



MMA CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

May 2022

Last weekend I watched people swimming off The Green in Cowes. They appeared to emerge alive. Does this mean that summer is here? Many MMA members will be preparing for their summer cruise. The fishermen will have noted the gulls feeding on the sprats off the Cowes Breakwater. The MMA Annual General Meeting seems an age past. However in my AGM report I mentioned both the forthcoming refurbishment of the Folly Inn, and the rally to Marchwood.

The Folly refurbishment work will have a major impact on the use of MMA facilities beyond the removal of catering facilities at the pub. Planning Consent is being sought by Greene King to upgrade the interior of the pub to improve the service, food safety and hygiene standards. The visitors' showers and toilet facilities are to be moved to a new building on the site of the existing water taxi office, and the taxi office will be relocated to the north side of the yard. A new car parking system will be introduced. MMA is broadly in agreement with the changes.

During refurbishment the pub will be surrounded by fencing to protect a "works compound". The northernmost car parking areas will be occupied by construction vehicles. However the need to provide access to the dinghy park and slipway has been recognised and a limited amount of parking will be available on the south parking area (the meadow beyond the chain barrier). It is quite possible that this parking area will be insufficient to meet the demands of boaters, dog walkers, picnickers etc at peak periods. I have no magic wand to fix this, so plan accordingly. I have mentioned before the intention to undertake some repairs to Folly Lane. Greene King are aware that 24/7 access to the river is needed and hopefully this will not be an issue. Full details of the Folly Inn Upgrade are available on the Isle of Wight Planning Department Website. Works will start as soon as possible after planning consent has been received but this is not expected to be before 30 May 2022. Subject to confirmation, the current intention is that the Folly will close on the 27 June and re-open during the first week of August. I shall keep you updated on any significant change.

You should have no difficulty in accessing your boat should you wish to join the planned MMA cruise to Marchwood SC on Saturday 18 June 2022. Mary Phillips has asked me to tell you that MMA members are invited to arrive at Marchwood Yacht Club from early afternoon onwards on Saturday, June 18 (high tide Southampton is 15.41 BST). Please bring food to cook on a barbecue. The bar will be open from 8pm. The cost of overnight berthing (walk ashore pontoon) is £15 per boat. Marchwood YC is a cashless club, so you can either pay over the bar (card), or the duty officer can hopefully utilise (outside of bar opening times) the card paying machine which is located on the bar (customers side). You can also pay online through the website www.marchwoodyc.org.uk when you arrive. A good weekend to get away from Whippingham as the Isle of Wight Festival will be in full swing!

Finally I am relieved to report that since the AGM I have heard nothing more about thefts from the dinghy park. However I am sorry to say that boats and gear, especially inflatables and outboard motors, are still being stolen from other parts of the island. The enhanced CCTV security system for the Folly Inn being installed by Green King this summer will bring a step change to the security of the dinghy park. Meantime, please continue to ensure that your boats are well secured; they are clearly marked so police can if necessary identify them, and please do report any theft to the police so they have the best picture of criminal activity on the Isle of Wight and can deploy resources accordingly.

Do continue to enjoy the treasures of the River Medina; stay safe; wear lifejackets and use killcords as appropriate.

With best wishes for fair winds and large catches.

Peter Jackson
Chairman
Medina Mariners Association