



# The Water's Edge

## Paxton Lakes Sailing Club, April 2011

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The new season of sailing at Paxton Lakes is now well under way. Some of you may be thinking it's still a bit early but not a bit of it, we've had some very pleasant sailing over the past few weeks. So dust off your sailing kit and give your dinghy a treat by getting it on the water. Boats find it very lonely in the dinghy park over the winter and like nothing more than a bit of rough handling in a stiff breeze to blow away the winter blues.

With this fine weather we've been having you'll be pleased know that Club rules say we no longer need to be wearing wet suits or dry suits since we've passed the magic date of March 31st.

### Work parties

The works parties were quite well attended this year and as a result we managed to clear the area at the south-west corner of the lake. Even as we were doing it we could see the difference it was making to the wind on the water.

Of course there's more maintenance that needs doing than can be done in three days. Recently it was spotted that the earth under the main slipway was being washed away. After much thought it was decided to pack sand bags in the cavity. This provided the support for the slipway and should act to prevent any further erosion.

### Keys

When you're the first to arrive and you unlock the combination lock on the inner gate can you try to remember to re-lock the padlock and rotate the combination so it's not known to all and sundry as they take their dogs for a walk. This will also prevent it from being pinched.

Next time you're in the Race Box you will notice a small safe has been bolted to the wall. In the safe is a copy of each and every key for the Club. All committee members should know the code and in case of a collective loss of memory Pat has an emergency key. So if you find yourself in need of a key just ask one of the committee members.

## Weekend away at Bradwell

Paxton Lakes sailing club is pleased to invite you to a weekend away to sail on the river Blackwater. The event will be hosted by Bradwell Outdoors, a purpose built residential outdoor activity centre. Dates 19th to 21st August 2011. Non-sailing members also welcome.

The centre offers all tide access to a large sailing area on the Blackwater from its own slipway in a sheltered creak which also serves the marina next door. The weekend package will include the following for a cost of approximately £100 per person, depending on numbers applying to go. A deposit of £25 will be required with your booking, cash or cheques to Paxton Lakes Sailing Club.

- Arrival any time from 4pm on Friday the 19th August
- Two night's accommodation in the centre's main building in shared bunk rooms
- Cooked breakfast on both Saturday and Sunday mornings
- Evening meal on Saturday night
- Packed lunch Saturday and Sunday (available in the mornings to take with us on the water if necessary)
- Two days of sailing with full rescue cover. We will be able to set our own programme of cruising and racing during the two days
- Access to the centre's mountain bikes, high ropes and other activities, subject to supervision availability
- Access to the centre's own dinghies (e.g. Wayfarers) for £50 per boat per day if you prefer not to take your own boat
- Ability to keep your boat safely overnight in the main centre compound
- A very well equipped boatyard and workshop should you be unfortunate enough to break something whilst on the water

For our two days on the water we will be able to set our own programme of racing or cruising activities. With favourable wind and tide it is possible to plan a good length cruise which could take us to other spots on the Blackwater including Mersea island. If the weather is too rough for regular dinghy sailing then we will be able to use the centres 22 foot ketches so getting time on the water is pretty much guaranteed.

In addition to the sailing, the local area provides opportunities for walking around the Dengie peninsula including a circular walk easily completed in an evening which takes in St Peter on the wall, one of the oldest chapels in Britain. After that you can relax in the excellent Green Man pub which is less than 100 yards from the centre.

If you have non-sailing members that wish to come with you this can also be accommodated for approximately £60 per person. Please add their details to your form when booking.

Sounds ideal? Well that's because it is! A booking form is available on the club's web site [www.paxtonlakes.org.uk](http://www.paxtonlakes.org.uk).

## Odds & ends

The Club has invested in a new set of VHF radios for the safety boat and race box. They are to be kept in the galley. If you have been on duty then please, please remember to return the radios to the galley and put them on charge so they are always ready for use. The instructions for using the radios will also be kept in the galley near the chargers.

Every year we have a Come & Try day to give members of the public the opportunity to have a go and hopefully enrol on a course or join the club. This year it's on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May and starts at around 10 a.m. Please tell anyone you know who might be interested trying their hand at sailing. Also, we always need helpers so if you are free that day then please come along and help out, either on the water or organising ashore.

It's never too soon to be thinking about a team for the RNLi 24 hour race, which this year will be on the weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. If you are new to the club and aren't sure what's involved, just ask. There will be more information about it closer to the time.

## News items

If you have any news that you would like including in future newsletters then please send them to me at the email address shown below. Without fresh input there's a real danger that this simply becomes a platform for the ranting of the criminally deranged.