



Revelations

Spring 2007

Editor: Mike Ling (MST Trustee)
Michael_ling@btinternet.com

From the Editor.

Firstly, you've missed it! (Or did you?)

What am I talking about?

Well, the work parties of course. Month after month, week after week, brave and hardy young men and women, and one or two not in the "young" category braved the winter weather, sometimes bitterly cold, sometimes amazingly warm, to do odd jobs about the boats.

So Morning Star has had her bottom scrubbed, sanded and painted. Inside there is a new saloon floor and new water tanks. Under the Skipper's bunk there is a new bank of batteries. There is a new aerial at the top of the mast. Everything that was taken off has either been returned or renewed. Dayspring has also had her bottom scrubbed and renewed and a whole list of small jobs done on deck and down below.

And last week-end they went sailing. They are out again this week-end as well, for the second of the two Mates training sessions. This week Morning Star is full of young hopefuls to join Sailing Leadership Teams. By the time that is over there will be plenty of 2007 miles under her keel and she will be raring to go for the main season.



Secondly, you've missed it! (or have you?)

So what am I talking about now?

The first few trips of course.

Were you thinking of joining the East Coast Cruise? Well forget it. She's full.

Or perhaps the Dutch cruise? Well forget it. She's full.

Or perhaps the delivery trip down to Portsmouth? Well, forget that one too. She's full.

Which all goes to show that if you want to get on board you have to make up your mind early.

So how about looking at your diary now?

Can we whet your appetite with any of the following?

May 26 – June 1 (Half term for most schools and colleges – and for those universities that do not do half-term I bet you get a "reading week")

Channel Islands Cruise.

After joining in Gosport (over the river from Portsmouth harbour) we shall sail around for 24 hours to make sure we all get our sea legs, then we're off over the channel for Alderney and perhaps Guernsey and Jersey.

A fair time away, you might say?

Well that's what one or two said about the Easter trips and they missed it. An added advantage for this trip is that it will be **WARM!!** That means that sailing is not just challenging. It's nice too.

And the length of the trip ensures that those who would like to can count it as their residential section of the Gold Award D of E.

So if you missed the Easter trips, don't miss this one!

Or you can help sail her from Portsmouth to Amsterdam, June 16 – 23, or the second leg of the long haul East, from Amsterdam to Kiel (June 23 – 30). Some good sailing there and great places to

visit – all the Friesian Islands are beautiful in their own way. You won't visit them all but you'll see them and land on at least one during each of the trips.

Or a real challenge could be yours by joining for one of the Tall Ships races.

Race A, July 2 – 19

Cruise in Company July 19 – 29:

Race B July 29 – August 6

But the ultimate challenge is to help bring her all the way home again from Poland, possibly against the prevailing South-Westerly winds.

August 6 – 20.

The Friesian Islands will feature again, as will the beautiful inland waterways of Zeeland to the South of the Netherlands.

Mike Ling is skippering this one, so there is bound to be the odd gale or two, but in between some gorgeously hot sunshine will be laid on.

Then there will be opportunities to sail in the Autumn, but you do not want to wait that long surely?

So get in touch with the office now and book your place!

Bursaries are available for those who might find the fees difficult to find.

Good fun, good company, exciting activity – what more do you want (and you remember last time you sailed, don't you?)

Contact Details:

Morning Star Trust, Crews Quarters
Offices

The Historic Dockyard, Chatham. Kent
ME4 4TZ

Tel: 01634 403890.

Web site: www.morningstar.org.uk

From one crew member last year

During the summer, I had the opportunity to go on the Morning Star, for the cruising stage of the Tall Ships Race, we went from Lisbon in Portugal, to Cadiz, and then to La Coruna, both in Spain. I had never sailed before and didn't know what to expect, but I can honestly say that it was

absolutely brilliant. While sailing we had quite rough weather. This was good fun and luckily I wasn't sea sick. At times there were dolphins swimming alongside the ship which was very nice during long periods at sea.

Although the sailing was very good fun, my favourite times were the times in port. While in port the local authorities arranged various activities for us such as beach football, rowing races etc. The welcome in the towns was incredible - the locals treated us like we were celebrities. One of my favourite things in port was the crew parade, which was very good fun, as it was an excuse to make a lot of noise. I would certainly like to have a trip on the Morning Star again, perhaps after my A levels or University.

Thys Brame

Changes at the Morning Star Office

For those of you who have sailed with us before, when you phone to book your next trip you may find yourself speaking to an unfamiliar voice.

Lynda Kelly, who has run the office very efficiently for a number of years, is going part time. Chris Sims has joined the staff on a part time basis, as, very shortly, will Yasmine Elliott. All 3 look forward to being inundated with requests for places aboard Morning Star or Dayspring.

Thought for the quarter

I travelled up the M1 recently from London at night in the dark. Well, it is not really dark on the motorway as there are lights all the way.

All the way to the M6 junction that is. Then the lights stop and you find yourself plunged into darkness. An unnerving experience. You never really adjust to it and it is a relief to get to the next junction where the lights start again.

One of the gospel writers, John, liked to talk about the significance of darkness and light.

There is a story of a very wise man, called Nicodemus coming to Jesus from the darkness. (His mind was also in the dark.)

When the disciple, Judas, went to betray Jesus on the night before Good Friday, we went out "into the night".

The gospels also record that it got dark during the crucifixion, in the middle of the day!

Jesus said "I am the light of the world". John wants us to see that walking with Jesus is like walking in the light and not walking with him is like walking in the dark.

Perhaps on one of your trips on Morning Star you will glimpse a little more of the light in which many of us walk.