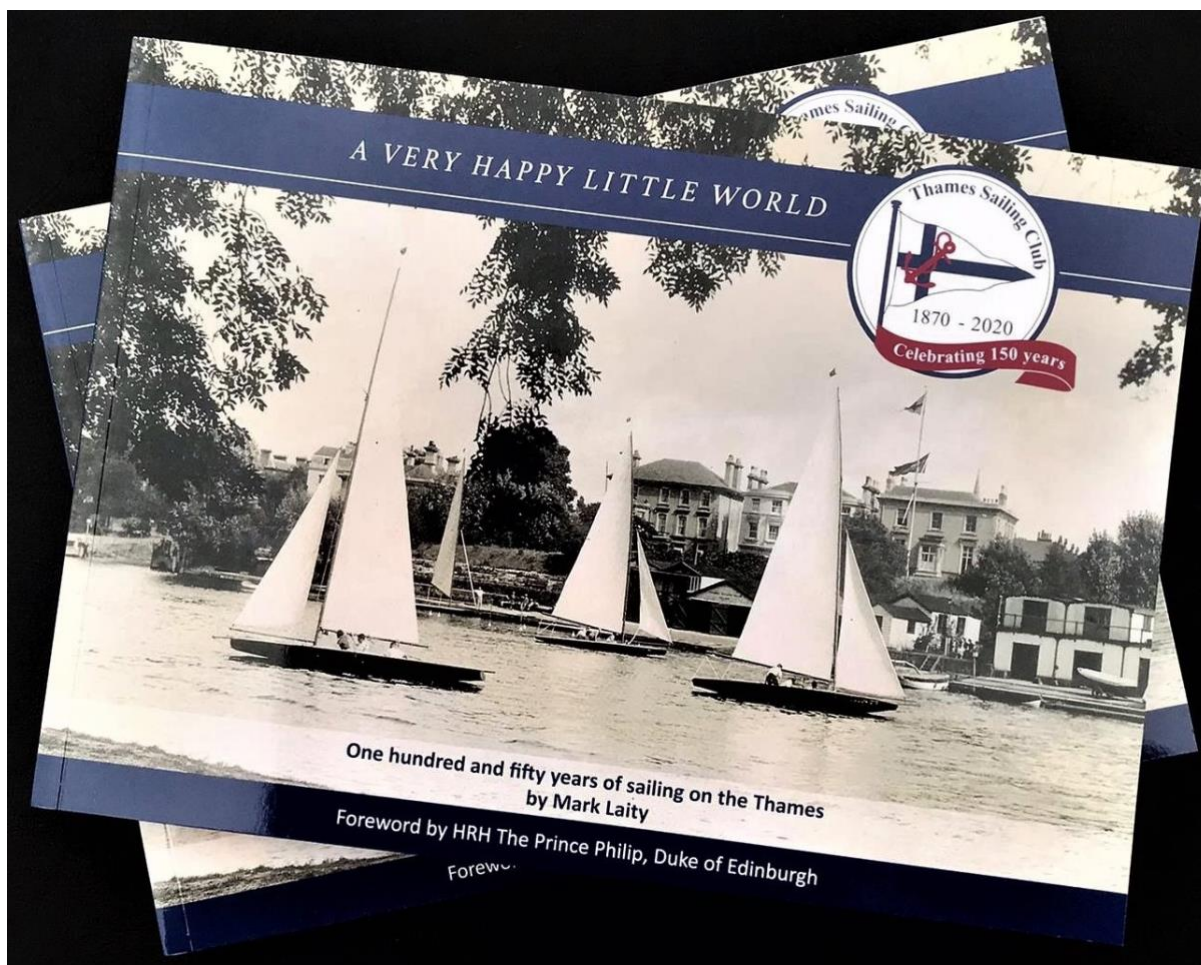


**A Very Happy Little World:
One hundred and fifty years of sailing on the Thames.
by Mark Laity
Published by Thames Sailing Club**



***'One of the great joys of the book is the huge number of top-quality photos that richly illustrate the club's history from its very dawn.'* CLASSIC BOAT magazine, December 2021.**

The book was written to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Thames Sailing Club (TSC), formed in 1870. It has a foreword from Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, who until his death was the club's patron. The launch day coincided with a presentation of the book to HRH The Princess Royal on her visit to the club on June 22.



Although the 150th year was 2020, release was delayed until 2021 due to COVID. While TSC is at the heart of the book, the work is more accurately a history of sailing on the Upper Thames, giving good coverage to other historic clubs on the non-tidal

Thames, the variety of boats and also the context in which sailing developed, both locally and nationally. It has broad appeal to anyone interested in local history and classic sailing, as stated in the introduction:

The Thames is known as 'liquid history' and for 150 years Thames Sailing Club has been a part of that history. The oldest river sailing club in the country, it played a leading role in the early days of leisure sailing in Britain. It remains the home of the remarkable Thames A Rater, the beautiful queen of the river still providing exciting racing over 120 years after being developed.

This work is no narrow history of the club but looks at Thames sailing as a whole and also places it in the wider context of an era of enormous change. Extensively researched it is lavishly illustrated with many superb images, often being published for the

first time. It will appeal to anyone interested in sailing, the Thames, and history.



The author is a TSC member and part owner of the 1907 Thames A Rater, Vagabond. He is a former BBC Defence Correspondent and NATO spokesman.



The book covers all aspects of Thames sailing, including notable personalities such as Beecher Moore and designers like Linton Hope, as well the new types of sailing craft and how the clubs evolved with a changing society before and after the wars. Rare and fascinating pictures of the early days of sailing, evoking a past era, are complemented by superb modern colour pictures of today's craft, especially the beautiful Thames A Raters.

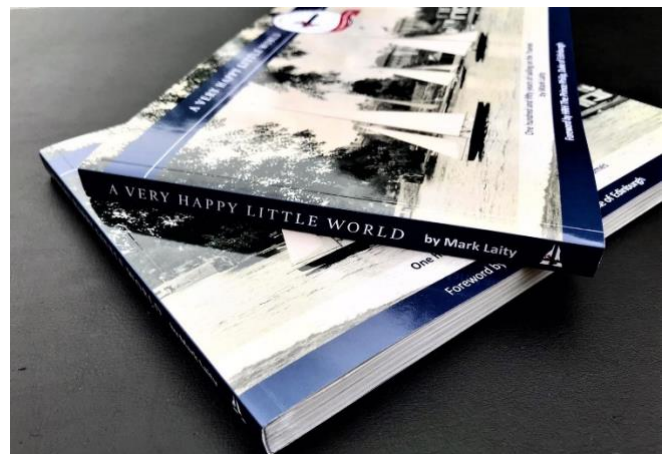


The unusual title has attracted interest, so here's an extract from the author's foreword explaining it:

Finally, the title comes from the 1898 book, 'The House on Sport'. In it an early Thames sailor, in a chapter titled 'Boat Sailing on the Upper Thames', states, 'It is a very happy little world, take it altogether that the owners and their boats exist in.' I agree and hope you will too.



The book is professionally printed on fine paper in a 175x245mm Landscape format. It's 208 pages long, with 35,000 words of text plus captions, and about 400 illustrations, mostly B&W, but also many colour photos and some drawings. Published by Thames Sailing Club. ISBN: 978-1-9989989-9-9. The book was in hardback and softback, but demand has been so high, hardbacks are now sold out. Price for the softback, identical in content and quality, with its heavy duty card cover and strong, durable binding is £20 + £4 UK p&p.



For further information and orders contact: book@thamessailingclub.co.uk or Mark Laity on 07515 101056