

ENDEAVOUR NEWS

Leigh-on-Sea Endeavour Trust

Charity Number: 1094473

www.endeavourtrust.co.uk



A Trip At Last!

Having suffered Covid-19 lockdown in St Osyth for months just as the weather warmed up, Endeavour came home to Leigh Marina for the final stages of repairs and painting. Almost every event planned for 2020 had been cancelled or postponed. Then the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships invited us to join them at St Katherine's Dock.

A list of members to join the trip upriver was assembled for September 4th with the return on the 11th. Two day before sailing came the sad news that 20 odd little ships from

the upper Thames could not join us because the river under Hammer-smith Bridge was closed to traffic due to the bridge's unstable state. It was decided to go anyway.

Skipper Paul Gilson and Cameron McGregor were the heroes of the day, taking Endeavour out of Leigh Marina to a Ray mooring in the small hours and then picking up members from Holehaven slip at 0830. The weather was fine but breezy and the passage upriver on the flood tide was enjoyed by all.

We arrived off the dock at 1345 and waited until the lock opened at 1430.

Endeavour was given a prestigious berth near the bridge into the city. She was dressed overall complete with the Little Ships' jack. An interpretive board was left in full view, plus after an inspiration from Rob Everitt, an enlarged QR code to allow the public access to the Endeavour website.

Also on board were Paul Burden (an addition to Endeavour's register of 'skippers') Chris Burls, Mike & Sam Shelley (from the www.leigh-on-sea.com web site) John & Tom Savill, Mark Steen and friends Clare Warner, Glen Jones and Eddie Barnes. A good time was had by all!



The trip home, which had been scheduled for the 11th had to be brought forward to the afternoon of Sunday the 6th. This decision was brought on by a combination of the lack of other little ships and the marina fees.

Unfortunately those members, who had opted for the 11th were unable to change their plans, so it was with Allan Barttram skippering and Rob Everitt and Chris Burls as crew that *Endeavour* had an idyllic run back to Leigh on a lovely sunny afternoon and evening.

New member, Mike Shelley reflected: "You hear that it is a small boat but you don't really realise how small until you have to get on it. It was very cosy on deck with around 10 other people. The boat was built around 1926 and is not ideal

for long distance travel (it would roll about hard every time another boat went past). Travelling to Dunkirk and back is not an easy journey in peacetime, let alone in 1940 where it was rescuing



When Endeavour Went To Westminster

Fishermen are once again asking for greater control of the seas as the country tries to secure trading deals with the European Union. When we joined the Common Market fishermen were just as militant about their rights and took their protests to the heart of London.

Endeavour's former owner, Peter Wexham had a leading part in the protest with his partner, Dave Spurgeon. Recalling the protest Peter said: "It was always hard to make a living whilst having a family and a mortgage as well as the expenses of the boat and this was a very hard decision in my life.

"We were going into the Common Market and the Government claimed all the resources under the sea, oil, gas and aggregates but gave away our fish to European control. I made a banner with 'S O S' on it, standing for 'Save Our Soles'. The 'O' was shaped like a lifebelt and it was quite good even if I say so myself. We joined the flotilla of boats from all around the country on our day of protest at Westminster. It was a long trip up

the River and we had some local press with us. As we went through docklands all the cranes lowered their jibs to us as we went past. It was a tremendous sight which I don't think had ever happened before except when Churchill's funeral went past the docks.

"Once we got up the river the Police and the PLA stopped us and we were all told to moor up but just one small boat could go through Tower Bridge to happen before, it may have done for Churchill if his trip went past the docks but this I do not remember. Once we got up the river the Police and the PLA stopped us and we were all told to moor up but they said just one small boat can go through Tower Bridge to make the protest and it was down to the Endeavour to do this with the world's cameras watching. They stopped the traffic and raised Tower Bridge so we could go through up to London Bridge and back down again to join the fleet.

"The fishermen were put on a pleasure boat to go up to Westminster Pier along

with the TV cameras and crews. The protesters wanted to be seen and crowded in front of them which led to howls of protest from the skipper who had lost control of the boat as the weight forward had lifted the rudder propeller out of the water!

"We did our march along Whitehall and the Embankment to Big Ben where a coffin with signs on it saying, 'British fish for British fishermen' was launched off the bridge into the water. We watched it go down river until the PLA got it out as a hazard to shipping. It was a sad day and I had a bad headache which for some reason I always did when I went to London. I asked Dave to drop me off at Tilbury where I got the train home. The next day I talked to my family and Dave and sold him my share in the business and never went on board her again until we found her years later in Rochester."

troops and being fired at by aircraft.

“Even though you’re the smallest thing on the water, a lot of landmarks don’t look as imposing as



they are when you’re on land; Tower Bridge isn’t so big when you approach it and, while the Dartford Crossing feels massive when you’re going over it, its comparatively dinky when you go under it.

“Granted, the boat would rock every now and then when something bigger passed us by, but it was mostly smooth sailing (smooth enough to make a few rounds of tea which was surprising). It’s only when you get into London that things start to feel unsteady as you feel the wash from other ships keenly when in the narrower part of the river.”

Chris Burls and Mike Shelley



An Expensive Year, But Worth It!

As we are unable to have our normal AGM this year, we thought you would appreciate an update on our financials. The detailed financial status is now available, as usual, on the website – look under AGM.

2019/20 has been a particularly costly year for the trust. Luckily we were able to hold our dinner in November, but as you are all aware, all other fund raising events have been cancelled due to the pandemic.

We have lovely members in the trust, which we are so thankful for, some of whom have helped even further by making some lovely donation, totalling over £2k in the year.

One sponsor, The East Anglia Pub company (The Peter Boat), also donated a sum of £580, and we have been informed that we will be receiving a donation of £333 from the Waitrose Community Matters programme.

You may have seen that we have also now got a donation button working on our Facebook and website, so donating couldn’t be easier – and it’s such fun to use too – plus we have Amazon Smile now available for anybody who buys online.

Main financial note this year has been the removal of rot from the boat. As you would have read in the last newsletters, as part of our usual maintenance schedule, we had planned in this year to get the deck re-caulked by Brian Kennell and Shaun White, the boat builders who performed the original restoration.

We took the boat round to their yard in St Osyth, but when they started investigative work, they found a significant amount of rot in the stern deck, rudder and transom, which meant that *Endeavour* was laid up over there for much longer than we had originally envisaged.

The final repair bill for 2019/20 was over £16k, over half of which was covered by the wonderful Co-op donation that we

had received in early 2019, and we are so thankful to the people of Leigh-on-Sea and the Coop community fund for making that happen.

We took advantage, whilst *Endeavour* was laid up over in St Osyth for months, and a bunch of ‘willing volunteers’ spent some very, very cold and some very, very hot days over in St Osyth, and in Leigh Marina, scraping, sanding and painting her... an experience we won’t forget!! She is now looking lovely.

The Trust started the year with a total of £19,172.50 in the bank, and we ended the financial year at the end of August with £6,978.53. Hopefully, normality can ensue in 2020/21 and we can plan some events together... Thank you members!!

Rob Everitt—Treasurer

Mooring Dug Out Thanks To Leigh Marina



Peter Boat. One reason for this was the amount of damage caused by there not being enough depth for the boat to sit comfortably.

Following extensive work with a digger we have been able to alter the mooring lines which should stop chafe on the rudder and hull.

For most of this year *Endeavour* has not been on display on her usual mooring opposite The

Leigh Marina has been wonderful to us with moorings and servicing work while members were able to come aboard to do general maintenance.

As winter approaches the boat will remain safe from harm in the Marina in the hope we can get to sea next year without social distancing!

Making Donations to the Trust

The Trust has set up a number of different mechanisms to enable members and supporters to make financial gifts to help with our work.

All money that is received by the Trust, irrespective of method of donation, will be used to maintain *Endeavour* and ensure she's used for the purposes for which the Trust was established and registered with the Charities Commission.

We know that there are many pressures on people's time and money, and we are always incredibly humbled by and grateful for the generosity of our supporters. Thank you!

Membership

You can support our work by becoming a member and renewing your subscription annually – which since you're reading this in our newsletter, you've already done! Thank you!

PayPal Donate

You can make one-off donations to the Trust via the yellow 'Donate' button on www.endeavourtrust.co.uk. You don't need a PayPal account as long as you have a debit or credit card. There is a small charge (1.4% + 20p per transaction) to the Trust for receiving these donations but you can use Gift Aid to ensure that we receive the tax back.

Facebook Donate

Facebook users can visit our page at facebook.com/EndeavourTrustLeigh

and click the blue 'Donate' button under the main photo. There's no cost to us taking donations by this method and you can use Gift Aid. Users can share links to their followers to ask for donations if they wish.

Donations via Cheque

You can donate by sending a cheque made payable to the 'Leigh-on-Sea Endeavour Trust' to: The Treasurer, Leigh-on-Sea, Endeavour Trust, 9 Woodside, L-o-S, Essex, SS9 4QX.

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile is a charitable programme run by Amazon. For every eligible purchase Amazon donates 0.5% of the net cost of the product free-of-charge to you. It won't change the world, but it all makes a difference!

You have to use a dedicated link; smile.amazon.co.uk. The first time you do this you will be asked to select your charity (The Leigh-on-Sea Endeavour Trust, hopefully!) and thereafter, as long as you use that dedicated Amazon Smile link, we will get the donation from eligible purchases. Amazon mobile app users can turn on Smile by looking under 'Settings' in their app.

More information about all of these methods of donating, including security information and our Privacy Notice, is accessible from www.endeavourtrust.co.uk/p/donate.html

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Honorary Vice President: Bill Reynolds

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Newsletter Design/Online: Fraser Marshall

www.endeavourtrust.co.uk

www.facebook.com/EndeavourTrustLeigh/

Principal Sponsors

Adventure Island

Anglia Batteries

Botyard Restaurant

East Anglia Pub Co. (The Peter Boat)

Endeavour School

Essex Heritage Trust

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

Leigh Marina

Leigh Times

Marine Engine Services Ltd (Lister Petter)

Olympus KeyMed

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council



Volunteers Wanted!

We are always looking for new volunteers to work on the boat or assist behind the scenes. Whether it's elbow grease or admin skills, if you'd like to help, we'd love to have you and you're assured of a warm welcome. Please contact rob@endeavourtrust.co.uk.



Scan with your phone to visit our website!