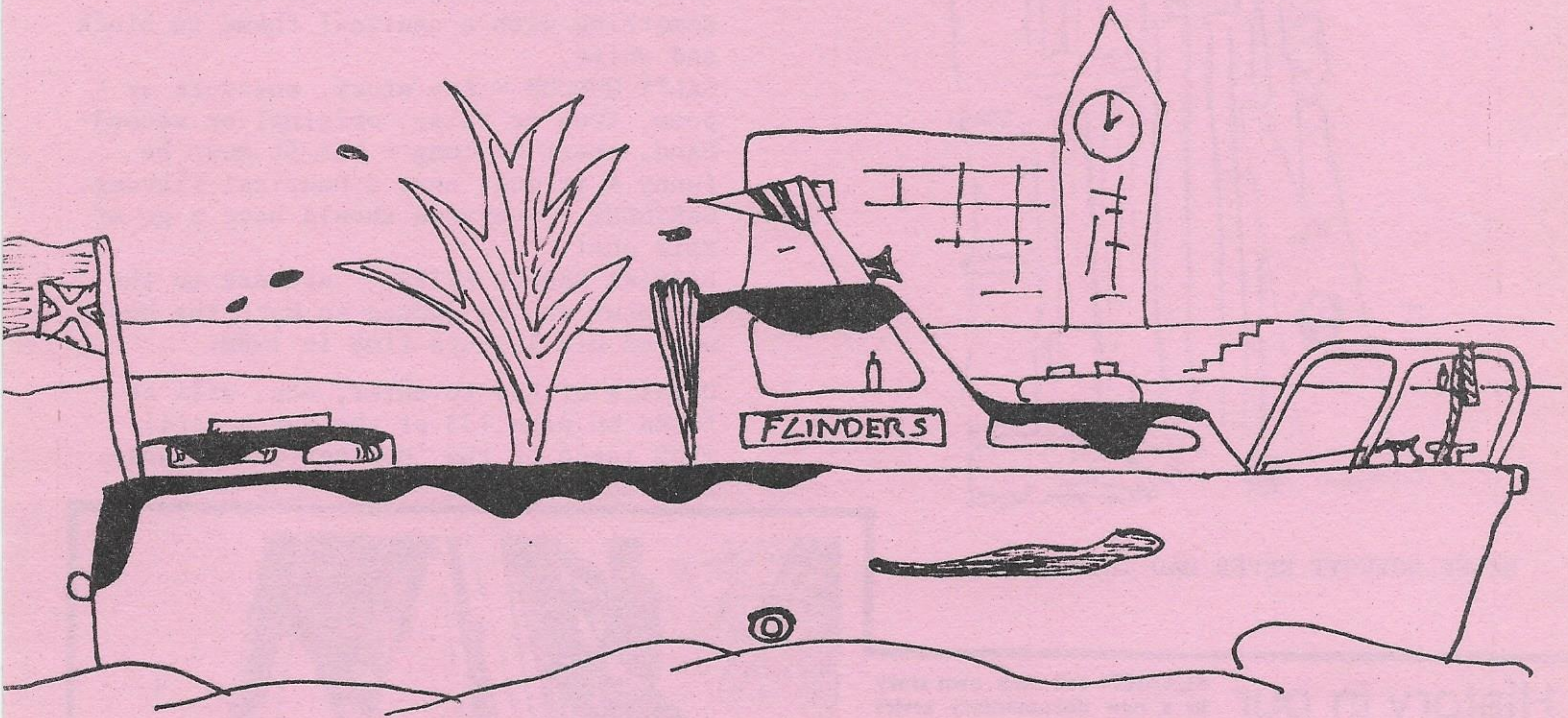


# MNC NEWS

No 111

16<sup>th</sup> May 1980



BUT MR HARLAND  
Perhaps it's supposed  
to do that !

G. Kemp & M. Simms



ELEVEN £50 PRIZES TO BE WON in  
1980 Seafarers Arts Competitions.

These competitions run by the Marine Society are open to all British merchant seafarers, their wives if at sea, fishermen and lightkeepers. Entries should be in one of the following categories:

SHORT STORIES - to be kept within 3,000 words. Any subject.

ESSAYS - to be kept within 2,000 words.

Subjects: 1, A Page from Noah's Diary; 2, Women; 3, Shipboard Social Structure; 4, Somnambulism; 5, Marine Observation.

POETRY - to be kept within 25 lines.

Any subject, any style.

ARTICLES - on any theme suited to 'The Seafarer' magazine.

PAINTING - oils or watercolours. Any medium, any theme.

HANDICRAFT - Models, ropework, carvings.

DRAWING - inks, pastels or pencil.

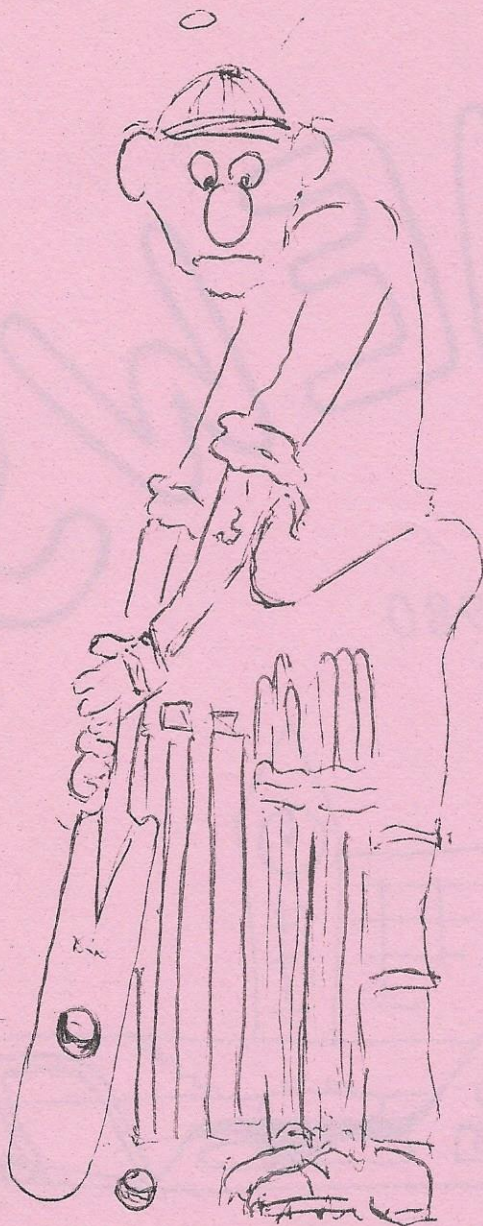
PHOTOGRAPHY - Prints only please. Any subjects, but preference given to something with a nautical theme in black and white.

SALTY HUMOUR - Any story, anecdote or poem, true or false, original or second-hand, short or long - but it must be funny & it must have a nautical flavour.

CARTOONS - everyone should have a go at this one!

BARBARA HARMER PRIZE - awarded to the seafarer who is judged to make the best use of his leisure time in 1980.

Details of how to enter, etc. will be found on page 133 of the March-April 1980 issue of the 'Mariner', available from the Library.



GEOFF BOYCOTT NEVER HAD THIS PROBLEM!

## History in our own words

### WISDOM

"Once spit on,  
twice shy"

"Never allow a  
wire to take a  
short nip"

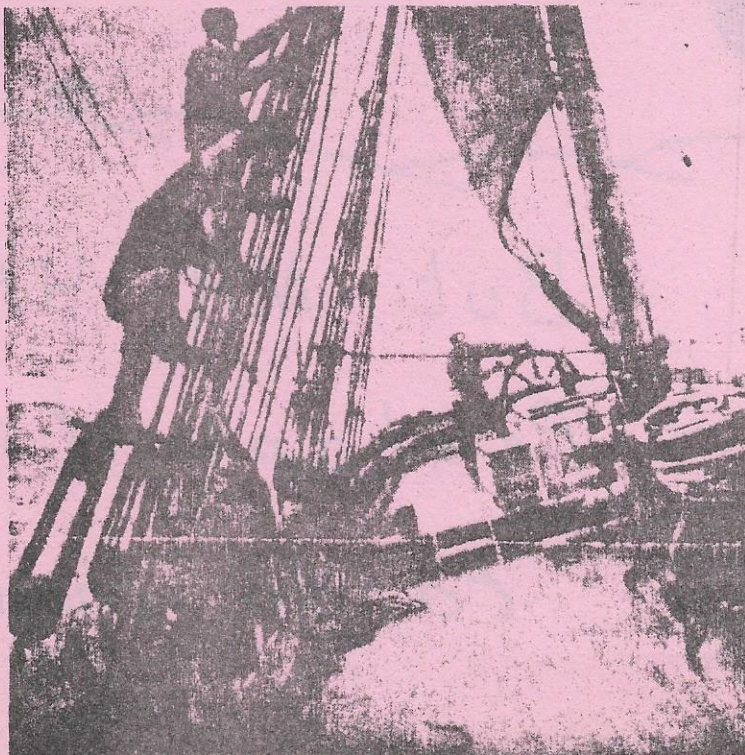
SEAMEN tell their own story in a new documentary series *The British Seafarer* being broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on Sundays at 10.15 p.m. Based on tape recordings, letters and other first-hand sources, the 26 part series recounts seafaring history from Elizabethan times to the present day.

The first batch of nine programmes ends on 8 June, but the series resumes later in the year.

One future episode will deal with the growth of unions from 1780 to 1939.

Programmes scheduled for May and June include "The Complete Seaman", "Owners" and "Stresses, Strains and Storms".

The series is being made in collaboration with the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich,





Thank you for the bottles and goods which have been arriving in the General Office, but we desperately need more bottles, of any description. If every student and member of staff brought in ONE BOTTLE we could make a fantastic bottle stall. So please help. If you can't manage a bottle, any donation of goods would be greatly appreciated. Please help us to make Your Summer Bazaar a GREAT DAY.

CAROLE SEAWARD  
HON. SECRETARY, MNC BRANCH RNLI

Sparkies, rather than Nautics, will know Mr. 'Bob' Douglas, who has been missing from the staff all this term following a very serious car accident in which he and his wife were involved over the Easter holiday - not his fault, he was on his own side of the road going at a proper speed and someone else went slap into him, head-on. You will be pleased to hear that he is making progress, albeit somewhat slow, and has been able to write the following letter of thanks to all his well-wishers.

"To our friends at Greenhithe -  
Many thanks for the numerous good wishes, visits, and kind offers of help. These have been a source of strength and comfort to us both over a very difficult period.

Despite a few remaining medical problems, I am pleased to say that we seem to be over the worst and on the road to recovery.

Many thanks once again,

Dawn and Robert Douglas

And I am sure everyone will join us in sending him all our good wishes, and in hoping he will soon be back with us.

#### PHYSICAL GRAFFITI

In this beautiful land of ours, it is a shame that some mindless idiots have to scribble all over walls, public (or private) lavatories, and/or anywhere else available. Or is it?

Here are some examples of the British mind at work: for instance:

Be alert - your country needs lerts.  
Save a tree and eat a beaver.  
I've told you 50 000 times; stop exaggerating!  
Be security conscious; 80% of people are caused by accidents.  
I wouldn't be paranoid if people didn't pick on me.

Rooner spools OK.  
Humpty Dumpty was pushed!  
Hissing Sid is innocent! (groan) etc. etc...

Of course, there are the replies as well, the obvious one being:  
Jesus saves - but Keegan gets the rebound.  
Work for the Lord - the pay is terrible but the fringe benefits are out of this world.  
Keep this bus tidy please - throw your tickets out of the window.  
Keep Britain tidy - kill a tourist today.  
Where will you be on Judgement Day? - waiting for a number 9 bus.

Women's Libbers also have their say:

The instruction is that the following should be read with a Brooklyn Accent.

"Summer bin vcumen in"

D' spring is sprung.  
D' grass is riz,  
I wonder where d'boidies is.  
D'boid is on d'wing -  
But dats absoid,  
Becos d'wing is on d'boid!

#### FAMOUS SPORTING QUOTES:

"He's going for the pink - and for those of you with black and white sets, the yellow is behind the blue."  
Ted Lowe, TV Snooker Commentator

"Some people think football is a matter of life & death. I don't like that attitude. I can assure them it is much more serious than that."

Bill Shankley, Liverpool Manager 1973

"If you watch a game it's fun. If you play it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf." Bob Hope

"It should be a helluva fight. I wish I could watch it." Ed Hurley,  
Heavy-weight boxer, before a tough bout in 1967

"Many times on the beach a good-looking lady will say to me, 'I want to touch you'. I say, 'Lady, I don't blame you'."  
Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mr. America 1976

Dennis was walking along the street with his dog on a lead when he met one of his friends.  
"Taking him walking Dennis?" asked the friend.  
"No, I'm taking him to be destroyed."  
"Mad is he?"  
"No," said Dennis, "But he's not very happy about it."



## SUICIDAL MANIACS?

In this area, Dartford and a bit beyond, cars have gone inexplicably missing. How, I've no idea, but if you own a car, whip the rotor arm and/or anything else off it as it can be quite annoying to discover your prized means of transport transporting someone else about!

Which brings me to the subject of a mate's care. It is a white 100E with a black vinyl roof and Reg. No. ENK 321G, which, with a mind of its own, disappeared last Saturday night. It also has a "Playboy" sticker to the left of the Reg. plate.

I know it's highly unlikely, but if you should happen to see it, could you let me know as I will only tell the police. However, should this bloke find the person(s) involved, he/they will be travelling by means of 4 wheels - 2 small, 2 large,; no engine, but a nurse pushing it. When something trivial like this upsets him, his parentage can become somewhat doubtful.

Anyway, if you do see it, please let me know, as I want a kick too. The number again is ENK 321G.

Thanks a lot.

CHARLIE STRINGER

## GIGS

May 18th Helen Reddy at the Wembley Conference Centre

Suzi Quatro at the Hammersmith Odeon

May 19th - 20th Sky at the Hammersmith Odeon

May 22nd Helen Reddy at the Odeon, Ilford

May 25th Heavy Metal Special at the Lyceum.  
Featuring Krokus, Girlschool & Angel Witch

May 26th - 27th 10cc at Wembley Arena

Details in Library

From an advertisement for the Psychics & Mystics Fayre held at the Alexandra Palace back in April:

"50 pence for children and Golden Agers"

Is the football season ever going to end? It seems to extend into Summer more and more each year. OK, for most clubs it has finished, but because of the European Championships, England's interest will be keen until the middle of next month, which hopefully will bring a fitting climax to England's excellent season so far.

Win or lose in Italy, it will only be a two month break before the new season kicks off with the traditional Charity Shield Match, which will be between Westham - worthy winners of the FA Cup - and the might of the League Champions, Liverpool.

Anyway, see if you can recognise these faces, who, bar one, many will be seeing in action in the hectic month to come.

(Apologies to Sun readers & Courage drinkers!)





It is just forty years this month since the men of the British Expeditionary Force, together with assorted remnants of the French and other Allied armies, vanished off the beach at Dunkerque and from under the very noses of an advancing German army that thought it had them just waiting to be swept up. The Channel, the French beaches, and indeed the whole of Europe are so peaceful now that it is hard to believe that any of the events of 1940 can really have happened. To those of my generation and younger that war seems almost as remote as the Battle of Hastings or Agincourt, yet all those wars went to the making of the Europe and England in which we live today, and last Monday I enjoyed one of those experiences which remind one of the closeness of it all, of how nearly we do not have the freedom to enjoy those peaceful waters, and of a price that was paid.

For I was on the present PS WAVERLEY when Dunkerque Veterans, two of them weighed down with medals and one missing a hand, laid a wreath off Dunkerque to mark the site of the loss of WAVERLEY's predecessor and namesake in that evacuation, when she finally succumbed to the combined attacks of a number of German bombers while carrying 700 men snatched from the beach. About 350 of the 700 were saved, and WAVERLEY's gun fired on its own one last, defiant shot as she went under. That old WAVERLEY's captain was among the survivors and he was present aboard for the wreath-laying ceremony - "That meant a lot to me," I overheard him say later - but for all that it was a cheerful trip in splendid weather, 'Dunkerque weather', as my mother remarked in the morning before I left home. Just after we set out from Deal in the morning, for the first of two cruises, we saw a tiny boat bobbing home from her dawn fishing expedition, and she was one of the last survivors of the Little Ships - still peacefully earning her living forty years later.

Unfortunately, WAVERLEY is prevented from quite reaching France because her davits and boats are not sufficiently up-to-date - she has three splendid clinker-built wooden boats on old style davits, and a pile of valise-packed, self-inflating RFD liferafts in the place formerly occupied by a fourth - but we cruised off Cap Griz Nez in the morning and blew a raspberry and two 'loud blasts' (it was meant to be 'three loud blasts', but she gets water in her whistle and has to spit it out before she can 'blast' properly). With glasses it was possible to make out four people atop the cliff near the angular masses of the old German gun emplacements; apart from that the place was deserted, hedged and ploughed fields rolling down to sand-dunes and the sea. We cruised off-shore for a little way and then steamed back to Deal, where a school party left the ship and I had a turn ashore for an hour, and in the afternoon it was over to Dunkerque and the wreath-laying, then home again to the merry clowning of one Arthur Askey-like Veteran full of the Dunkerque Spirit - not entirely gleaned from the bar, he assured us, he only pretended to be drunk; and certainly he had no trouble in keeping his feet. For his finale; while the ship was tied up at Deal and we were waiting to disembark, she was playing pipe-music over her loudspeaker, and have you ever seen bagpipes mimed by someone with a chair over his shoulder, one leg hanging down in front, and blowing like mad on half a cigar?

Considering the 'busy-ness' of the Channel at that point, we saw remarkably little shipping in our trotting to and fro. There were two P & O Ferries, the PANTHER, and the TIGER who came as close as she dared for a really good look. Both had curious contraptions under their bows - if I were to say they were like bits of the WORCESTER's platform, that will mean nothing to many people. so perhaps, 'sort of horizontal snow-ploughs' would be better. They were just at water-level and occasioned a great deal of splashing and commotion under the bows, and the only possible use I can think of for them is, perhaps, to stop head-seas from rising up and breaking on deck - perhaps some reader knows more? A hover-craft also flew round us before going off in a cloud of spray and a rainbow - its engines made much the same noise as those old wartime bombers must have done. We saw one yacht about the size of TORRES - she came for a close look as well, a tarker in ballast, a few distant container ships and a distant Townsend Ferry, and that was all - apart from the Dunkerque Pilot Vessel lying off and eyeing us.

Unfortunately, WAVERLEY's decks were equally thinly populated, as they have been too often this season, a disastrous one for her. She has been a victim of the wildcat strikes in the newspaper industry, which have prevented her from getting her proper publicity and much of the time people have just not known about her; and since she is barely breaking even when running fully loaded, her making trips with less than a hundred passengers can only be described as a catastrophe. Yet those who did find her clearly enjoyed their day immensely, even the girl in the school party in the morning, who, having cheerfully decided, after two hours, that she felt sick, convinced herself that one of the 'sailors' had designs on her, and was trying to say so loudly enough for him to hear; while at the end of the afternoon I overheard the Dunkerque Veterans already making plans for a repeat



# 'ORRIBLE CROSSWORD

## Clues Across

1. (4,5) Done in small type for the best books?
9. (6) High flier must be buoyant sort of fellow.
10. (7) Course stuff out of state in Germany.
11. (9) Singularly humpish racer backed by Arabs.
15. (5,3,3) Go some way to find oneself lost.
16. (6) Writer lumped with the Pharisee.
17. (8,7) Turns to give away direction should helmsman 15A.
19. (6) Maid-of-all-work, neither here nor there?
21. (6) Anti-canine ordinance, apparently, even though it's chained.
25. (3,3) Test colour, for political reasons?
27. (4,6) Improve - as gardener would wish.
30. (5,3) Send telegram to motorist? Probably one climbing mountain.
31. (8) Out of, at first, part secs, comes to admire.
32. (5) Washed down, as sartorial accompaniment to doublet.

## Clues Down

2. (5) Make heard - you'd be deaf not to hear it.
3. (6) Hindu well schooled in India, put din about for him.
4. (9,6) One thing that might stop an irrisistable force.
5. (5,2,5) Get as thin as possible, thin candle will indicate.
6. (4) Sailor's craft in Malaya.
7. (4) Careful, got out of war, you know.
8. (3,4,2,4) Return to task, but without looking at it.
12. (6) A little changed affair, great for kiddies' weaving.
13. (6) Should it be ironed out to make a smooth wicket?
14. (6) Quarter-pint, that is, Highland servant.
15. (6) Guard - at southern way in.
18. (4) Stump Loyalist - look for a job.
20. (3) Container turns as writing point.
22. (6) Boring objects? They're made to be.
23. (6) Gravitational force sped to, honoured with presence.
24. (5) Get soaked in a hard climb.
26. (4) Bother! Prompted by a ladder.
28. (4) Sharpen - not with dry stone obviously.
29. (4) Daring out in spots.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

A B R I B E S A L L O W  
S T E A P A L E R  
S C H O L A R S H I P A D  
E R D E P V E E R  
T O E A B E P E E A  
B E R M U D A T R I A N G L E  
R O C N L N L N  
H E A D S T A L L T A P E T  
Y R R A I M A N N A  
M U D I M E R I  
E T H E E L E P H A N T S L  
R D S S O F F  
C H I L D T U R O  
O C O P E R A R I D D L E  
M A K E D O N E E D  
E O P T E D G R I S T

## TRELLIS PUZZLE

Four-letter words hidden in the sentence below fit into the grid as shown:-

"STOP, you PEST, it's OPENING"



PEST, STOP, OPEN

Archie, who sang alto in the choir, loved to tell anyone who would listen how the chap from Interpol opened the property box and then nearly collapsed with relief because he had revealed the stolen pears inside, neatly packed into PEat.



To help, one word is given;  
find the other eight.

Last week's solution: PITCHing it strong, OATis T. BERGoman crEDITED himself with the invention of CHEWing gum, a claim which VE LERs told had to be BASEless because...