

From the Chairman

Excitingly, this is the Society's fiftieth anniversary year. We are marking this occasion with a celebratory lunch, open to all members, at the Royal Yacht Squadron on Friday 19th of May.

This will be an interesting and historic occasion when you can come and hear about the history of the Society, how it all started and what we currently consider to be the principal challenges facing us all in the Solent.

The application form for tickets for the anniversary lunch is included with this mailing. You are welcome to bring non-members who are interested in the work of the Society as your guests, but please book early to ensure you are not disappointed.

The Council of the Society looks forward to meeting as many members as possible on this unique occasion.

Maldwin Drummond retires as SPS President

Maldwin Drummond has been involved with the Solent Protection Society since its inception in 1956, first as a member of the Council then as a Vice President in 1984 and President in 1991 until he handed over to Peter Nicholson last November. We are delighted that he has agreed to continue to be associated with the Society as a Vice President.

Maldwin has many recollections of some of the characters and projects which have helped shape the Solent Protection Society. Among them, the Hook Refinery, the Central Electricity Generating Board proposals for Fawley and a nuclear power station at Newtown, the development of Southampton docks, incidents with the *Queen Elizabeth* in the Solent and early efforts for a Marine National Park (known then as the Solent Water Park).

We look forward to hearing some of these recollections at the 50th Anniversary Lunch at the Royal Yacht Squadron in May.

Peter Nicholson

After National Service as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, Peter Nicholson qualified as a Naval Architect working with J. Samuel White at Cowes and then Camper & Nicholsons Limited, yacht builders, his family business. He joined Camper & Nicholsons on a permanent basis in 1956, became Managing Director in 1964 and Chairman in 1968. In 1972 Camper & Nicholsons merged with Crest Securities Plc to form Crest Nicholson Plc.

Peter served as an Executive Director of Crest Nicholson Plc from 1972 to 1987 and became a non Executive Director in 1988, in order to be able to take on other business activities.

He joined a number of boards, which included Lloyds TSB Group Plc, where he was a Director from 1990 to 2000 and Carisbrooke Shipping Plc of which he was Chairman from 1990 to 1999.

Since 1993 he has been a Director of TEN Limited, a Greek controlled shipping company, which is quoted on the New York Stock Exchange.

He has been a Director of a number of other companies, both public and private, and chaired a regional radio company, Wave 105 from 1997 to 2000.

He has also been involved for many years in the administration of the boating industry and yacht racing. He is a former Chairman of National Boat Shows Limited and was, for many years, a member of the Council of the Ship and Boat Builders National Federation. He is currently a Trustee of its successor, the British Marine Federation.

He has served on the Council of the Royal Yachting Association and was a British delegate to the International Yacht Racing Union for twenty-five years. He chaired the Cowes Combined Clubs Committee from 1996 to 2000 and has for many years, been a council member of the Solent Cruising and Racing Association of which he is now the President.

Peter is a Council member of the RNLI and was Chairman of the Institution from 2000 to 2004. He was made CBE in 2004 for services to saving life at sea.

He is a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron, of which he was Commodore from 1966 to 2001. He was Commodore of the Lloyds Bank Sailing Club from 1990 to 2000 and has also been a Rear Commodore of the Royal Thames Yacht Club. He is a Younger Brother of Trinity House.

Peter Nicholson has been very active in yacht racing all his life. He has raced all types of boat, from dinghies to large ocean racers, and has competed in fourteen Fastnet races, the Bermuda race, the Sydney/Hobart race and most of the major Mediterranean offshore races. He has been a member of the British Admiral's Cup team on a number of occasions and skippered yachts in the British American Cup and other international team racing events. He currently owns and races a Dragon class three-man keel boat which is based at Cowes.

Peter Nicholson lives with his wife, Lesley-Jane, in Hamble, they have six grown up children and six grandchildren.

He has lived on the bank of the River Hamble for most of his life. Part of his land is an SSSI and he has always taken an active interest in the preservation of the River. He has been a member of the Solent Protection Society for more than twenty five years.



