



**NEWS LETTER**

**October 2018**

**from**

**DIVING BELLE**

## Survey schedule

We have now ordered our chain for this season because our suppliers have told us that there will be a 20% price increase from January 2019. This means we can hold our prices for this winter period.

Most of the chain comes from China. For years, Chinese backyard enterprises undercut European manufacturers which then went out of business, but now the Chinese are becoming more safety and environmentally compliant, putting up the price of steel.

**The next survey period, weather permitting, will be starting in November 2018 and continuing until February 2019.** As a result, some surveys will be late and others early.

The time planned to do these works might have to be extended if bad weather causes delays.

**Because there are many large boats on the moorings, with the assistance of the owners these boats will need to be moved to allow moorings to be surveyed.**

**Cove Head** moorings have been altered to mainly swinging moorings with larger circles allocated to avoid collisions. Plymouth City Council no longer administers this area, and the running of it has been handed over to the Cove Head Mooring Association (CHMA). A chart of the new layout can be found on our web site.

**Wearde Quay** council moorings are now administered by the Wearde Quay Moorings Association (WQMA) which also administers moorings on Antony Estate fundus. A chart of the layout can be found on our web site.

[www.divingbelle.co.uk](http://www.divingbelle.co.uk)

## How surveys are carried out

All of our diving work is contracted out to a commercial diving firm. This has meant a massive increase in the cost of maintaining a mooring.

It follows that the boat required to support the statutory dive team is substantially larger than the Diving Belle workboat. For the work to be carried out, the mooring *must* be vacated for at least several days as the survey is now done in three different stages.

Diving Belle cleans by pressure washing and surveys the top end. On a fore and aft mooring, it might be necessary to remove the bridging rope (the connecting rope that joins both ends at 3 metres depth) and to remove any boat ropes.

The diving team carries out the underwater survey or chain replacement.

Finally, Diving Belle re-attaches any moved components at the top end.

The current charge for the diving team is approximately £1980 per day (including VAT) for basic inspection work or £2160 (including VAT) if tools and equipment are needed. With the number of men they have to employ they cannot afford to work for less. **We intend to group several moorings together and we have based our calculations on the amount of work they can cover in a day.** We must do a minimum of ten moorings per day to recover the cost of the divers and our staff.

Unfortunately, if you require the team to turn out for a one-off survey or propeller clearance, it will be very expensive.

## Boat rope around propeller

Has your club or association made any arrangements for this kind of scenario? If not, why not? It is no longer commercially viable to get a dive team to remove a rope from your propeller. The best method is to be towed to your club's or association's drying area and then remove the rope and inspect the damage.

Replacing cut boat ropes may be cheaper than calling out a dive team.

But first be sure your boat is capable of taking the ground and does not have a suspended keel and will not sustain damage if dried out.

You may contact us for a tow or to have your boat ropes replaced.

## Banking

With regret, we no longer accept cash or cheques.

**No money is held on the premises.**

**Our preferred method of receiving payment is electronic** (it has various names: internet banking, Bacs, bank transfer, mobile app) or telephone banking (you phone your bank and ask them to pay us). The information your bank will need is on invoices.

**Payment can be made by debit card over the phone or in person.**

## Invoicing by email

We generally send invoices by email. So if you are some-one who uses email, any invoice we need to send you will go by email, (unless you ask otherwise). We ask you to keep your email details (and other contact details) up to date, to avoid having items returned to us undelivered.

## Storage of boat ropes

We only store boat ropes for the winter period. If you have no intention to have them re-attached in the new season, you must collect them. Any boat rope left after twelve months will be disposed of. Where someone has left a mooring and abandoned their ropes, it will be assumed they can be disposed of or given to someone else.

## Concerns over boat ropes

In bad weather and at low tide, fore and aft ropes have a tendency to jump over buoys getting tangled around chains, and boats have a tendency to jump over ropes, getting them caught around propellers and rudders. Some ways to reduce the risk of this happening are: use floating rope, put sausage fenders on your ropes to stop them sinking, and if you have inflatable buoys and the budget allows, replace them with top loading buoys.

Ropes can chafe when boats are left unattended for long periods. If you notice a problem, please notify us and / or the owner and / or association.

Three strand rope is not suitable for use on swinging moorings as it can unlay. Multiplait (anchor braid) is what should be used, 20mm diameter minimum. Chain is not suitable for several reasons. The small chains used are weaker than rope! The shackles used are weaker still and often cannot be satisfactorily moused. Chain has no give, and it snatches; also it can rip the buoys apart and may result in the owner having a large bill.

## General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Privacy Policy

The Privacy Policy can be read on our web site.

[www.divingbelle.co.uk](http://www.divingbelle.co.uk)

We fully comply with the new GDPR regulations.

Our data is kept on an encrypted remote server and is in a secure place, not in our office.

## Computers

Alan still works on computers. He can instal a 'normal' start button instead of the tiles. He can diagnose faults in software and hardware. He can help when computers have been hacked or infiltrated by viruses. He can design computers for special applications, or research commercially available computers.

For customers, we have built i9 computers with solid state hard drives, expensive but fantastic. Add one to your wish list!

Please remember to make a copy of all of your data, NOT a back-up. After a disaster, a copy can be installed on another computer, but restoring a back-up relies on the software that created it.

**Advice is free; just phone 01752 844629**

## Photography

If you would like one of your photographs printed up to A2 size or perhaps a special photograph taken, Kay, our award winning photographer, is here to help. Kay is vice chair of the local camera club and new members are always welcome.

<http://www.saltashcameraclub.co.uk>



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