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### From Cambria's Wheelhouse

Welcome to the January 2014 edition of our newsletter. We hope you'll enjoy the variety introduced by our two guest articles, as well as the news round-up we've put together, catching up with a variety of news including our new poly tunnel and the passing away of Chris Chattaway plus a section giving you a flavour of what goes on in our Annual General Meeting. I have not reproduced this completely verbatim as some of the published notes were in the form of bullet points or were financial detail, so not really appropriate for a 'magazine' article. You can, of course, find further details in the published accounts and statements.

#### New Writing Talent

We have a lovely piece submitted by one of our Young Carers, Rick Martin (12). Most of our writers are volunteers or were former paid crew or had Cambria or Captain Bob related stories to tell so that we, by our enthusiasms and effort, feel as if we are on the 'supply' side of the business, keeping the barge alive and going, restoring her and putting her out there as a resource.

Rick though, would be definitely on the 'demand' side; he is the end user, the

customer, the reason we do all this. He thoroughly enjoyed his sailing and posted some very gratifying comments and pictures in our Facebook pages which had me enquiring whether he might like to write us a longer story of his adventures for the website blog. This he did and we were so impressed by his journalistic skills that we used the item word for word, as penned by him, without any comment or adjustment from the blogger.

His enjoyment buzzes out of the page. I am happy and proud to reproduce this piece again now for our, in several cases non-internet, newsletter readership. I hope you enjoy it.

#### Review of the Year

Dave Brooks has supplied a review of the Cambria's 2013 busy season. Dave needs no introduction and you will all be losing yourselves in the fast changing business of a season interspersed with races, charters and public displays under our brilliant crews, especially Richard Titchener's Sea Change Sailing Trust team and Skipper Ian Ruffles who leads the bulk of the Rotary outings.

## Young Carer On Board

### Rick Martin's Experiences on Cambria

I was looking forward to going on board SB Cambria on September the 27<sup>th</sup> because I live near the river and see lots of ships coming and going but I had only ever been on a ferry and knew it would be a lot different. I enjoy outdoor activities and being away from home isn't new for me.

When we arrived I finally saw how big SB Cambria actually was and I thought it was MASSIVE and had itchy feet desperate to get on board. Within the first few minutes on board I was learning new things like going down the stairs backwards. From there on I was learning non-stop. Some things were more important than others like how Skipper Ian likes his tea (every 20 minutes, milk and no sugar!).

Sorting out and adjusting life jackets was a very IMPORTANT job. To start with it felt weird with the life jacket on but I soon got used to it. Next job was wet weather gear, this was very funny as everything was too big for me – the only large things about me are my mouth and appetite! However on the positive side after all it would keep me dry.

My first meal on board was dinner and it was very tasty. It was nice to get to know everyone as we sat around the table to eat. Then we had to muck in washing and drying up, this was no problem to me as I have to help out at home with the chores. The tide was not right so we set the sails so we could set sail in the morning, this was challenging and hard work but lots of FUN. After that it was bedtime.

I woke up and had to pull SB Cambria along the pier wall so we could finally set sail. It was very challenging even with 7 of us but we had to all work together otherwise it was not going to budge. As we headed out into open water it was breakfast time (mmm bacon baps) and tea for the first time we felt the movement of the water beneath us, I thought we might have heard the water lapping against the sides but we didn't, instead the peace was broken by Skipper Ian shouting orders!

During the next few days we did some fun things and some things that were vital to make the boat move. Some of the fun things were climbing the mast and out to the very front (both were a long way when I only have

little legs), being in the row boat – rowing (pewh hard work but only going round in circles !!!) and using the motor (mmm very nice !!!!), using spare tear-drop shaped rubber fenders as space hoppers, a knot race and playing cards.

The jobs we were encouraged to do were "Leo" (turning) and then tacking, steering (quite hard), raising and lowering the sail, raising anchor (hard work and messy hands), listening to the radio (shipping not music), looking out front for buoys (not boys) to avoid. There were some jobs we had to do like washing the decks.





The highlight of the season was Cambria's participation in the Thames Festival and St Katherine's Classic Boat Festival at St Katherine's Dock in London.

We were visited by over a thousand people during the week with a special appearance from our patron David Suchet who awarded Volunteer Richard Weekes a very well deserved Volunteer of the Year trophy, and a surprise appearance by Rod Stewart and Penny Lancaster. It is intended that Cambria will participate at the festival again next year.

Over the season we used several different crews including Cambria Skipper Ian 'Ruffalo' Ruffles, Mate Denis Johnson and Third Hand Reggie 'Oh I've lost another phone' Andrews. We have also had Francis Kent and Andy Harman of *Edme* fame skipper for us this season and Richard Titchener, Hilary Halajko and Stretch Robinson sailed her for us in the Southend Barge Match.

We thank all who have crewed for your efforts and looking after her and making the season another success. It has been a delight watching Skipper Ian sail the barge out from Gillingham Pier especially when she left for Faversham on her last trip of the season. A short film of it is posted on our Cambria Facebook page.

We are once again indebted to all our volunteers and trustees who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes in a variety of different roles from general maintenance to planning charters and manning events. We particularly thank Volunteer of the Year Richard Weekes for his painting of the barge, all volunteers' especially new volunteers Pete and Bert who manned the barge at St Kats and welcome Mick Nolan who has stepped in to crew at crucial times.

Cambria is now back at Standard Quay Faversham and will undergo her annual refit and paint up during the winter months. It is hoped that by the end of November early December we will have purchased and erected a Poly Tunnel which will prove invaluable not just for this close season but for many to come.

We have also been able to order a new Running Sail from Tollesbury sail maker Steve Hall who did a beautiful job of all our other sails.

We will also be replacing the crab winches which have given us cause for concern on many occasions, these will be manufactured locally.

There are a host of minor jobs that will be completed over the next few months, a lot of them by our volunteers. Anybody wishing to offer their services should contact either me or Basil Brambleby on the Cambria Trust email address.



# News Round Up

## Facebook Checkins

Cambria now has quite a good and lively presence on Facebook, the social networking site, and this is where much of the news that comes to my attention first pops up, posted there by interested friends of Cambria, volunteers, crew and Trust Members.

Recently we were delighted when crew member **Mick Nolan** shared a sequence of pictures and captions which covered some of the de-rigging for winter including unshipping the bowsprit (bringing it inboard). Mick's photos were really clear and his captions very informative. For example he says:

*"The dolly winch is reeved through the stem block down to a block on the port bitt, back over and around the cleat on the bowsprit and down to the pin on the starboard bitt. When the dolly winch is hardened, the bowsprit is forced down and forward, relieving the pressure on the pivot bolt so it can be removed. The jib stay is supporting the outermost bowsprit end",*

then

*"The pivot bolt (is) removed and replaced back under the spar as a roller. The dolly winch line (is) led around the bowsprit cleat", "The jib stay is used to pull the bowsprit inboard", "Reggie (Andrews; 3rd hand on Ian Ruffles's crew) unshackles the foresail halyard"*

and

*"The foresail halyard is used to support the bowsprit heel as it passes the point of balance"*

Fascinating stuff. Unfortunately we do not have space here to share all the pictures with you but if you can get to Facebook, do go in and enjoy them.

Mick has also been involved now that we are alongside Faversham and have been delivered our new winter quarters, our new poly tunnel. It was **Maggs Casey Kelly** (some time crew and full time Marina Manager at St Katharine Dock where we spent a delightful visit in September) this time on the camera and firing the pics to me in Facebook.

We have a nice sequence of the metal work arches being assembled by Skipper Ian Ruffles, Mick Nolan, Basil Brambleby and Maggs herself on the hard work this time. By the time you read this the tunnel may well be complete and covered, the barge all snug and dry for her winter work.

Former Trust Director (and still friend and volunteer) **Dave Walsh** contributed a notice that Chris Chattaway passed away on the 19th January 2014. He was 83. Dave writes

*"Rest in peace Chris Chattaway, first patron of the Cambria Trust. What a life you led. Pacemaker for the first four minute mile, presenter for BBC and ITV and politician. And of course you sailed on Cambria with Bob Roberts"*

That latter comment refers to an old black and white BBC TV programme which is now included on some of our for-sale DVDs in which CC comes aboard with Bob Roberts as they sail around in Cambria in search of old ways of life around the Essex coast.

They hunt down smack fishermen, an old waterfowl hunter and some guys trawling for special seaweed for which there was then a market, among others.

Thanks for that Dave.

## AGM Notes

The Committee, as you may know, comprises

- Bruce Richardson, Chairman
- Chris Snelling, Hon. Treasurer
- Basil Brambleby, Company Secretary
- Rob Bassi, retiring Operations Manager
- Guy Peto, incoming Operations Manager
- Julian Parkes
- Robert Simper
- Frank Spice

The Operational and Financial statements for Cambria are available from the Company Secretary so this report will cover the Any Other Business part of the AGM.

- David Walsh and Frank Spice asked to be kept informed when work was to be done on the barge as both are willing to help. They may be available during the week as well as at week-ends.
- Ian Ruffles was hopeful that the polytunnel will be in place soon, following its recent delivery.
- Basil Brambleby reported that the (crab) winches repair / replacement is in hand.
- Cambria should be in dry dock from the end of March to mid April.
- Work on the interior of the barge is planned. Painting during the winter, as always, is difficult.
- Richard (Hugh) Perks expressed concern regarding ventilation. Basil assured him that heating and ventilation are in use this year which appears to be keeping the barge in reasonable condition.
- Thanks were given for the efforts and watchfulness of Steve Norris (*SB Greta*) and others in Standard Quay in ensuring that Cambria had been kept safe during recent bad weather and flooding. Ashore, the Cambria Exhibition materials have been kept dry.

- Hugh asked about use of Cambria for fund raising events during the week, when gear is all in situ. e.g. for meetings, exhibitions. Again, the need for people to man such activities was mentioned. Hugh is anxious to be able to fix dates.
- Julian Parkes explained that talks were going on with Prince's Trust and Arethusa Trust about using Cambria in mid-week.
- Richard Titchener (Sea Change Sailing Trust) talked of fundraising to be used for the payment of ship's husbandry. The meeting was aware that large funds will be needed in future, and may require employing a Fund Raiser and considering a HLF endowment fund.
- Basil has, over many years, tried to involve Medway Council with support for Heritage vessels on the river.
- David Walsh suggested that while there are two static vessels on Gillingham Pier, also used by Cambria, something could be done to advance relationships and gain assistance from L.A.
- Richard suggested that a letter from Bruce, as Chairman, ought to go to Chris Levett, to thank him for his support to Cambria during the London River Festival.
- Roger Newlyn suggested having a 2014 programme for Cambria published as soon as possible in each New Year, to enable volunteers to be ready to help when they are available

And that was it. The meeting adjourned after just 55 minutes. Another year for Cambria is wrapped up.

# Get Involved!

## Get Physical!

### Would you like to be involved in a unique piece of Britain's Maritime History?

Over the last four years we have been indebted to our band of volunteers while rebuilding Cambria. Now we need **more** volunteers to help take Cambria forward.

Cambria overwinters at Standard Quay in Faversham between October and March. Throughout these months, we need volunteers to help with painting, cleaning and the minor maintenance Cambria needs to ensure she stays sea-worthy.

During the sailing season, from April to September, Cambria is involved in many static charters and we need people to help our visitors embark and disembark safely, show people around and also look after the sales desk which is a vital part of raising Cambria's operational funds.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these tasks, and enjoying a very hands-on Cambria experience, please email Dave Brooks at [CambriaTrustSecretary@live.co.uk](mailto:CambriaTrustSecretary@live.co.uk) to talk about volunteering opportunities with the Cambria Trust.

## Get Writing!

While I have your attention, might I just remind you that this Newsletter exists on contributions such as the ones above and is always hungry for more. I would generally keep a few articles up my sleeve for use in future editions but I am sorry to say that at present I have none.

Please if you feel that you could write us a piece for the Newsletter, however short, we would welcome it with open arms and you would almost certainly get into print.

Do you have any comments or advice, first hand stories or even yarns and anecdotes you have been told related to Cambria or Bob Roberts or any other crew? Did you do some volunteer work which you'd like to tell us about? Maybe you came aboard on one of our public displays or have used the barge for photography? We would love to hear about it. Please make contact with our email address at [CambriaTrustSecretary@live.co.uk](mailto:CambriaTrustSecretary@live.co.uk) or via the blog comments or our Facebook page.

## Get Selfie-ing!

Way back when the website was first being created we made a page for volunteers. The plan was for volunteers, who all deserve recognition, to submit a photograph of themselves along with a short pen-portrait describing themselves, how they got involved with Cambria, what sort of work they have been doing and what it means to them.

The idea is that potential volunteers could read the portraits and see that we are all just normal people enjoying our particular enthusiasm, not scary or 'weird', the sort of people that they could decide to join and enjoy working alongside. If anyone would like to start the ball rolling on that please visit the website and check it out, or contact us via the email address.

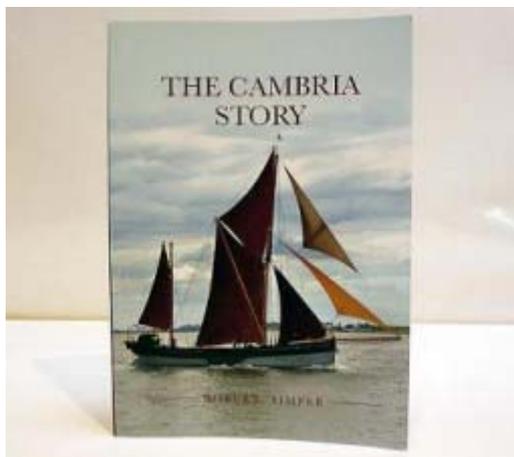
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## Day and Weekend Charter Service

Cambria will again be available to individuals and groups to charter for a day or a weekend in Summer 2014. The barge can accommodate up to 12 visitors and the Trust will provide all the food you will need (and bedding if you are making an overnight stay) as well as a Skipper and crew. All at a cost of around £95 per person per day (to be confirmed).

Watch the website ([www.CambriaTrust.org.uk](http://www.CambriaTrust.org.uk)) for opportunities to book these charters or contact our Operations Manager, Guy Peto, for more details of this exciting opportunity to sail on our historic barge and experience the Kent coast from the point of view of a Bargeman.

## Cambria Merchandise



The Cambria Story, by Robert Simper  
£7.50



Cambria, by Anne Robert  
black and white print

We also have

Cambria Mugs: £6.50

The Story of Cambria's Restoration DVD by Mark Chapman:  
£10.00

A range of stunning photographs of Cambria at sea: £3.00  
each

Fridge Magnets: £2.00 each

Key Rings: £2.00 each

Ball Point Pens: £2:00

Postage will apply to all of these items and the amount will depend on how much is ordered and to where it is to be sent.

Please telephone 07721625423 or email [markandcathychapman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:markandcathychapman@yahoo.co.uk) for more information.

Please make your cheque or postal order payable to  
CAMBRIA TRUST and send to:  
Catherine Chapman (Merchandise)  
Cambria Trust  
13 Beauvoir Drive, Sittingbourne  
Kent, ME10 2TQ.

You can find more information about SB

Cambria on our website:

[www.CambriaTrust.org.uk](http://www.CambriaTrust.org.uk)

Email: [CambriaTrustSecretary@live.co.uk](mailto:CambriaTrustSecretary@live.co.uk)



**Sailing Barge Cambria**