

## **Victoria Dock Berth Holders Association**

### **Message from the Chair**

When John asked if I would be prepared to stand as Chair for the Association who would have thought we would have ended up here – or to quote Lenin, ‘there are decades where nothing happens; and then there are weeks when decades happen’ – but hopefully the revolution is still some months away. In the meantime, we will respond to the situation as best we can. One thing we have learned in our 14 years liveaboard sailing is that when the unexpected happens, the route back to certainty can be tortuous, especially if you over react, but through mutual support and some creative thinking things come good in the end.

So, there are a number of outstanding issues, which were highlighted in the recent survey, and the Committee will be looking to address those in due course. In the meantime, the most immediate concern is the payment of berthing fees following the lock down of the marina facilities. We are aware that the situation is somewhat fluid in that some berth holders have paid, some haven’t and some may not even have received an invoice. I therefore wrote to Gwynedd County Council and CHT yesterday requesting that the collection of berthing fees be immediately suspended while the lock down continues and that, once the lock down is lifted, consideration be given to an adjustment of fees which reflect the loss of facility.

We will keep you updated once a response is forthcoming.

I certainly feel like I’m working off the back foot here having only had a berth in the marina for just over a year and having met so few berth holders. However, I’ll do my best to live up to the high standard set by Pam, who has been helpful in passing on information and getting me up to speed. I also appreciate the support I’ve received from John Whittaker, Eddie Williams and John O’Sullivan.

Our boat is a 1963 wooden Vertue called Contessina on berth 63 on the north side. Once the lock down is lifted I look forward to meeting more of you. Please get in touch if you have any problems or queries.

Finally, I know things are difficult for us all, but give a thought to those currently ocean cruising who find themselves locked out of all ports and marinas. We have been in touch with one boat that left the Falklands, was turned away from South America, sailed to South Africa and was once again turned away without being able to re supply or re fuel, and finally after 55 days at sea picked up a mooring off St Helena in the South Atlantic, along with 17 other boats, and was re supplied but is now quarantined for 14 days before being allowed ashore.

There’s always someone worse off than us. Stay safe.

Chris Jones