



Revelations

Spring 2006

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From the Editor.

Dear Friends,
Here is the latest "*Revelations*". We hope that it will inspire you to think more about the Trust, to remember good times and to get on with fitting a trip into your busy schedules!

Members of the Trust are bombarded with information regarding trips and the manning, but those of you who have not got to that place yet, will have only received a brochure. But what a brochure! Our 25th Anniversary year is one to cherish (it only happens once!) and, more importantly, to be part of. So how about it? What trip are you sailing on this year?

From the Office:

It can be quite a solitary experience in the office at this time of year. There are often long periods when everyone but Lynda our Administrator (pictured here) are out maintaining the boats. Nevertheless there is always lots of admin to do in preparation for the new season that seems to approach like a steam train. 2006 has begun quite well with a range of bookings across the board. However, the East Coast Cruises each side of Easter are currently very thin on the ground, so there is plenty of room for improvement. A considerable amount of publicity has been undertaken this year in the form of mail shots, adverts in Christian press and Duke of Edinburgh's Award Journal as well as a



promotion in the RYA magazine thanks to a competition being run by ASTO. We have even exhibited at an exhibition promoting activity opportunities to Scouts in the South East. It's now a waiting game and a matter of turning enquiries into solid bookings.

The next edition:

The next *Revelations* is due in the Summer. By then we shall have had all the Training week-ends and the Easter trips and *Morning Star* will have been down on the South coast for some time. That means that many of you will have sailed in her, and in *Dayspring*.

So how about some reports, photos and quotes from the alternative log?? Inspire us, make us envious and make us laugh!! That way there may be a *Revelations* to print.

Did I hear you say "but I am not sailing". Then how about doing something about it? Contact the office to find out where the spaces are. God may just have a slot lined up for you!

Working Parties

Will you be at the next one (March 4th)?

I was recently reading the story of an old fellow who owned a small and rather battered dinghy which was so unseaworthy that one day it sank. His friends were helping him to pull it to the beach for repair. As they were straining and struggling up the beach together one of them said to the old fellow, 'Too bad your boat had to sink, Joe.' 'She didn't sink,' muttered the old sea dog. 'She just didn't rise up with the tide!'

It must have been a devastating moment, when after years of his boat bobbing up and down with the tide, the water completely swamped it. Being a salty seadog he must have liked spending time on the sea, so I find it strange that he did not take pride in his boat, and took no concern whatsoever for its condition. This story reminded me of the reality that things will degrade and become useless if we neglect them, well, except eternal treasures that is. If only the old seadog had taken a little bit of time to patch up the holes, that could have made all the difference and given many more years of happy sailing.

Boats need maintenance, that is clear, but it's amazing, as this story illustrates, how much long term difference a small investment can make. It's just like when you're cold and want to light a fire. You might spend an hour with your friends collecting wood that will burn in a blaze and keep you warm all night. I think most of you will agree with me if I said that at the end of last season *Morning Star's* interior was looking a little bit shabby. This year around 500 people will (we hope!) be sailing on *Morning Star* and a relatively small amount of work could make everything look crisp and clean and benefit all these people.

That is why we have work parties, to get things done that you and others will enjoy later. But work parties are much, much more than that. What I love about work parties is the real sense of a community spirit there is. I love meeting and working alongside others. I remember on the last work party painting with the two guys from *Finding Your Feet*, the refugee group. We had a good time laughing and chatting, having relaxed long conversations. Working alongside one another getting a job done for a good purpose is a great way to kindle new friendships. And to

round off a hard day's work we always sit down to a hearty winter supper.

If you don't mind getting your hands dirty, come and get stuck in, working with others to get *Morning Star* looking clean, bright and fresh for another season of awesome sailing- there might even be doughnuts and custard for lunch.



There is only one more Saturday - and it's this one!! March 4. If you would like to help then please contact Steve Thompson our ops manager (pictured here) on 01634 403890. Alternatively you can

email steve@morningstar.org.uk.

Helping is a great way to get to feel you are involved! If this Saturday is not convenient for you then try offering a week-day - you could just be welcomed!! Tasks are never too complicated. They may be dirty, and in inclement weather sometimes cold, but the sense of fellowship and communal purpose makes it all worth-while!

Eagles Wings Post Morning Star Trust:

For those of you who are new to the Trust and the Morning Star organisation, you may not know who or what *Eagles Wings* was. She is a Halcyon 27 that the Trust bought many years ago as a small vessel to allow the training of skippers and mates. She was a boat that was much loved by all but about 3 or 4 years ago there came a time when the Trust decided that she had served her purpose well and deserved to retire in favour of buying a newer, bigger boat. But her story does not end there so do not be saddened.



My father bought her from the Trust for our own use in a more sedate less bashed about style of sailing! Over the last 3 years we have continued to love her as members of the trust before us did and with a bit of finance behind us have lovingly restored her to her former glory. For those of you wanting to build up your skippering miles over a weekend towards your coastal skipper then we are more than willing for you to use her - she is the right size and based in different waters to *Morning Star* and *Dayspring*. My email is camilla@simmons6.wanadoo.co.uk.

Camilla (MST leader & committee member)

Thought for the quarter:

Only by grace...

I always find it amazing how God reveals himself through different everyday situations. Recently, at the end of a work party as I was climbing off *Morning Star*, I managed to fling my keys into the water. With a hopeless gasp we watched them sink. A nightmare. It was going to cost a small fortune to get that massive bunch of keys re-cut. Mike and I set out across Medway in search of a strong magnet, but to no avail. (Thank you Mike for all your help and encouragement!) All the time I was asking myself "What does it mean to trust God in this situation?" I remembered a verse from Paul's Letter to the Philippians "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). I was anxious and certainly not feeling the peace of God. At the time,

somehow it did not feel natural to pray. I was thinking "this is my problem and I've got to pay the consequences of my negligence and I will." But with little faith I prayed, "I want to trust You, Lord in this situation." I think that truly trusting is fully committing the situation to God, knowing that God is supreme and in complete control, whatever the outcome.

Three days later Nick suggested giving it another go. This time I went up to the Chandlers and managed to get hold of a powerful Sea-searching Magnet. Potentially this was a dangerous move. The sea-searching magnet was expensive and if the keys didn't turn up I'd have to pay for them to be cut as well. My first search yielded only Medway mud. But just before I went home that day I gave it one more go. Miraculously they came straight up. Praise be to God! Not only that, but on returning to the office full of joy, Nick offered to buy the magnet off me to keep on *Morning Star*. I learned a lesson about faith and grace that day. God took the situation and blessed it in the most unexpected way. It pointed me again towards what Jesus did for us on the cross. We are so undeserving and yet he died for us, to set us free from the sin that tempts us and burdens us ultimately leading to our death. This is truly amazing grace. **Joel** (Annual Volunteer)

Annual volunteer:

Joel Chaney (pictured here) is our volunteer this year and is doing very well. The first bit is always the toughest as the winter refit can feel like a long time.



However, the sailing season is coming and this is where the volunteer really gets something back. By the time Joel leaves us in September he will have become an RYA Day Skipper and logged numerous sailing voyages including the fabulous Tall Ships Race.

September comes all too quickly and so we need to be looking for the next volunteer now. If you would like to consider a year with us

(Aug '06 to Sept '07) or know a young person who would benefit from this, please call the office and ask for Nick.

News of the boats:

Morning Star of Revelation is now back alongside after a period in dry dock. A fair bit of work was undertaken in dock this year apart from the usual hull scrub, repair and repaint undertaken by Steve Thompson and our volunteer Joel Chaney. This meant we needed the services of Tim Millward with his intimate knowledge of the boat to remove and replace the prop shaft, cutlass bearing and rebuild the shaft brake. Thanks to the dry winter weather this year, all was done in good time and *Morning Star* was refloated on 31st January. In addition to the work below, and thanks to a very generous donation we have been able to significantly update the chart table instrument panel with a state of the art combined Radar/Chart plotting flat screen display. Although this equipment is no substitute for sound pencil and paper navigation combined with the 'Mk 1 eyeball', it is a very useful aid to safe navigation. In our age of computers and gadgets this equipment is also a highly effective way of engaging with more technically minded young people who do not immediately take to the physical work on deck.



Those who sail in *Dayspring* this year (pictured above) will have the benefit of a brand new diesel engine. The Volvo unit, that was her original engine from new, was showing signs of age particularly with regards to cold starting. After considerable time spent

servicing and fine tuning it was decided that, as total reliability was our primary concern, the time had come for a new engine to be purchased. Once again we were astonished by an incredibly generous donation (anonymously given) for the full cost of a new engine. After researching the market and seeking the advice of other sail training organisations we decided upon a Bata Marine engine. The engine has now been installed by Nick together with a local diesel engineer. She was started for the first time on Tuesday 7th February when she started instantly on the first press of the button.

So with only a week or so to go before the start of the new season (17th March) there is still a significant amount of work to do in order to get the boats ready. One often wonders if it ever possible. The Trust is blessed, however, with a highly-dedicated membership, who often attend weekend work parties that significantly move us forward. Without this help (for which we are extremely grateful) we probably wouldn't make it in time.

Nick (Trust Manager)

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