



yachting life

www.yachtinglife.co.uk Volume 36 Issue 07 March 2012 £2.80



Hero Charlie Robertson and Lady M back at Nairn Marina base after the 84 year old kayaker in sub-zero conditions.

west.

Charlie said: 'He shook my hand and thanked me when I met him again at the harbour. I'm pleased it turned out the way it did'.

'My boat's OK and I hear the kayaker and his kayak are fine too,' he said. 'It was quite an afternoon – probably a lot more exciting than the cancelled football match.'

One of Charlie's fellow Nairn Sailing Club members said: 'It was a brave thing to do. Charlie is one of our most experienced sailors and is fearless. He's a real character and for a guy of 80-odd to go in there and throw a line in

such conditions and rescue the kayaker is amazing.

'He deserves to get some form of recognition'.

● They may be more than 650 miles north of the Thames, but that's not going to stop Wick Marina celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant with its own maritime festival.

And to make the event an inclusive Moray Firth celebration, every sailing club in the north has been invited to participate by sending boats.

For three days from 15 June the Wick Diamond Jubilee HarbourFest and RNLI Lifeboat Day will transform the three-year-old marina into a carnival with a packed programme of events designed to pull in the crowds and show off the best in north of Scotland boating.

The last harbourfest in 2009 was a runaway success, and the organisers are planning an even bigger event this time.

Wick harbourmaster Malcolm Bremner said: 'We're pulling out all the stops this year with free berthing for visitors and something for everyone ashore and afloat.'

'We're lifting the curtain on the event just before this year's Portsoy Traditional Boat Festival and hope we may get some of their boats making the trip north before heading back

to the Banffshire coast.'

One of the stars of the Wick festival will be the locally based Isabella Fortuna; a magnificently restored 45ft Fifie sailing fishing vessel built by James Weir of Arbroath and launched in 1890. She was purchased by the Wick Society in 1997 for £6,000 and totally restored in the Caithness port. She now sails as part of Wick's rich heritage story.

Principal coordinator is David Richard-Jones, who says the three days of celebration will feature Wick's own Diamond Jubilee Queen accompanied by a Royal Court who will process through the burgh.

The programme includes a local 'big gun' – a real canon that was presented to Wick around 150 years ago and used to stand guarding the harbour. It was moved into storage some years ago, but is being permanently relocated to its former harbour site during the festival.

Running alongside will be an RNLI Lifeboat event that will be attended by lifeboats old and new and star the former Longhope Watson Class boat Thomas McCunn which is now the centrepiece of a working museum on the Orcaid island of Hoy where it was based until replaced by the tragic TGB which capsized on a call with the loss of its entire eight man crew on 17 March 1969.

Along with stalls, a funfair, music and an aerial display by an SAR helicopter, David expects more than 150 boats of all kinds to be on parade.

'We want to mirror the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the Thames and make the Wick Harbourfest our tribute to that great event,' he said.

● Plans for the traditional festival and restoration have been taken another step forward.

The Portsoy Harbour Trust for Restoration is a well known local organisation with a subsidiary in Wick. Traditional buildings earmarked for restoration at the town's waterfront secured a further boost from Rural Development. Leader of Development out two features. One will extend to properties which concentrate on a model.

PORT chairman Crombie says the scheme is designed to boost tourism, the community and a unique traditional boatbuilding facility that will be residential and a visiting group.

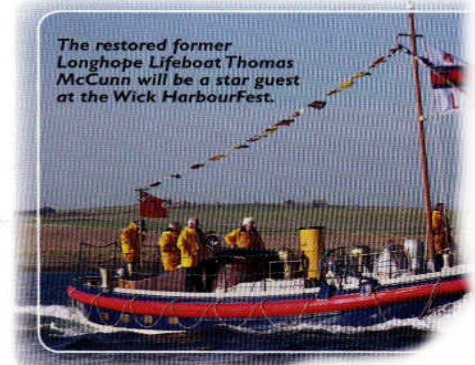
He said: 'The scheme is secondary to the confidence of the community, particularly in the port.'

'The restoration of the boatsheds will allow us to take the next level.'

The feasibility study is expected to be completed by the end of the year, hopefully at the start of the Portsoy renaissance.



Wick Marina where the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant will be the principal theme at a major harbour festival in mid June.



The restored former Longhope Lifeboat Thomas McCunn will be a star guest at the Wick HarbourFest.