnishing in her main saloon. She looks a lot shinier below decks as a result, but there is still some way to go...

It's not just the satisfaction of completing a job but the sense that you are part of a team (a bit like sailing really) with common goals and desires to help. And anyone can help! Contact the office for details of the next work party.

Stuart

Sailing opportunities

East coast - 4 opportunities to sail out of the Medway and North-East along the Essex coast to the rivers Crouch, Deben, Blackwater and visiting Burnham on Crouch, Brightlingsea, Harwich, Pin Mill. April - May.

South coast - Solent Sail, Dorset Dash, Normandy wine Run (including the trip home through the Dover Strait round into the Thames and home to Chatham). May - August.

Thought for the quarter. Does prayer work?

This, I guess is a question that has been posed before. But in the same way that it is difficult to prove that God exists -and likewise impossible to prove he does NOT exist, despite some fervent efforts from Professor Dawkins and others- so we have to rely on some personal, first hand experiences, as they are very real in the people concerned.

Before I share a couple of my experiences aboard Morning Star of Revelation, may I quote from someone slightly more respected than myself. Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937- inventor of the radio) is quoted as saying:

I am proud to be a Christian. I believe not only as a Christian, but as a scientist as well. A wireless device can deliver a message through the wilderness. In prayer the human spirit can send invisible waves to eternity, waves that achieve their goal in front of God."



View from the top!

We all have a mobile phone, and when we send a text, we believe it works. Well, the last time I was on board Morning Star, I sent God a lot of texts! Yes, the usual request for safety. But I tried to be more specific. God, please make joy and laughter abound. Please do something big in someone's life. May there be a sense of supernatural love. And may there be fun - loads of it.

I know other skippers prayer similar prayers. The only slight dilemma was the date- the cruise was at the end of October. The clocks change, the gales blow and boy can it be cold, wild and hard work on a boat of any size at that time of year.

Well, this time it was different. I won't bore you with all the cruise details, but if you have a chance ask one of the crew - Kate, Kim, Harry, Claire, Derek, Sarah, Mariko, Hannah, then you can find out yourself. (You can find some of their posts on Face book. Just look for 'Morning Star of Revelation') Was the unseasonal weather, warmth and easy winds a coincidence? Maybe. Was the joy and laughter going to happen anyway? Possibly. Did God meet certain people on board in a very significant way? You will have to ask them, but God touched *me* powerfully.

All I know, is that I will not and can't stop praying. 'Coincidences' just keep on happening!!!

Duncan

Have you made it through to the end?

Here's what to do now:

- Send your comments, articles and pictures to me for inclusion in the next edition
- Get your diary out, get onto the web to look for dates, then book a place.

Remember:

- A 5 day trip will enable you to qualify the trip as your DorE residential
- A 5 day trip will give you time to gain the RYA Competent Crew award
- A shorter trip will give your time out from the routine of your everyday life!