



THE FLYING CARPET



The Newsletter of the new HQ of the Essex Yacht Club

October 2001

Issue 1

From the Editor

Welcome to the first newsletter dedicated to the Wilton.

It is our aim to try and keep the entire club informed of progress on her fit out and most importantly get you all involved in the myriad of fund raising and working activities that will inevitably happen.

Progress and major events will be notified by announcement at the club, newsletter or email. The quickest and cheapest method is via email so if you are not already getting club news via email and have access to it please notify me of your address immediately.

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Did You Know ?

The Wilton is a Ton Class minehunter named after towns and villages whose name is suffixed with "ton".

Wilton is the world's first GRP naval vessel. She was based on earlier wooden boats and was fitted out with the equipment of the scrapped HMS Derriton.

Wilton's hull below the WL is 7" thick

The first HMS Wilton was a destroyer that took part in the Anzio Landings

There is a web site dedicated to Ton class vessels. The URL is www.tca2000.co.uk



HMS WILTON IN WEATHER

Where is she now?

Wilton was brought around from Southampton on the 22nd September to Woodger's Wharf, Otterham Creek, nr. Gillingham. She spent a few days on a mooring before being taken to the dockside. At time of writing no work has commenced, but after a process of identifying all equipment and fixtures to be retained, strip-out will commence. This identification is being done by your Ship Committee and it is the intention that as much of the superstructure is retained as possible, as with the Bembridge. Aft of the Bridge as well as most of the areas below deck will be stripped to allow the construction of suitable accommodation. The design process is being done by an architect under the supervision of the Ship Replacement Committee.

The Financial Situation

The Wilton has been purchased outright, and after towage, legal fees etc. the Ship Replacement Fund stands at about £50,000. The finance committee has worked very hard to ensure that we use the funds wisely and to that end and because of the jittery state of the Stock Market we have used much of the liquid cash in the club rather than sell stock. This is also tax advantageous.

What Can You Do?

The Essex Yacht Club is your club, just as much as your own front room, therefore the expense and work involved must be shared by all. We would like all members to support the various functions, club nights and weekend opening. Every time you buy a drink at the Club money goes into the Wilton coffers not a landlord's deep pockets!

In order to replenish our cash and to service direct costs on the Wilton the committees are keen to raise money through fundraising events, so if you have any particular skills or work in an organisation that might be able to help financially or practically please let the Editor or the Commodore know as soon as possible.

From the Bridge



"I have just signed the contract for the stripping out of the Wilton. The response to my fundraising letter has been good and a few more responses will mean not having to release stocks and shares at a bad time so please dig deep and help the Club."

Alistair Hanman Commodore

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