



STOUR SAILING CLUB



Rowing with Stour Sailing Club 2022

Get Rowing: email rowing@stoursailingclub.co.uk



About the Stour Sailing Club

The Sailing Club was founded in 1937 and has been part of the local community for over eighty years. The club is owned and run by its members and exists to promote access to and enjoyment of the river, including sailing, fishing, canoeing and rowing. All of those involved in running the Club and activities, including rowing, are volunteers.

Rowing at Manningtree

Stour Sailing Club set up organised Club Rowing at the beginning of 2016 following on from several years of groups of members rowing in their own Claydon Skiffs.

Over the past six years rowing has become a well established and very active part of the Club, and we have carried on rowing when we have been able to over the past two years, depending on the Covid restrictions in place at the time.

Rowing is a fantastic team and social activity for people of all ages and is a great way to enjoy our beautiful estuary from a whole new angle. You can row for fun or to get fit or to compete – and many of us enjoy all three.

Rowing at Manningtree is mainly traditional fixed seat coastal rowing with four rowers each with a single 'sweep' oar, and a Cox, in the Club's two Harker's Yard Gigs. However we also have access to a Claydon Skiff made available by her owner, and in addition we have a single sliding seat coastal scull.

We row as men's, women's and mixed crews and you do not have to be under twenty five, super fit and over six foot six to get rowing! Whilst sweep rowing is not suitable for those under sixteen, there is no upper age limit and many of our rowers are 'super-veterans'. If you want to row regularly then we will also expect you to be willing to take a turn at Coxing.

If you don't fancy rowing but just love being on the water we are also always need Coxes and we will help you to gain the experience to become a 'Competent Cox'.

Manningtree is very tidal and we can only row around two hours before and after high tide – so rowing sessions vary in time and day depending on the tides. When light and tide allow we plan 'open rows' that any rower can sign up to at least twice a week, with increasingly popular weekday sessions as well as opportunities at weekends. We use Team App to organise rows. You don't need to have any rowing experience, just sign up, turn up and be prepared to lend a hand and handle an oar.

When restrictions allow we also hold indoor rowing and circuit training sessions once a week using 'Ergs' (Concept 2 Indoor Rowers).

How to get Involved

Both members and non-members are welcome to come and have a go at rowing. If you are not currently a member of the Stour Sailing Club then you can come out for up to three rows free of charge.

If you would like to come rowing please send us an email at rowing@stoursailingclub.co.uk and we will get you on the water as soon as we can. We will ask you to fill in a contact form and will add you to the 'rowers in waiting' list on Team App so that you receive the information that you will need to get rowing including dates of rows.

We hope that you will enjoy rowing and want to carry on, so after your three free rows you can pay £9 which will provide for a further three rows. If you then want to carry on rowing you will need to become a member of the Club. A family membership of the Stour Sailing Club is currently £82 a year.

In addition we ask all Rowers to make a rowing contribution, currently £75 annually, paid in December each year, or £3 per person per row, capped at £75 a year. This goes towards replacement of equipment (including thole pins) and the maintenance of our beautiful Gigs and equipment. A thole pin is roughly £3 and a single Gig Oar costs around £450 and yes they do break!

The Club Harker's Yard Gigs

William Rose, the Club's first Harker's Yard Gig joined the Club in October 2016, with the help of a £10k grant from the Sport England Lottery Fund and additional funds from the Rose family in memory of William Rose for whom the boat is named.



In 2020 we received a further £10k grant from the Sport England Lottery Fund to purchase a second Gig for our third Coastal Rowing Project 'Rowing On'. Our new Gig 'Hunter' is named in memory of Ian Hunter Edmond whose family provided additional funds for the project.



The Harker's Yard Gigs are built by the Pioneer Sailing Trust in Brightlingsea by marine apprentices. The first nineteen Gigs (including William Rose which is number 17) were made of cold moulded mahogany ply. Our new Gig is the 22nd to be built and the 3rd to be made of 'plastic' (GRP) fitted out with wood.

Sarka – the Club Single Coastal Scull

We are grateful to SSC member Hubert Ward who donated Sarka, a sliding seat coastal scull to the Club for members to use. Sarka provides more flexibility for individuals to learn a different technique and to row on their own, or alongside the Gigs in suitable conditions.



Racing with Stour Sailing Club

In non pandemic times we row and also race all year round, and our busiest racing season is during the winter months when increasing numbers of Clubs and Harker's Yard Gigs compete at different locations around the Essex coast with men's, women's and mixed crews. There was no racing in the 2020 – 2021 season but the 2021-2022 season started with the first event held here at Manningtree on 10th October.

We wait to see what 2022 brings, but rowing is an outdoor sport and as such has been subject to fewer Covid restrictions so we are hopeful for a full season.



Start line for the women's race at Stone



William Rose starting the Great River Race in 2018 – 22 miles through the middle of London from Docklands to Richmond.



Further afield a number of rowers from the Club took part in one or more legs of the Lionheart Great British Row in 2021, a row round the whole of Britain in Roxy, a twelve person ocean rowing boat, rowing three hours on three hours off twenty four hours a day. Just a bit different to our rowing on the Stour. Roxy had just come back from the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge and again joined the challenge in November 2021.

The picture is of Roxy on the last leg of the round Britain from Scarborough to Burnham on Crouch dropping in at Shotley from the crew were taken for a very welcome supper at Stour Sailing Club before beating storm Evert back to Burnham the following day.

Getting Started

You don't need lots of special equipment to row. Just wear comfortable clothes that you can move in. Shorts, trousers or leggings without pockets are most comfortable. You will get hot when you are rowing so wear layers that you can take off or put back on as needed. During the summer months you will need trainers or shoes/sandals that you do not mind getting wet or muddy. In winter you will need waterproof footwear.

We usually row wearing gloves – any old leather gloves or flexible work gloves that you can wriggle your fingers in and grip with will do to start. In warm weather a cap and sunglasses + sunscreen are important. In cold weather a woolly hat is helpful. Remember to bring water with you – rowing can be thirsty work – but no metal drinks bottles please as they damage the Gigs when dropped.

We do not generally wear buoyancy aides whilst rowing, but the Gigs carry them (and other safety equipment) and any rower can chose to wear one if they prefer.

Basic Rowing Rules

We want everyone to be safe on the water and to enjoy rowing and we have three basic rules:

- One: The Cox is in Charge!
Be ready to listen and respond to instructions.
- Two: Rowing is a Team Sport – the team work includes getting the boat and equipment ready, getting the boat in and out of the water, washing down and putting equipment away afterwards.
- Three: Have fun – the more you put in to rowing, the more you will get out of it

