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## **Autumn Newsletter 2013**

Hello Everyone,

Time for another newsletter – the end of summer is approaching and there are a fair few things that need doing before the weather properly turns! But enough of that for now – let's instead look back at the season.

We have been lucky to receive even more visitors (from far and wide and many types of boats) than in previous years, some old faces returning year after year and, I am pleased to say, many new ones as well. All these people stress how nice a place we have here at Banff Harbour Marina and how friendly and welcoming the people here are. So a big thank you, as always, to you all – keep up the good work!

We have had much better weather this year than compared to last, with many opportunities to get out on the water. Some venturing further than others with trips to Orkney, the Caledonia Canal, Lossiemouth, Helmsdale, Wick and Inverness to name but a few. There have also been day sails too numerous to mention and a number of Regattas. Banff's Regatta (held on the 14 September) was very well attended with 24 yachts (11 racers and 13 cruisers). The weather on the day was certainly trying so well done to all who took part. The evening meal was, by unanimous opinion, a success so praise goes to Moira and the Ladies of the Sailing Club.



Early in the season the RNLi held its open day at Macduff Harbour and many of you took the opportunity to have your life jackets checked and tested, thank you to the Life Boat Crew for arranging this facility for us – the Banff Harbour Open Day made a donation of £410 from the money raised earlier this year.

Right back to business! Firstly we would normally be considering a change to the access codes at this time of year but as they have only recently had to be changed you will be pleased to hear we are not planning on changing them again now until next year

– so please keep this in mind and do not disclose the code to anyone. Code changes, especially when they occur at short notice, are a major inconvenience to all concerned so if this can be avoided we would like to do so.

Some of you will be considering moving your boats out of the water and into the compounds for dry storage over the winter. As is normally the case if this is your intention could you please let me know as soon as is possible in writing that you would like a spot in the compound to help me arrange spaces accordingly. Speaking of the compounds myself and harbour operatives have been clearing them in preparation and we have discovered that a number of the trailers stored are in need of some maintenance. You are reminded that trailers

are only to be stored if they are properly labelled, capable of being moved and if space allows. So if you have a trailer in the compound, please take the time to ensure its wheels are free and properly inflated in case it needs to be moved, many thanks.

I have had comments from berth holders that some amongst our number are not parking their vehicles on the piers in as considerate a manner as they could. Can I please request that parking on the piers be limited to berth holders only (please ask your guests and crew to use the car park by the harbour office) and that if you do park on the pier you do not obstruct access to other users. Thank you all for your help in this matter.

Whilst I am having a moan – please be aware that the pontoons should be kept clear from obstructions at all times. That is no creels, fishing gear and so forth to be left unattended on the pontoons (storage space is available on the East Pier please speak to me to confirm your spot). Keep creels are not to be placed in the berths themselves, please check with me if you need a keep creel placing in the harbour and we will find a suitable spot. Also the marina trolleys should be returned to the trolley park at the foot of the ramp when not in use. Also you are reminded of the harbours byelaws and rules and regulations (all available on-line at [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/harbours](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/harbours)) especially those relating to the safety of you and your guests whilst at the harbour – this should ensure everyone has a safe as well as fun time whilst at the harbour.

The dive survey was carried out earlier this month, we are still awaiting the details of the report at this time, also I am pleased to let you know that we have successfully obtained an AEF Grant to part fund the purchase of an ice machine to be placed here at the harbour. Further work still is required before it can be installed but the process is underway. I have spoken at length to various Harbour Users about the positioning of the proposed davit and a decision has been reached to position it on the East Pier – a suitable base design is being investigated. Work has also begun on next years tide tables and the plans to dredge the harbour early next year are also in hand.



One final point to note Final Instalments of berth fees for those choosing to pay via this method are due on the 30<sup>th</sup> September, and a reminder to you all that I will be moving onto my winter hours come the end of October, but as usual I am always available on the end of my phone should you need me outwith these hours.

A final reminder that 'Project Kraken' is still ongoing so:

'If you suspect it. **REPORT** it.' Call **0800 789 321**



All that remains is an earnest wish for a few more good sailing days before the year is out for all you diehards! Good Sailing and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

*Sam*