

The Hillyarder

The newsletter of the Hillyard Owners Association
www.hillyardyachts.com



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FROM MICHAEL WALDEN. HOA, COMMODORE

Dear Friends

All the signs are that the restoration and desire to own and sail wooden yachts is enjoying a resurgence. We get this encouraging impression from news and enquiries via email and through the post and activity on our website: www.hillyardyachts.com and, gratifyingly, being able to welcome more new Members to the Association (nine since October). In part this may be due to the recession, which bears out the old saying: "Its an ill wind that blows nobody a good !"

This popularity isn't so surprising to those of us who appreciate the qualities of Hillyard yachts which give us all so much satisfaction. Anyway, it must be the case that, the news is out, "wooden boats are fun and worthwhile!".

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WELCOME ABOARD

Christopher Hedger Landshipping, Milford Haven MINUET	9 Tons	1957
Ralph Howick (Re joining HOA) Brighton Marina SPINDRIFT OF BEAULIEU. Ex WENDY WOO	20 tons	
Simon Hyde Woodbridge. Waldringfield. SOOTHSAYER	8 tons	1960
Edward Jones Burry Port, Carmarthenshire. MARI	7 Tons	1924
David Pestridge Kinloss. Findhorn. PUFFIN	2.5Tons	1936
Hugh Quinn New Ross Ireland GAVOTTE	2.5tons	1943
Robert Rohrup Els Poblets Spain QUINTET	12 Tons	1957
Cathy Woodhead Porthmadog Ex PUFFIN	4.5tons	1930's
Yacht lying Bristol see article.		
Abigail Makiello Boulogne PETMAR	6 tons	1954
Edward Huntley and Susan Mcdermott Printed .West Sussex MEMMERT 11	5tons	1956

PUFFIN AROUND

A heartening story involving the daughter, one of a family cruising their Hillyard in the 1950's, wishing, more than half a century later, to publish the log written by her mother with accompanying photographs and her father's sketches, wondering if the yacht PUFFIN might still be around.

Coming across the HOA website hillyardyachts.com and communicating with us, Cathy's enquiry revealed three PUFFINS found respectively in Forres Scotland, owner David Pestridge; Pin Mill Suffolk, owner Charles Proud, both Members of the Association, and a third feared lost by neglect actually being restored in Bristol which proved to be her family's old yacht. Confusion in our records caused by there being three yachts of the same name is now put to bed.

I hope all Hillyarders will buy their own copy of the book, soon to be published.

Michael Walden.

FINDING PUFFIN

By Cathy Woodhead

From about 1952 to 1958 my parents, Robert and Jocelyn Greenway, owned a 22-ft Hillyard sloop called Puffin that they kept in Poole Harbour at Parkstone Yacht Club. My mother wrote articles about our holidays and Robert illustrated them with sketches, maps and photographs. Many of the articles were published at the time and after my mother died in 2003 I decided to put her articles about our voyages in Puffin into a book which I have called 'Puffin's Log'.

In January 2009 just before the book went to the printers I searched for Puffin on the internet. 'Puffin Hillyard' brought up the Hillyard Owners Association website of which I had no idea, and also the book, 'Two and half Ton Dream "Puffin"' by Ray Whitaker (Herbert Jenkins Ltd. 1959). I was already a bit confused about the tonnage of our Puffin. My father always said she was four-and-a-half-tons, but a sailing friend of mine said that this was too much for a 22-ft boat. Even though Whitaker would only have had a year to write his book I wondered if they were the same boat.

I phoned HOA commodore, Michael Walden. He was most interested and had a look in his card index. Yes, there was a Puffin but he had a note to say a boatyard in Bristol had rung in 2006 to say that a Hillyard Puffin would be scrapped in two weeks if no home was found for her. I think Michael then rang back to say he had found out that a David Pestridge had been in touch with the HOA as he had recently bought a Hillyard Puffin and taken her to Forres in Invernesshire. I spoke to David later and he seemed convinced that his boat was the same one as Whitaker's. He had not measured her yet but he would email me with some photographs.

Meanwhile Michael emailed to say he was mailing a copy

of the index card on Puffin, and he mentioned an article being published in the yachting press in 1999 or 2000 in either PBO, Classic Boat or Yachting Monthly. The owner at that time, he wrote, was Daniel Darwall.

I found Dan Darwall on Facebook and received a tentative 'Yes?' reply to my email asking if he had ever owned a boat called Puffin. I explained more and we spoke on the telephone. His Puffin (1) was the one in Whitaker's book. He was very pleased to hear the whereabouts of his Puffin (1) and he and his co-owner will be able to help David with his renovations.



Puffin (1) (photograph by David Pestridge)

In the meantime I began to wonder if Puffin (1) was our Puffin. Two photos settled it. Puffin (1) has the square portholes, and even if the type of porthole had been changed the position of the portholes and the general size of the cabin were wrong.



Our Puffin

Nextday(01/02/09) Michael emailed me with a new lead: 'Checking my email address list against our owners Association Membership, I have turned up the name

Charles Proud. Charles is restoring Puffin 4.5 tons 1936 at Pin Mill on the River Orwell, Suffolk.' I found Charles' telephone number on the internet. We soon established that despite his Puffin (2) having the same length and weight as our one they are definitely not the same boat. His Puffin (2) has a canoe stern and a centreboard.



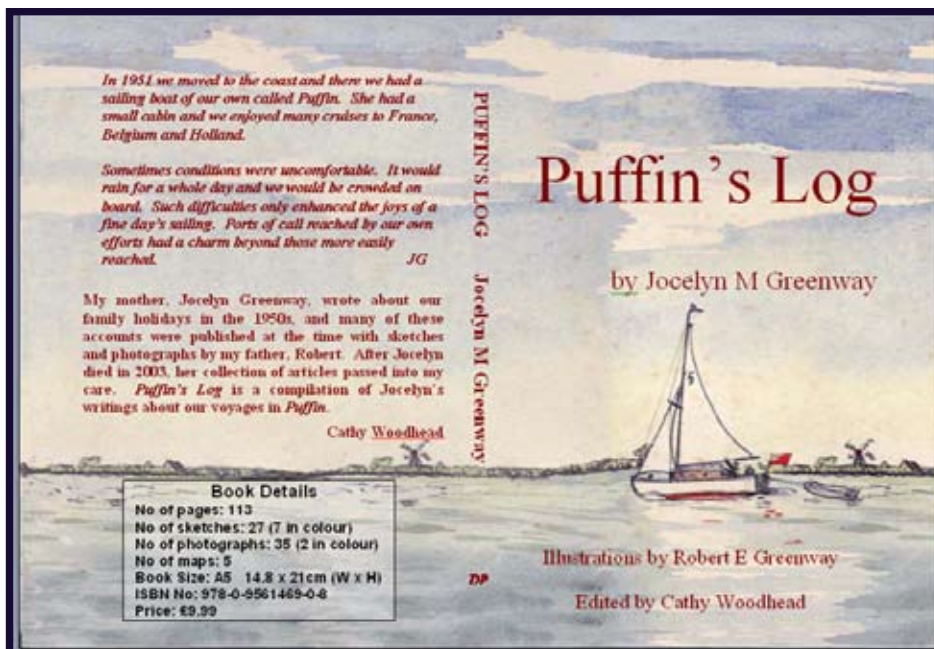
Puffin (2) (photograph by Charles Proud)

names and dates for the different Puffins were mixed up. But I did find the note that said 'April 2006 Underfall Yard Bristol tel call from Win Cnoops yacht will be broken up within 2 weeks if no buyer found'. Had this Puffin been destroyed? I phoned Win. Amazingly the boat was still in the boatyard and one of the boatyard employees, Jasper, was renovating her. I emailed some photos of our Puffin to see if they recognised her, and then Win emailed me back with his photos. There she was. I had found Puffin.



Our Puffin today or let's call her Puffin (3) (photograph by Win Cnoops)

On the following day I received Michael's envelope with the copy of the card index. I could already tell that the



Interested in buying your own copy of Puffins Log?

Then visit: www.delfrynpublications.co.uk.
Or contact Cathy on cathy.woodhead@btinternet.com

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