



Movember Newsletter

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It's not often that you see Andy with a smile on his face, but the other day when it was suggested to him that the 'new starter' take full responsibility for the 'type setting/graphics' etc, etc, of this month's newsletter, Issue no 49, the corners of his mouth did turn slightly up and he did a little sort of sideways skip as he left the office. Mind you I still expect him and Jenny, my long suffering better half to proof read and correct all my spelling and grammatical errors! As I have remarked upon in previous issues, any type of computer in the Storror household is always a source of extreme frustration. As I attempt to put ink to paper for our November offering my dearly beloved is trying to make sense of her (our) new iPad, uttering strange comments like "it won't allow me to join" and "it must be faulty" (actually she wrote and entered the wrong password if the truth were known) to name but a couple of the printable ones. Why did we end up with an iPad as against a good old Abacus? Well, avid readers, the answer lies with the 'Mystery Shopper' see article titled 'Lights, Camera, Action' on the next page for more information.

Movember sees the start of the cultivation (by Andy and myself and the other staff members) of our facial hair in aid of Movember, I have had a few 'practise runs' but please take time to read the article on Movember and if you're feeling particularly generous, help sponsor us.

Movember also sees the start of our two local winter series. Andy and his motley crew are once again defending their crown on the river Tyne at St Peters Marina. Its every second weekend and as we go to print the first blood has gone to one of the Cork 1720's, second race in the series saw more wind than last time which suited Colin D and the Buddy team. Join The Club was first round the windward mark but having to, drop the kite and sail backwards to remove flotsam put them right to the back. Buddy, Enigma and Wild Riever had some close racing but it was Buddy who managed to hang on for the win. Yours truly is about to start his winter series campaign helming the Melges 24 Clapped Out Toy Boy. The venue? Down on the sea at Blyth, host club being the RNYC. When asked by our local investigative journalist from the Seafarer Weekly how did I rate our chances my response was "I only hope I can improve on my Wednesday nights efforts" they say practice makes perfect.



My week's sailing in the Greek Isles on Peter and Anita's ketch rigged Oyster now seems like a distant memory. All the locals that we met were charming, friendly folk, they tell us that all the trouble one sees on the TV news is up in Athens and in the area where we were sailing they all work hard, pay their taxes and sometimes pay their electricity bills! Look hard at the image taken on the quayside of Prevesa (incidentally where you can moor your yacht or powerboat for weeks without cost) and you will see the cable for the stall holder 'plugged' into the adjacent street light. When I asked the owner of the bar where we were sitting how long the sweetcorn seller had 'enjoyed' this perk he said 'well when I bought the bar six years ago he was doing it then' We had a fabulous holiday, hospitable genuine people, superb anchorages often with a tavern within a 100 metre row. My only complaint, it would have been nice to have a little more breeze in the afternoons!

NEW STARTER

Well not really, Claire Green who comes from the Isle of Wight has re-joined us after a spell of maternity leave, followed by a couple of years at Uni where she successfully completed BA(Hons) in Graphic Design. Claire, by the age of 18, had already completed and passed her Yachtmaster which included taking and passing her RYA radar, long and short band radio and sea survival course, she has thousands of sea miles under her belt. Her next big challenge? Not only is she going to be running our highly successful clothing department, she will also be responsible for dragging the two Andys and yours truly, kicking and screaming into the world of Facebook/Twitter posting all the blogs on the sites, designing posters and mailshots, the list is endless, oops nearly forgot the 'new look' to the newsletter, hope you like this one, her first!



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DID YOU KNOW...

In the 16th and 17th centuries, before the invention of commercial fertilizer, everything had to be transported by ship. Therefore, large shipments of manure were common. It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, it not only became heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas. As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOOM! Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening. After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the term "Ship High In Transit" on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane. Thus evolved the term "S.H.I.T," surviving centuries and is in use to this very day. You probably did not know the true history of this word, neither did I, I always thought it was a sailing term.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

No complaints from our avid readers, even 'Angry' from Gateshead was silent!

AS SEEN AT SOUTHAMPTON

With our stand at Southampton being manned by the 'new starter' as well as myself, it meant that early in the morning or late in the afternoon when 'traffic' was light I was able to desert the stand and go off piste to sniff out the new products that hit the market. I liked the Knox anchors, so much so we now stock them. They claim they have even better holding power than the 'new generation anchors'.

A product that also caught my eye was Universal Stone which cleans polishes and protects. It's completely natural so it is safe to use around children, pets and allergy sufferers and it doesn't harm the environment. It's very useful around the house for cleaning grouting, UPVC windows, metals and, of course, around the boat it can be used for cleaning gel coat, painted and varnished surfaces, stainless steel as well as chrome and alloy surfaces. It's great for cleaning fenders, vinyl upholstery and rib tubes and perfect for use in the galley to clean cookers and Corian work surfaces. It's now available over the counter at our Newcastle based chandlery or by mail order from www.marinechandlery.com

Also new to the marine market was an excellent range of torches by Exposure Marine who manufacture in the UK (makes a pleasant change these days) their superb torches were tested by the Ian Walker and his team aboard 'Abu Dhabi' In the last Volvo RTW race, I particularly liked the LED 'XS compact micro' torch which has a rubber 'grip' so you can clamp/hold it in your mouth (it has of course a Dyneema loop so you can 'store' it round your neck) As well as a powerful LED white light it can be switched to red so you can preserve your and your crew members night vision.



MOVEMBER

November sees a clean shaven (makes a pleasant change) editor, his business partner in crime Andy Burgess and other members of staff participating in the 'Movember' charity facial hair appeal. The 'roots' (like the pun?) of all this started almost a year ago when we bumped into Jotron's Neil Atkinson at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport last year just after both our passports had been stolen (but that's another story) Neil was sporting a rather fine display of facial hair and in response to our interrogation as to why he looked so dashing he told us about Movember, the charity which was set up some years ago to raise public awareness and vital funds for men's health, specifically prostate and testicular cancer. So, on the 1st of November we start to grow and groom our moustaches. The rules are simple, there is to be no joining of the Mo to the sideburns (that's considered a beard) there is to be no joining of the handlebars to the chin (that's considered a goatee) and each Mo Bros must conduct himself like a true gentleman, I will find that hard to do! To help us raise funds please go to : <http://uk.movember.com/team/706657> or search for Storrar 'Mo'rine on the Movember website and make a donation, thanks in anticipation.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION & THE MYSTERY SHOPPER



Earlier this year, with my tongue firmly pressed into my cheek, I wrote that International Paints had possibly chosen our company to film part of their new promotional film on our premises because it was the 'nearest chandlery' to their headquarters in Felling, not because we were the best! Local seafarers and navigators know this is not true i.e. there is another outfit slightly closer, however when it comes to the best in the country for retailing International's products it was with great satisfaction that in International's recent Mystery Shopper competition (the mystery shopper awarded points for participating chandlers for their level of stockholding, presentation of the product range and most importantly on product knowledge) we did think we came out rather well, third out of over 150 chandlers who had entered, perhaps it was my lack of geographical knowledge that let us down or the fact that we had an empty space on our shelves (Andy had already cleared a space for the cup, so confident was he that we would do well!) We had of course hoped to scoop first prize, which was a new small van and a goodly selection of Apple products, as my current wheels has over 100,000 on the clock and on wet days the dashboard lights up like a Christmas tree. However it was not to be, our prize for coming third? over £1500-00 worth of Apple products including three iPads and two iPod touch's for the staff. Well done Andy, Andy, the other Rob and Norma who all took home a share of the spoils, me I proudly took home an iPad gave it to Jenny and that's where it all started to go wrong, **AGAIN!**

DEAR AUNTY FOULING,

If the truth be known I have most gadgets on my boat, however with winter closing in and those longer lonely nights I do lack in entertainment when I take to my bunk, yes I have a DVD player and must confess that I am word perfect when it comes to watching 'back numbers' of Desperate Housewives. I had thought of getting a TV antenna fitted to the radar arch so that I could get the weekend programmes that I so love (Strictly Come Dancing and the X Factor are my fav shows) however, the thought of an aerial that looks like a UFO turns me off, I end up so frustrated! **Fiona.**



Dear Frustrated Fiona,

It just so happens that your favourite chandlery (almost the nearest to International Paints in Felling) has of course the answer to a frustrated maidens prayer, the Glomex Vega Antenna, will give you what you want and its such an attractive shape at only £76-95, it must surely give you **everything** you want! **Aunty Foulingz**