

Dock Diaries

St. Katharine Docks

Summer 2009 Edition: June-July-August

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Forthcoming Events:

- The Great Gorilla Run takes place across London on 26th September - help support an endangered species.
- The Tower Festival runs between 10th–20th September featuring Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Lesley Garrett, Nigel Kennedy, the stars of Sadlers Wells and world music performances presented by WOMAD

The Thames Festival at St. Kats

On Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September 2009, St. Katharine Docks will be taking part in The Mayor's Thames Festival for the first time ever!

As such a historic location, the organisers felt it was fitting that we host The Thames Festival Classic Rally. For one weekend only, Centre Basin will be filled with a vast range of classic boats, dating as far back as 1860. Each vessel has its own dramatic and often romantic story attached, and together in association with Classic Boat Magazine and The Classic Sailing Club, there will be display boards by each boat to allow visitors to learn more about their remarkable history.

Amongst the exhibits there will be a number of Smacks, dating as far back as 1923, a selection of Sloops, some classic Thames Barges and The Nancy Blacket; a boat that was originally owned by Arthur Ransome, the author of works such as children's classic *Swallows and*



Amazons. The boat inspired the fictional "Goblin" in *We Didn't Mean To Go To Sea* and some of his other writings. The Nancy Blacket takes its name from one of Ransome's fictional characters.

All the boat crews will be in vintage costume, and Centre Basin will take on a festive appearance; with a large Marquee in Marble Quay Courtyard hosting a variety of nautical demonstrations and

activities, with plenty to see.

On Saturday there will be the chance to catch the *Twilight Parade* of the boats, as they leave St. Katharine Docks and set sail up the Thames, as the sun sets on the horizon.

It's the perfect weekend family entertainment and a must for all boat enthusiasts. We recommend it as a great place to either kick off, or end your tour of this year's The Thames Festival.

Bollywood Romance Alive in the Docks

St. Katharine Docks is the location of forthcoming Anglo-Indian Bollywood film *0-800-Love*, a modern day bitter sweet story of a lonely bookshop owner, played by John Abrahams.

Abraham's character begins receiving phone calls from desperate people on the verge of suicide; and he learns that his number has been

accidentally misprinted in an advert for a helpline. One night he receives a call from Mishka. He stays on the line with her until she falls asleep. Over time, she learns to trust him until one day they meet by coincidence. The bookseller falls for her but is unable to reveal his identity as her telephone councillor, but in only the way the best rom-coms can, he uses everything he has learned about

her during their late night phone calls to encourage her to fall for him! Set against a backdrop of Tower Bridge this film is sure to be a big hit.



Susan Boyle trumps the President's Address

St. Katharine Docks was one of the locations from which the now famous episode of the *NBC Today Show* was shot; the first interview with Susan Boyle since her breakdown that actually bumped Barack Obama's Presidential Address in the US television schedules in July. Something which is virtually unheard of—such is the value of Boyle's celebrity at present!

Susan Boyle was the unlikely singing sensation, who shot to unprecedented global fame when she appeared on ITV's *Britain's Got Talent*, with her

rendition of Les Misérables classic *I Dreamed A Dream*. She had an impact on audiences around the world, garnering fans such as **Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher**, and within nine days of her first appearance on screen videos of her had been viewed a combined total of **103 million times** on the internet alone.

Meredith Vieira, the anchorwoman of the American news programme flew over to St. Katharine Docks to shoot all of the links for the hour long **worldwide exclusive**

dedicated to Boyle and her arrival in the States to record an album.

Shot on the roof terraces of Devon House at night, the NBC presenter talked about Boyle's upbringing, with the iconic backdrop of **Tower Bridge** to help emphasise to the American public Boyle's British background.

The weather did its best to be suitably "British", providing a spectacular lightning storm across London; which gave real drama to the story of one woman's rise to fame.



Susan Boyle sporting her brand new make-over talks to Meredith Vieira on NBC Today in July. Image courtesy of NBC.

St. Kats to Antigua. Distance: 2951 Miles

Insurance Underwriter. Chartered Accountant. Do these job descriptions sound sporty and adventurous to you? Well, in July, here at St. Katharine Docks accountant Olli Back and underwriter James Croome launched their **55 day attempt** to row across the Atlantic from The Canary Islands to Antigua, sponsored by QBE Willis Insurers.

This enormous challenge, which is to raise money for East Anglia Children's Hospices and the MS Society sets off on December 6th.



The tiny rowing boat, seen here will travel 2951 miles!

In December, a very brave accountant, and a risk taking insurance underwriter will begin their voyage across the Atlantic in a tiny two-man rowing boat

A Daring Rescue

In June, the Docks played host to a **daring water rescue**; when three drunks decided it would be funny to jump into the water. Unfortunately for them, and for PC Allan Cowley and PC Gareth Walker who were first on the scene, the water was absolutely freezing, and very quickly two of the drunks fell **unconscious**.

Both police officers decided they had to act fast, and not

fearing for their own safety, they **stripped down to their underwear**, grabbed a lifebelt and jumped in after them. They **successfully managed to pull all three men out alive**.

Fortunately for St. Katharine Docks, all of this action was part of a **Police Federation reconstruction video** based on real events that had taken place in Hull, Yorkshire, and PCs Cowley and Walker were

nominated for the auspicious Police Federation Bravery Award. The film was broadcast on **The Sun** website for two months, and readers were able to vote for the winners, the officers were awarded regional **bravery medals**. We don't recommend that anyone jumps into the Docks here where the water can be as much as fifteen ft deep - all of the water action took place in a film stunts tank!



One of the actors in full make up prepares for his starring role as a drowning drunk

A Return to the Golden Age of Ocean Travel

This year, in conjunction with **The Thames Festival** and The B and H Group, St. Katharine Docks will play host to a very glamorous ball aboard a 1930's Ocean Liner.

Hidden away inside of Commodity Quay is one of the City's largest spaces, second only to Smithfield Market in size. A former trading floor, this awe-inspiring space will be transformed into **SS Atlantica** - a gorgeous luxury Ocean Liner.

Guests, all adhering to the strict dress code of "At-Sea

Formalwear" - gentlemen in **tuxedos and top hats**, and ladies in **long ball gowns**, fur stoles and jewels will be able to spend the night drinking champagne, whilst dancing the Charleston to the live Big Band entertainers.

When all of that vintage debauchery gets too much, the guests can take a light promenade along the deck and indulge in games such as Shuffleboard, Bridge and the oh-so-fashionable **Dominoes**, or settle down to enjoy the delights of 1930's **silent cinema**.

There will also be a small **Casino** for those who delight in risk taking!

This will all take place on **Saturday 12th September 2009**. Boarding begins at 8pm, and the floor show; which will include **cabaret acts and a string quartet** starts at 9pm. SS Atlantica docks again at 2am.

If you would like a ticket for this exclusive maiden voyage then please contact Gossip Consultancy, or visit the website: www.ssatlantica.com



Everyone will be in costume on the 12th of September at SS Atlantica, taking place in St. Katharine Docks.

Lights, Camera, Cash

Over the past few months, we've discovered just how popular St. Katharine Docks is as a film location. Not a week goes by without a number of requests from **music video directors, news teams, location scouts** for television dramas and even the odd **international movie producer**; all looking to set a scene somewhere on site.

Although we are able to cater to a number of requests, we receive far more than we can accommodate. **We're often asked for boats** - be it a

small 28 ft sailing boat, or a 60 ft yacht with luxury trimmings. Many people are after somewhere unusual for a photo shoot, a live broadcast, or most recently as a stage for a live jazz band!

Also in **extremely hot demand are office locations**. A furnished office or boardroom, available during working hours is very difficult to come by for location scouts - but they are often able to make use of spaces during evenings and weekends. Equally, people are always

chasing **luxury apartments, or anywhere that offers a great view**.

We have even been asked to provide a "luxury ladies toilet" for a music video!

Why not consider allowing your property to work for you? If you'd like a chat about the possibilities available then please get in touch with us on **020 7264 5318** - we'd be happy to advise you, or act as location managing agents for you while you concentrate on how to spend the **bonus income** you receive!

Boats of all sizes, furnished offices and apartments - especially those with a view are in VERY hot demand

Teenage Heroes

On July 3rd, **four teenage boys** set out on an enormously **brave record breaking attempt**; to sail around Great Britain in 25 days in their British Gas sponsored tiny rowing boat; **The British Orchid**. They chose the Docks as the location for their last supper and press launch before setting off that morning.

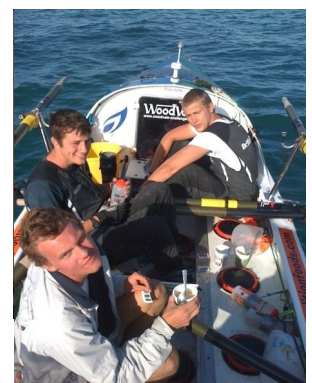
Despite their bravery and enthusiasm, the lads suffered enormous set backs. By the

7th July they had encountered dreadful storms and had to be **rescued by the RNLI** offshore from Eastbourne.

Not to be dissuaded, they began their second attempt three weeks later and on the 5th August narrowly escaped a **collision with an oil tanker**. They continued past Lands End before **capsizing in the Irish Sea**, losing an oar and two oarlocks. But real **disaster struck** on the 11th August when the team

witnessed a **pilot lose control of his light aircraft and crash into the sea**. They sent out the Mayday signal and rowed like crazy to reach the man who had **head injuries**. They reached him as the plane was sinking and he was airlifted to safety. The boys then towed the wreckage to Carne Beach before being forced to abandon this year's attempts.

We wish them the **very best of luck** for their planned 2010 attempt!



GB Row Team are raising money for male cancer charity Orchid. Visit their website www.gbrow.com

Select YES to receive this message...

St. Katharine Docks will soon be road testing an innovative approach to marketing; making use of Bluetooth technology.

Most of us are aware of Bluetooth; it allows our wireless mouse to communicate with our computer, or two mobile phones to share data such as music and video.

But it can also be used in a more commercial way. For retailers here in the Docks, hidden from the eyeline of the 2.5 million tourists that come to visit the Tower of London every year, and the countless others that enjoy the walk across Tower Bridge, Bluetooth technology could be just the thing to get clever messages out there.

In conjunction with 3-Blue, St. Katharine Docks is plan-

ning to run a one month trial, open to all retailers in the area whereby for a small fee you could send a text to all nearby mobile phones with relevant special offers.

Of course we want to encourage people to come to the Docks, not drive them mad with incessant text messages! People will only receive messages if they have Bluetooth turned on, on their mobile. They will be sent an initial message saying "would you like to receive a FREE message from this company?" and the potential customer can select YES or NO. If they select NO, their number will be registered by the on-site servers and they will not be contacted again.

If, however they are intrigued and say YES, there is an opportunity to send through

text, audio and images promoting the special offer, direct to that customer's phone. Any advertiser can track the effectiveness of their offers by ensuring that in order to qualify for a discount, the customer needs to show the message at point of purchase.

There will information in and around the Docks, alerting people to this service—so they are aware that its certified by us and not spam or potentially harmful content.

As a special introductory rate 3-Blue are running the one month trial at a heavily discounted rate of £100 a week per client.

Should your business wish to take part, or if you have any questions please contact Gossip Consultancy.

Dock Shots

In each Edition of **The Dock Diaries** we like to feature some of the best pictures taken in and around St. Katharine Docks. These two were taken by **Andrew Critchell** who is based in Commodity Quay. To look at more of his work, go to www.andrewcritchell.co.uk. If you have a picture that could be suitable for us, please email us at gossip@gossipconsultancy.co.uk.



Exciting Offers



The John Harding Salon, based right here in Ivory House - overlooking Centre Basin, is offering all readers of **The Dock Diaries** 10% off hairdressing, from Monday to Friday.

The salon caters for both ladies and gentlemen; with prices starting from £45 for a cut and finish for ladies, and £25 for gents. There is a full colour service available, which is included in this offer!

Just bring this copy of **The Dock Diaries** along to your appointment to qualify for your special discount.

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