



Christmas Greetings 2009



Moody Owners Association, East Coast Branch

The view across Chelmsford, on this winter solstice afternoon, is one of snow on the roofs and sleet in the air. For once winter's arrived bang on time!

We had more than our fair share of adverse weather and strong winds this season, but despite this held more events than 2008; (twelve in all). Some were especially memorable: the (not a) shake down BBQ at Titchmarsh, cold, gales and Salsa; walks and samphire at Tollesbury and a sunny BBQ and carnival at Burnham. The Royal Harwich proved to be an excellent venue for our laying up supper and ideal for a summer event. All in all not too bad a season; due mainly to the sterling efforts of organisers and the many MOA members who made our events so enjoyable! Thanks to all of you.

A couple of weeks ago we, (your small but perfectly formed committee), met and put together a draft programme for 2010; the details of which are now on the website. As always events are provisional and dependent upon take up, but I hope there is something that appeals to you all. Our geographic spread means there will be opportunities for other local events; suggestions for these are always welcome. So if you want to hold something locally just give me a call; we will do our best to support you.

We have three winter events organised so far, maybe with one more in the Medway area.

- A lunch time talk on Sunday 7th February at the Lion Inn, Boreham; (fast becoming famous locally for the quality of its food). The talk is by James Littlewood on "Two years in the Baltic". Some of you may be aware of the exploits of Paddington IV from James's articles in Compass, but this is the inside story; so please come along and give him your support. After lunch we will hold our Branch AGM (don't worry this will be very short and entirely optional - details on the website shortly).
- On 11th February there is a visit to Harwich Haven Authority and their VTS centre; this is restricted to a maximum of 10; so its first come first served; However if oversubscribed I will attempt to get a follow up visit.
- Lastly on 7th March we have our popular lunchtime get together and get to know you at the Ferryboat, North Fambridge.

For our summer programme we have kept to last season's format of accessible local events. There are nine events so far; starting with our fitting out supper on 24th April at the Il Punto, Ipswich. We will publish more information on this and later events in our next newsletter and on the website.

By now you are probably well aware 2010 is MOA's 25th anniversary; but I'll mention it anyway; firstly because the launch will be at the London Boat show; yours truly had a hand in organising this; so you know who to blame! But equally importantly we have arranged a weekend of events and a special gala dinner at the Royal Corinthian Y.C. on 10th July and we would like to encourage as many of you as possible to come along so we can celebrate in style.

Our East coast events discussion forum is approaching a year old; positively ancient in cyberspace terms. Over the coming year we will continue to evolve it as one of our principal means of branch communication. Details of how to access the forum can be found on our website.

.... and still on the subject of branch communication, we have a new e-mail list service. All members with an e-mail address are on this list and please note that in the future we are going to be using e-mail rather than paper mail shots wherever possible, so if you want to stay informed, please continue to receive these occasional e-mails. If your e-mail address changes please let us know.

There are two £20 voucher prizes to be won for this winter's photo competition. The summer entries showed just how talented and creative our photographers can be; so let's have some equally stunning topical entries this winter. And remember all pictures submitted are automatically entered for the MOA photo competition.

Finally may Sue and I wish you all a very merry Christmas, a prosperous and peaceful new-year and we look forward to meeting many of you in 2010. Which will of course be a BBQ summer!



Chris