

## A great day out.

Earlier this year, we visited the Southampton Boat Show for a spectacular day out with a maritime theme. On view in the marina, a flotilla of boats large and small - everything from the latest luxury motor yacht to an inflatable one man canoe that fits neatly in the boot of your car. On shore, hundreds of boating exhibits containing just about everything nautical, from dinghies through to navigation equipment, furnishings and clothing. In addition to the colourful exhibitions, there was an opportunity for anyone to try out a boat for free and lots of entertainment and attractions for the whole family including a children's Treasure Island and live interactive pirate shows.

A step aboard the Jubilee Sailing Trust's magnificent Tall Ship, the LORD NELSON gave landlubbers an opportunity of stepping back in time and imagining what sailing was like a century ago whilst a quick trip round the high- tech, state-of-the-art Hugo Boss Ocean Sailing Yacht enabled us to see at first hand what it takes to sail single handed round the world in a boat capable of covering over 460 miles in 24 hours!

Also on display in the harbour, the International Fund for Animal Welfare's whale research vessel, Song of the Whale, where visitors could learn all about the importance of protecting whales and other wildlife and their marine habitats.

Meanwhile America's Cup fans were being offered a chance to climb aboard one of the famous racing yachts and try their hand at crewing in the Solent for a couple of hours of adrenalin pumping action. An experience not for the faint hearted!

All in all, the Southampton Boat Show was a great place to meet up with old friends, grab a drink or two, relax and just watch the sun go down.

G.A.Clarke 300 words + choice of three photos to illustrate article:-



The Lord Nelson and a flotilla of yachts in the marina at the Southampton Boat Show.