

Thames Traditional Rowing Association Spring 2007 Newsletter.

This is not necessarily going to be a regular feature but I thought I should bring you all up to date with what has been going on and what is happening as we move in to the New Year.

2006 ended with a new event for our calendar ~ the Bankside Frost Fair. This is a re-enactment of the age-old fairs that used to take place on the river when it froze over before the 'new' London Bridge was built in 1831.

Southwark Council has run the event for the past three years with great success and this year asked if we could provide some form of river based display ~ well who are we to refuse such an offer!

The lateness of the invitation meant that many of the fleet had been laid up for the winter and The Launderers just couldn't beat the red tape of British Waterways to be able to join us.

Saturday 16th December dawned a clear, sunny day and the five cutters 'Penelope', 'Lady Gillet', 'Tallow Chandler', 'Barbers Cutter' (crewed by HMS President) and 'Trinity Tide' mustered at St. Katherine's Pier.



On a falling tide (we were constrained by the timing set by the organisers!) the crews set off upstream in line astern. They fought their way under the bridges eventually arriving in the pool opposite the Globe Theatre where oars were tossed in salute.



The result was instant loss of way however this didn't deter the crews who pushed on under the Millennium Bridge. After a quick phone call from your Secretary to the lead launch of Port Health the proposed route was shortened and the crews turned before Blackfriars Bridge tossing oars once more under the Millennium Bridge and then turning to come in to Bankside Pier

After some very nifty mooring and careful disembarking the crews were met outside The Globe theatre by the Guildable Manor of Southwark with their crier who formally welcomed the individual crews and then we processed into the theatre for a reception (wine & victuals) where we were joined



by Masters of a number of other Livery Companies. To complete the ceremony the Master of the Guildable Manor presented the crews with an illuminated scroll of the official welcome.

The trip was topped off by a personalised guided tour of The Globe and then on for a wander round the Frost Fair stalls ~ a wonderful day was had by all.

Southwark Council Tourism Development Office has already asked us to come again next year; I have accepted on your behalf promising more boats with more regalia so please put the date in your diary for a marvellous day out.

What's next on the calendar?

The annual conference where we get together to discuss matters is on the 7th March at HMS President.

I know one matter to be dealt with is the training course for coxes. We have plenty of information in hand ~ is there anyone out there willing and able to give some time to putting it in to a workable form from which we can move forward?

Other matters for discussion please forward to me and I'll circulate the agenda prior to the 7th ~ thank you.

The Information Technologists will soon be taking delivery of their reconditioned boat 'Ashe Lincoln' (no doubt to be renamed) and the Coopers and Carpenters are still on track to be joining the fleet in the future whilst other Companies are in negotiation.

With regard to this years events please see the attached Notice of Intended Attendance (memories of my previous life in the Police!) ~ I would be grateful if you could give me an idea of the events you will hope to put crews out for.

If we can assist with any problems you are encountering with regard to your boat please let us know and we'll do our best.

Here's wishing you all an enjoyable and successful 2007 season of boating.

Malcolm Knight

Secretary TTRA