



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2021

INTRODUCTION

Now that the world is slowly returning to normal, we decided it was time to write to you all in the form of this newsletter to welcome back all our wonderful customers, including new faces that have joined us this season. We pride ourselves in a happy, friendly atmosphere at the Fish & Duck and hope you have all settled in and made new friends. It's great to see the enthusiasm shown by all to get back out on the water and enjoy the wonderful world of boating and the beautiful surroundings of the area. We would also like to share with you some of the exciting plans we have to improve facilities at the marina (see later item).

TEAM F&D NEWS

It's been an exciting time within the F&D family, firstly with the birth of Emma's baby Buddy whom a lot of you have met already. Buddy was born on May 6th and is already in training to become a member of the team (see photo!). And then on Tuesday 12th October, Tracey and Duncan are getting married at a nearby wedding venue owned by one of the marina's long-standing customers! On this day the office will not be open as all members of the team are otherwise engaged!



MARINA GATE

Having installed the entrance gate after the first lockdown to give peace of mind to our berth holders during a time when it wasn't possible for you to visit your boats, we hope the minor inconvenience of having to open it when you come and go is more than offset by the added security it provides. The early teething issues have hopefully been overcome and although sometimes the Eldes gate app may go 'offline', the gate will still work by dialing the gate phone number (07748 399745) from any number that is registered on the system. Meanwhile, if you encounter any problems, please call us on the number posted on the gate.

OPENING TIMES

Our winter hours (1st November 2020 – 27th March 2022 inclusive) will be 10-4 on Saturday and Sunday, and 9-5 Monday to Friday. As always, if you need help and the office is unattended during normal opening times, or in an emergency, please call or text any of our mobile numbers displayed on the door.

BOAT SALES

As you are probably aware, the demand for used boats has been unprecedented this year with people wanting to explore alternative holiday options. Consequently, we have been very busy and have enjoyed another successful year, but demand has left stock low, so if you know of anyone that is thinking of selling their boat, please suggest they contact us for a free appraisal.

MOORING FEES

The fees have remained the same since 1st January 2020, partly in response to the impact of the pandemic. Unfortunately, there have been significant increases in our costs, which mean we must now raise mooring fees and other charges from 1st November by around 5% – your personalised statement will be sent to you separately and please remember to update your standing order from 1/11/2021. Thank you.

BOAT SAFETY AND INSURANCE CERTIFICATES

Please forward copies of your insurance and BSS certificates to Emma when they are renewed, thank you.

LIGHTING & REPAIRS

As the days get shorter, lighting around the marina becomes more important, so if you happen to spot a light that isn't working then please let us know so we can get it fixed. The electric bollards all have numbers on them so they can be easily identified. There are also some repairs needed around the marina, particularly parts of the decking and flood bank stairs that have deteriorated over time. Tom has made a start on these for us, but it will take time, so please bear with us while we do everything as quickly as we can to make sure the marina remains safe. If, however you notice something that you are particularly worried about or you think we may not be aware of, please let us know so we can address it.



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RUBBISH

We provide separate waste bins for glass, general domestic waste, dry recyclable domestic waste (currently paper and cardboard only) and ash. Please put only the permitted waste in each of the bins, do not put hazardous waste of any type in any of the bins and please do not dump anything next to the bins as we are not able to dispose of it – there is a waste recycling depot just a few miles away at Witchford for all other waste items, oil, batteries, etc. Thank you for your cooperation.

CALOR GAS, DIESEL & COAL

For reasons beyond our control, we have been struggling to get hold of sufficient stock of Calor gas refills. This is a nationwide issue, which we understand should slowly improve in the coming months. Red diesel is now in short supply too and prices have rocketed as a result, so please check with us for current pump prices. 25kg bags of Newburn coal will be available @ £12.00 each throughout the winter.

DRIVING

The access road verges will soon be cordoned off for the winter to protect the ground, so please be patient and use the passing places to avoid damage to the grassed areas. As a polite reminder, all vehicles must be taxed and insured and no SORN vehicles are allowed on the premises.

RIVER ETIQUETTE

There has been a lot on social media about this during the season, but in essence ‘common courtesy’ is the best mantra to be adopted by all river users – keep to the speed limits, slow down passed moored boats, keep to the right, and give way to sail!

MARINA PROJECTS

Over the coming months we want to work on several projects that have been in the planning stages for a while, including:-

- Extend the diesel berth
- Replace the Old West bank steps
- Re-organise and re-stock ‘The Cabin’
- Install a boat sales jetty behind the office
- Provide our own boat-lift facilities

THE CABIN

The purpose is to stock and sell boating products that are needed to keep your boat going, and everyday items to keep their owners going! Pop in to see what’s available and if we don’t have it, let us know so we can put it on the shopping list next time. One of the most popular items is Elsan blue refills, still at only £2.50 per litre!

APPROVED MARINE CONTRACTORS

We have details of approved contractors for most of your boat related requirements, so please ask us and we will be pleased to put you in touch with them. Contractors not known to us must contact us before they can carry out any work on the premises.

PETROL

With the recent introduction of E10 petrol at filling stations, we decided to find out how this will affect boats with petrol engines and the advice we have been given is that owners should put premium petrol (E5) in fuel tanks (inboard and outboard) whenever possible. In addition, use fresh petrol, use a fuel additive (we stock Star Brite Star Tron – a 250ml bottle treats 180L fuel and costs £13), replace your filters, and inspect your fuel lines regularly. All this information and more is contained in a very helpful page on Sheridan Marine’s web site:- [Will E10 Petrol Affect My WaterMota Boat Engine? - Sheridan Liner Blog - Sheridan Marine](#)

2022 EVENT!

We are planning to hold a social event in the summer of 2022 to celebrate all that is good about boating and our marina. Details to follow in due course 😊