

Editors: Michael Ling
Michael.ling@mei.org.uk
Catherine Bertrand
c_bertrand@letterboxes.org

Note from the editors:

We must firstly apologise to all our avid readers (and the other ones as well) for the delay in the production of *Revelations*. This is in part because of the fact that the task of editor has had to change hands, due to Will Haynes taking up a post in Sudan (assisting with a clean water aid programme) and partly due to a lack of forwarded material to publish. So, if you want *Revelations* on a regular basis then there must be a continuous flow of your stories. So please get writing!

Morning Star Trust's growing work with disadvantaged young people:

Over the last 18 months many new group contacts have been established, particularly with organisations working with the disadvantaged. Working with these young people presents our volunteer leadership teams with a raft of challenges that have at times been quite a strain. However, there is no doubt that these opportunities are of tremendous value to the young people themselves, in fact the feedback we have received has often taken us by surprise. To our delight a number of individuals have shown a keen interest in the Gospel.

Examples of groups we have worked with over the last 18 months are as follows:

- 20 asylum seekers / refugees have joined us via the 'Finding Your Feet' project in Canterbury.
- 18 homeless young people have joined us from housing foyers in Maidstone and Abingdon.

- 11 young people from care and foster homes have been integrated into our 'Tall Ships Race' crews.
- 15 disaffected boys sought to restore relationships with absent fathers via Care For The Family.
- 6 unemployed young men have undertaken work experience placements with us via the YMCA.

Some quotes from feedback received:

"I want to thank the skipper and mates for their encouragement and unfailing cheerfulness throughout the weekend"

"I recently went on a weeks sailing trip from Portsmouth, I am writing to say I thought it was a great and enjoyable experience which gave me a lot of confidence and taught me new things. I would love to sail again one day".

"I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and would go again"



The true diversity of groups we are now receiving is best demonstrated by a booking we had from the Olive Tree Trust. This organisation is connected to City University and is bringing young scholars from Palestine and Israel together to study in order to build bridges between their nations. We will be receiving 16 of these students for a team-building weekend aboard both boats in October.

Frisian Hop, 2004:

Alternative Log Extracts: Homeward Bound May 2004

Simon – “A Friesian Hop – isn’t that a one legged cow?”

Wonderings of an unknown crew member

I wonder what memories this delivery trip will hold for members of the crew?

Was it problem’s with the boat that stick in the memory? Aft heads broken until more than half way through the trip. Generator broken until halfway through the trip. Heating continually cutting out. The first two were solved with new parts and some TLC and a bit more from volunteer Paul; the latter was rather more easily solved - removing all the spare boots in the Lazeret blocking the air inlet pipe!!

Or was it the wind? With Mike Ling as Skipper I suppose we should not have expected anything less!! Tall Ships A had max force 4, Tall Ships B had maximum force 6, while we had a minimum of force 6. From Cuxhaven we motored with no wind to Helgoland where it all started! We were harbour-bound for 2 days while a force 10 raged.

From there we sailed three major passages from Helgoland to Vlieland, Vlieland to Hellevoetsluis and from Vlissingham to Chatham. The first and second offered us force 9 in spells and the last a force 8. And to cap it all, the sail up the river on the last day was in a force 7!

Or was it that the superb catering over the whole season left us with more food than we could ever have eaten?

Or playing ‘gini molf’ in the pouring rain and force 10 winds on Helgoland?

Supplement to Mariners Dictionary:

Gini Molf (n) [Gui-nea/Mol-fe] – Mini Golf played under gale force conditions (F8 gusting 12) and rain, wearing oilskins and shorts rolled beyond the boundaries of vision. Aquaplaning should be achievable (with the ball – not the shorts!).



Or our attempts to destroy the pier head in Vlieland? Or hiring bicycles to cycle to a doctor to get some splinters removed? Or the fact that in the two weeks on board we recorded 4 hours of sunshine? Or that someone suggested using the radar to navigate the Veerse Mere since the driving rain prevented us from seeing the banks or stakes?

Whatever the memory for different members of the crew, it was memorable!!!

More Alternative Log Extracts: Homeward Bound August 2003

Ben - “Ever since I have been on the helm we have been pointing forward!”

Shona – “What a beautiful morning!”

Emma – “Yeah, what a shame we have to ruin it by being up this early!”

Mates Training Weekend 2004

Paul – “11 mates and only 40 sausages”
“Having spent a day in Stangate Creek at Anchor, while Force 9 winds raged, we finally set off on the 21st March for the first sail of the season. 30 knots of wind and glorious sunshine – Alleluia!”

Promotion:

This year we have seen a significant increase in the level of bookings for both *Morning Star* and *Dayspring*. It’s clear that no amount of mailing or publicity can take the place of going out and knocking on doors. We have also tried to increase the profile of Morning Star Trust by taking the time to exhibit at local youth events as well

as Christian youth conferences like Soul Survivor held at the Bath & West Country Show Ground. This year we attended Soul Survivor's 'Momentum week' with a display stand in an attempt to spread the word nationally. Many of the contacts made will not yield new opportunities until 2006, but it's this kind of groundwork that will make the difference long term.

Reflections from a crewmember - Homeward bound. August 8 - 18, 2005

Driving up the motorway to the Airport, I had my thoughts on what I was to expect from this trip. What would the people be like? How would I cope (being a biggish guy) in a smaller living environment from what I am used to? What is the food going to be like? (Again, I am a biggish guy!!) What new things will I learn? What lessons will I learn? The reasons I went on this trip were to spend some time to think about life in general. To gain a "Competent crew" qualification and meet new people. I am glad as I believe all three were achieved and more.

I got acquainted with everyone at the airport; well, tried to remember their names, and we then set off for Esbjerg. All but two of the crew were aboard the plane; two were already there.

We got a taxi from the Airport to the harbour; the rain was drizzling but it didn't bother me at all. I was going to meet the boat I would be calling home for the next 10 days and would hopefully be sailing soon; as a dingy sailor I like the idea of sailing a larger vessel as well as the challenges that it presents.

We got aboard *Morning Star* and then it suddenly dawned on me that the boat was much smaller than the photos I'd seen. I remember that one of the Mates said, "It will seem much bigger in a couple of days!" (It did on day 4.) We had a quick talk about the do's and don't, how to flush a toilet, what

expected of us, etc. After this we chose our bunks, stowed our personals/clothes away and went to pick out some 'oilies' that fitted. For the rest of the first day we went for a little trip out of the harbour to familiarise ourselves with the boat. All was nice and calm for this first trip!

After waking up at 0745 Denmark time (still adjusted to 0645 BST) we sat and ate breakfast together as a group for the first time. After breakfast we made our way to the Netherlands. The sea was a little choppy to begin with and a few people went down with seasickness. I hoped for their sakes that the weather wouldn't get any rougher but Murphy's Law dictated that it should, and as it did I quite enjoyed the thrill of sailing through the rough seas at 8 knots.

I learned the importance of keeping an active watch and how to recognise which way another vessel was travelling in the dark and how to recognise buoys by day and at night.

The supposed two-day crossing turned into a day and a bit due to the strong NW wind, but no one minded! We sailed up behind one of the many islands along that part of the coast and rested for the night, putting up the sign to indicate you are at anchor. The next morning we sailed through the waterways of the

northern part of the Netherlands and on through the waterways past Amsterdam.

Adjusting to the new people on board was a very interesting experience for me. Also I learned it is important to keep a smile on your face, as being in close quarters with people you haven't met before can be an EXPERIENCE!

Spiritually it gave me the opportunity to think a lot of things through. "Thought for the day" gave me, on a personal level, the ability to ask myself questions and work things through in my head.



The whole trip aboard *Morning Star* was a good life-experience and I am looking forward to seeing what trips she will be making next year.

I have learned so much on the trip, I find it hard to write down exactly what to say as I am more of a speak-person than a writing one so I have listed them:

Humility, learning and completing the competent crew, meeting new people, getting along with new people, helping others to learn, going through a storm, navigating, learning more about myself and God, trying not to judge others or have bad feeling towards anyone else, trying to uplift dampened feeling, learning to cook on a moving boat, making endless amounts of tea, cleaning a sea toilet, watching other people react to situations.

By Graeme Ballard.

From the alternative log:

Homeward bound, 2004

Alice – “Someone who isn’t mating should do it!”
(On filling in the alternative log.)

Mates Training 2005

Steve: “We’ll have a mating session after supper”.

Easter B 2004

Catherine – “Why is it called the after deck – was it an after thought?”

Team Training 2004

Rachel – “I find it useful to sleep with a fleece over my head”

Mike C – “I beg your pardon?”

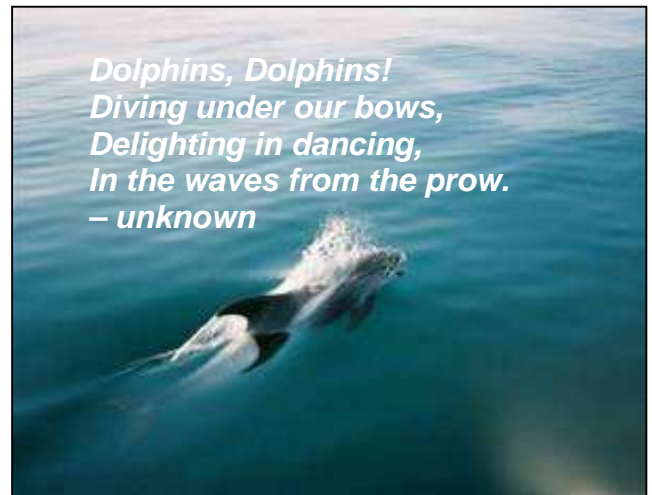
Rachel – “Sleeping with a fleece over your head still lets you breathe!”

Mike C – “Oh! I wondered why you would sleep with your FEET over your head!”

New Brochure for 2006:

The new 2006 brochure is now available from the office. Anyone who has sailed with us over the last few years should have received one through the post automatically by now. In addition to this the same information is displayed on our web site www.morningstar.org.uk. This brochure is a bit special as it celebrates 25 years of sailing aboard *MSoR* with a brief history of

her build and achievements over the years on page 1.



Dayspring:

There is no doubt that the word is out regarding *Dayspring* as she is such a friendly and usable boat. August saw her booked back-to-back, stopping only to victual and take on fuel / water.

This year she has been booked for 13 weekends, 5 RYA courses (1 week each) and 5 individual week bookings.

A number of larger groups have seen the benefit of booking both boats at once adding an interesting extra dynamic to any voyage by allowing rafting up and rotation of crews.

Some members of the Trust have also “cut their teeth” as skippers in *Dayspring* and we hope that they learn lessons from their experience - at least we hope that this one did!



Bye, Bye Tristan

Digital photography has heralded a new competitiveness within the Trust to see who can take the best digital photographs in order to get them in the annual brochure. This is great for the office as we are blessed each year with a plethora of new images to choose from.

Fun photo of the year has to be that of our zany 2004/05 volunteer, Tristan, taken by Simon Bunker on the crew parade in Newcastle Gateshead (Tall Ships A).



Would you sail with this guy?

Editor's note: The answer has to be yes! - Thanks Tristan for your volunteer year. We feel it is important to make a point of acknowledging Tristan for the great contribution he has made to Morning Star over the last year. Sadly, and we mean sadly, he will be leaving us at the end of the month following the Wine Run. Time and time again reports have come back saying how good it has been to have Tristan aboard. He has been a great bridge between groups and our leadership teams with his 'wacky' sense of humour and wild antics. Thank you Tristan we hope you enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed having you.

Sponsored initiatives supporting Morning Star Trust:

We have received some wonderful offers of support this year from individuals outside of the Trust membership that have nominated us as their chosen charity.

Tom Corbett – raised £1000 on a 37mile (cross country) sponsored bike ride from Oxted school to our offices in the dockyard (via the Pilgrim's Way). Here Tom presents Nick with a giant cheque.



Mike Skingle - raised £975 by running the Flora London Marathon in April '05

Postscript:

Well, in the end it looks as though there was plenty of material - but as for the next one? Will it be another year away, or are you going to write in your reflections on the trips you have had in *Dayspring* or *Morning Star*? Don't forget the photos!!

Morning Star Trust
Crews Quarters Offices
The Historic Dockyard
Chatham
Kent
ME10 2SR

Tel / Fax 01634 403890
Sailing@morningstar.org.uk
www.morningstar.org.uk

Charity No. 328320.