



# Driftwood

Newsletter of the Shepton Mallet Drifters MBC June 2008



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**\*\*\*\*\* OPEN DAYS \*\*\*\*\***  
**LOCAL (saving fuel costs)**  
**NO REGISTRATION FEES**  
**PAKING CLOSE TO LAKES**  
**MAKING NEW FRIENDS**  
**SEEING NEW MODELS**  
**(See the venues in Driftwood)**

## **Pugwash (Barrie Stevens)**

Greetings All!

It was very pleasant to welcome Alistair Roach to our meeting at the Thatch Cottage in May where he gave a very interesting talk on the history of model boats. I apologise for the rather amateurish way in which I was fighting with technology in getting Alistair's slides to appear on the screen in order! I think we have a challenge to build a cork boat for Collett Day.

The other major event for the Drifters in June is on the 21st and 22nd at Foster Yeomans Quarry where there will be a large open weekend and we can sail on the large lake and camp on site if required. The event is one of the very rare occasions when the quarry will be open to the public and they are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the railway. There will be full size steam powered locomotives including David Sheppard's Black Prince plus preserved Diesel locomotives and there will be a shuttle rail service from Westbury station. On the nautical scene full size steam launches will be in operation on the lake with the Steam Boat Association. The site will be open between 18:00hrs and 20:00hrs for set up and camping on the Friday evening and open to the public from 09:30 to 17:30 on the Saturday and Sunday. The area where we will be based is adjacent to the entrance gate for the public, (the organisers are planning for an attendance of up to 10,000!) which has to be accessed through East Cranmore, past the church, it should be well sign posted. If you would like to exhibit please contact Jackie on 01749 343017 ASAP as we will need to sort tables etc. If you are coming on a daily basis on the Saturday/Sunday you will need to arrive on site no later than 08.30 before the opening time to the public and please bring your Drifters membership card as you may be required to show it! For members with access to the internet I will try to remember to put a map on the Drifters web site.  
Hope to see you all at Collett Day on 14th June.

## **Editorial**

With the model boating season now in full swing, this month I've introduced a new section called "Open Days" these are becoming more popular due to cost cutting for organisers and participants (very few have registration fees). A number of local FREE sailing type Open Days are the country or town fairs, like "Sherborne Castle Country Show" or Shepton's own "Collett Day". In some cases the dates are published well in advance, so dates and times may change, make sure the event is still on before you make that journey. For those who were there the recent? Bath and West Model Engineering and Model Making Show was a complete success, right on our door step. We have been informed that it is defiantly on again next year (2009), so could turn into a major event in the South West.

This month we have extracts from the latest "Ponderings" the SWAMBC Newsletter, it is the May issue, fairly up-to-date. Apparently there has been a lot of response from SWAMBC members to the ending of the "What's on Guide", I just wonder how many of those actually purchased the Guide? Thanks to the editor of Ponderings, Graham Castle, there is a comprehensive list of "Open Days", some I have included in this months newsletter. Finally, don't forget this is your newsletter so if you have anything to sell, wanted or recent news and views regarding our club please get in touch with me either phone or e-mail.

## **SECURITY – SECURITY – SECURITY- SECURITY**

A timely reminder, I received a phone call this week from a member saying that while he popped out to the local shop, he had a visit from an opportunist burglar. Luckily, the club member had a secure back door and the house

windows were locked. Now that the warmer days are here (or coming), we tend to leave windows, workshops/sheds and garages open (whilst just popping out for the odd bottle of super glue). DON'T, you could be on any burglars list. A Police Officer visited the scene later and, apparently said, this was not this burglars first attempt in the area.

### **Rain and Blustery conditions at Sherborne Castle**

For a change the weather forecast was correct, and with heavy rain and strong winds set for the day it was decided by the organisers to cancel the event. Most of the events are held outside in the arena and on the lake, with marquees making up the main undercover area. There is only one paved road onto the site so it would have turned into a mud-bath. We would like to thank Danny Harris for organising the tickets and passes for this event, sorry that it had to be cancelled this year.

### **First Sailing Results,,,,, Danny Harris**

We're off! Last Sunday, 20th April, a total of 28 boats started the season at Portishead. Thank you for your support, and also thank you to Woodspring club for hosting the event, to Brian Gale as OOD, helping me no end, and to the excellent tea and coffee service provided until after lunch, much appreciated in the cold and blustery wind.

Position	Skipper	Position	Skipper
<b>65 Class</b>		<b>78 Class</b>	
1st	Neil Harvey	1st	Gordon Evans
2nd	Paul Newman	2nd	Geoff Portlock
3rd	Geoff Portlock	3rd	Betty Evans
<b>100 Class</b>		<b>100+ Class</b>	
1st	Ron Fry	1st	Chris Jackson
2nd	Tom Weatherby	2nd	Paul Jackson
		3rd	Pete Ferguson

Seven races were completed during the day, for each classification. As requested, I ran a handicap system as described beforehand, which caused some controversy. Would all skippers who took part please email/phone me with their thoughts, as soon as possible, so that I can make a democratic decision before the next meeting at Poole. If you don't vote, don't blame me if the decision goes against your thoughts on the matter. Your choices are a) keep the handicap system for the rest of the season or b) revert to last year's scratch racing I hope to see you all again at Poole on Sunday, 1st June. Danny

### **SWAMBC Newsletter**

As mentioned in my editorial we are more up-to-date this month as we have extracts from the May issue (54) of Ponderings. Things are changing within the organisation of SWAMBC, usually the committee meet formally two or three times a year to discuss important issues, well now they are in the 21st century and it is all telephone conferencing. Less travelling and time involved with meeting members who live over a wide area, apparently, this has proved a success, so far there have been 4 telephone conference meetings to date and according to the Secretary "Bill Hickman" they are highly effective.

Announcing another major step, SWAMBC have purchased the portable model boating pond from Elmbridge MBC. This pond is used outside the pavilion at Weymouth during the annual model boating festival. Some of us are (very) familiar with erecting and dismantling the pond, which will now be stored at Weymouth (saving the round trip of over 300 miles, which Mark Stevens kindly made last year!) Also produced in Ponderings this month was an article/advice from the organisation MPBA relating to "The Promotion of Welfare and Care of Children and Vulnerable Adults in Model Boating". This subject has been discussed at recent club meetings with the Drifters.

**Exeter and District MBC** held their "ALL Sail Day" on 23rd March unfortunate only 7 turned up due to the poor weather conditions and Easter being so early (probably members still building their models). The good news is that their Open Day Fathers Day is on the 15th JUNE so no doubt a few more than 7 will be participating.

**Falmouth MBC**, Sadly Wilf Burrows past away, he was one of the founding members of the club when it was reformed after the war, 1945. Wilf built a large outstanding model of the Queen Mary (recent photo shown in the May's issue of Ponderings). Falmouth MBC also have an Open Day on 10th August. **Camborne Pond Hoppers MBC** (like a number of other clubs) will be visiting far and wide across the west country, Redruth, Truro and Penzance.

**Lion Park MBC (Jersey)** A couple of mishaps over the winter period, one member lost his model tug, after laying on the lake bed for a week it was successfully recovered. Then later a large storm hit the Island and there tug towing load/vessel (a 7 foot model) had been sitting on a table having its annual refit, when a massive blast of wind hit the model.....yes back to the drawing board! Fortunately the club did meet with success by raising £2800

towards their new (full size) lifeboat. [Looe MBC](#) apparently the local council are running a fleet of "Pedalos" on their sailing water this year, the club are waiting to see how their model will operate alongside. A little early for our "Open Day" section in Driftwood, but their special day is Sunday 14th September, yes a long way to travel from Shepton, but you may be on a late summer break.

[City of Plymouth MBC](#) started off May attending a number of shows and events including Mayor's day, sailing at the Civic Centre Pool and at Millbrook Lake, then on the 25th at Crealy Exeter, finally Looe Open day on 26th and 31st Mayflower day... what a busy club! [Poole Radio Yacht Club](#) started their year at High Cliff in aid of the RNLI followed by Poole Vikings Annual Show, no doubt we will see them at Weymouth and a number of other shows they hope to attend during 2008. [Sedgemoor MBC](#) sadly the competition at the Swimming Pool in Brea did not take off, well there is always next year. The Apex park their sailing water has now gained Green Flag status, no not Green Flag the car rescue service! [Solent Radio Control MBC](#) this is their 30th year in model boating, quite an achievement, at High Cliff they held a special show with a large number of models on display, again another club raising funds for the RNLI this time over £800. It is one of the few clubs I know that have a membership waiting list, they have a limit of 100 members, along with other clubs they also have club shirts, sweatshirts, hats and transmitter aerial protectors. [Tone Valley MBC](#) held their first steam day in April and although the weather was not its best (only at Weymouth!) their day was a success. Apparently they have a water fall at the end of the lake, yes you guessed it, the Chairman was seen doing a four minute mile as his boat went over the top, it was said that it was the fastest he has moved in years, luckily the boat survived and was seen sailing on the lower lake. Not to be outdone another modeller had the same fate trying to save a third model.... glad to report all models survived. It has been suggested that future scale steering events should include going over the falls.

[Weymouth and Portland MBC](#) have been setting out their programme for 2008, and will be attending a number of events in the Dorset area. They are also introducing a plank race with members given a plank of wood with instructions to produce a model to sail, rumours some of the members used the planks to put up extra shelves in their workshops are not true? [Woodspring Model Sailing Club](#) took part in their first exhibition of the year on 12th April, South West Ship Show, at Portishead. Traders were selling books, photographs and other marine art which proved very interesting; their model boat stand was well received. Finally, [Yeovil Model Warship Association](#) after attending the Bath and West Show Ground followed by holding the first round of the scale-steering competition, Danny reported that he has the common problem like most of us, in a certain age group, seeing far enough to get round the buoys.

### Open Days – Special Events – Open Days – Special Events – Open Days –

Please be advised that the following dates/times may change due to adverse weather conditions or other unavoidable incidents. Check with the organisers if you have a long journey. Most of all, are your batteries charged?

June	14th	Shepton Mallet Drifters	Collett Day *****Help Wanted Please****
	15th	Exeter MBC	Crealy Park Fathers Day
	15th	City of Truro Mariners	Open Day
	22nd	City of Plymouth MBC	Open Day
	29th	Penzance	Mazey Day (Open Day)
July	12/13 <sup>th</sup>	Weymouth IMMF	Weymouth/Radipole Lake/Pavilion (SWAMBC)
	13th	Poole RYC	Open Scale day
	13th	City of Plymouth MBC	Open Day number 2
	13th	Woodspring MSC	Open Day
Aug.	10th	Falmouth MBC	Open Day
	17th	City of Plymouth MBC	Open Day number 3
	24th	Sedgemoor	Pete's Fun Day
	24/25th	Garth MBC Poole	Open Event
	25th	City of Plymouth MBC	Open Day number 4

Events covering September, October and November will appear in the next issue of Driftwood.

Don't forget if you want to contact the organisers please be aware they are volunteers so don't phone at Midnight or any ungodly hour (i.e. during Coronation Street/Eastenders etc.)

### Some Future Events (Put them in your diary NOW!)

Collett Day Sat. 14th June Drifters run the lake-side events contact Jackie

International Model Festival Weymouth Sat/& Sun 12/13th July Contact Mike Knight

Bryn Bach Park MBC, Tredegar Sat. 16th August Contact Mark Jennings e-mail: [Mark.jennings4@virgin.net](mailto:Mark.jennings4@virgin.net)

Christmas Night Sail Sat. 13th December at Collett Park (advance warning!)

Don't forget the deadline 27<sup>th</sup> July for "Driftwood items" to Ted ASAP [geminio1@btinternet.com](mailto:geminio1@btinternet.com)

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHEPTON MALLET DRIFTERS M.B.C  
Held at the Thatched Cottage, Shepton Mallet, Monday 12th May 2008

**Meeting Opened at 7.40pm**

B Stevens(Chairman), M Knight(Secretary),  
R Trott, C Button, G Bowkett, N Harvey, B Leakey, D Harris, M Edwards,  
I Rodda, P Rodda, S Jackson, J Stevens, D Semper, G Haberfield, T Smith, T Brooks,

**Apologies**

T&D Porter, V Redwood(Tresurer), R Chander, R Stevens

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

Read and approved

**Matters Arising**

Child Protection Policy was discussed, Committee to review MPBA document and propose club policy.

**Chairmans Report**

Barrie reported that he will attend the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in July and reported on Weymouth progress and various events attended by the Drifters including that at the Bath & West and Bridgend.

**Treasurers Report**

Barrie read out a written report from Verd , club finances healthy a few subscriptions still outstanding.

**Secretary's Report**

Approval given by Local Council for use of Collett Park for Scale Steering event and Christmas night sail.

**EVENTS**

12/13<sup>th</sup> July Weymouth Spirit of The Sea high profile of activity. Entertainment now 99% Las Vegas Nights – 1960's tribute bands.

Collett Day – All help gratefully received

Cranmore Quarry Weekend – 21/22<sup>nd</sup> June, 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cranmore railway, camping available, names to Jackie if you wish to attend.

**AOB**

Dave Semper distributed some copies of Ponderings and encouraged members to attend events.

Meeting Closed 8.05pm.

There followed a talk by Alistair Roach who was the guest speaker.

**NEXT CLUB NIGHT MEETING**

7:30pm Monday 21st July2008 Thatched Cottage  
Please note change of date due to Weymouth Model Boat Festival

**DEADLINE for DRIFTWOOD Sunday July 27th 2008**

