

# Portishead Cruising Club's

## 'Cruise in Company' to Gloucester Docks

### Skippers Notes & Safety Information 2015

Firstly welcome to this event, the first organised 'cruise' of the PCC calendar.

These notes contain Safety information which you should familiarise yourself with. Please take a few minutes to read through it. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me ( [Ann please add your contact details.](#)).

This event is a 'cruise in company' organised by Portishead Cruising Club. A 'cruise in company' is essentially a group of individual boats all of which have a common destination. As such the **responsibility for the safety of each boat and its crew remains that of the skipper at all times**, and it is the skipper who is responsible for the decision to take to sea. No guarantees are given by the Portishead Cruising Club for the suitability of or the safe passage of any vessel. As is established maritime practice and a requirement of Solas V each skipper should prepare their own passage plan, which should include contingency planning. The skipper is also responsible for ensuring the sea worthiness of their vessel and that adequate navigational equipment is carried. There are a number of hazards which are exaggerated due to the extreme tides in the Severn Estuary. PCC recommends that each skipper should have existing experience of a passage between Portishead and Sharpness (and vice versa) so that they are more able to prepare their plan.

Due to the nature of the Severn Estuary between Portishead and Sharpness the weather has a marked effect on the sea conditions.

These notes are given in good faith to help direct you in the preparation of your passage plan. They are based on previous 'cruises-in-company'. However no guarantee is made that the information herein is accurate, or safe to act upon. Nothing in these notes absolves the skipper from any of his/her responsibility.

### Friday 3rd April 2015 - Avonmouth to Sharpness

**It is recommended that you read the “Guidance notes for small craft” and the “Guide to Safe Navigation” on the <http://www.gloucesterharbourtrustees.org.uk/marinesafety.shtml> website. The Gloucester Harbour Trustees area of responsibility extends down to Deny Island.**

Arrive at Sharpness between 30 minutes-1hour before HW (08.20 BST). This will allow our boats to be locked in before the arrival of any commercial traffic (which should be given priority). Await signal on CH13 to enter.

The harbour master at Sharpness has indicated that he would prefer all radio traffic to take place on VHF CH13 (Sharpness Radio), to ensure everyone is monitoring that channel.

According to the Harbour Master, one place where incidents occur is at 'Black Rock' near Berkley Power Station. The rock is about four metres lower than the nearby sand bank, however people see the rock on the chart and in avoiding it, hit the sand.

Before getting to the sea lock at Sharpness you pass through the Basin. In this basin is a pontoon and there are four 'knuckles' to moor against whilst waiting for the second lock. If you are waiting in the basin and all mooring space is taken please motor anti-clockwise around the basin. When mooring in the basin remember that it is tidal and that any mooring ropes should be monitored at all times to prevent the boat being hung up or held down by the tide.