

STOUR SAILING CLUB MAGAZINE

The BOWSPRIT

MANNINGTREE REGATTA IS BACK ...
HIGH WINDS TOO!



Lionheart 2021 - A Gentle Paddle (Halfway) Around the Coast of GB - by Keith Paxman

Roxy has a crew of twelve but only accommodation for six ...

Mike Moss Trophy Winner 2022



Who is who at the Sailing Club

Officers

Commodore	Sarah Howlett
Vice-Commodore and Treasurer	Colin Garnham
Rear Commodore	Caroline Cunningham
Membership Secretary	Jenny Pavey & Liza Hicks

Other Members of the Management Committee

Communications Manager and Bowsprit Editor	Alexis Girard
Compound Manager	Will Langton
Moorings Master	Toby Horne
Sailing & Cruising Secretary	Will Harvey
Training & Safety Boat Manager	Dave Perrott
Clubhouse Manager	Darren Hicks
Social Secretary	Maria Vigneau
IT Administrator and Data Controller	David Waters

Non Committee Roles

Rowing Secretary	Caroline Cunningham
Racing Secretary	Will Harvey
Webmaster	Shirley Hillyard

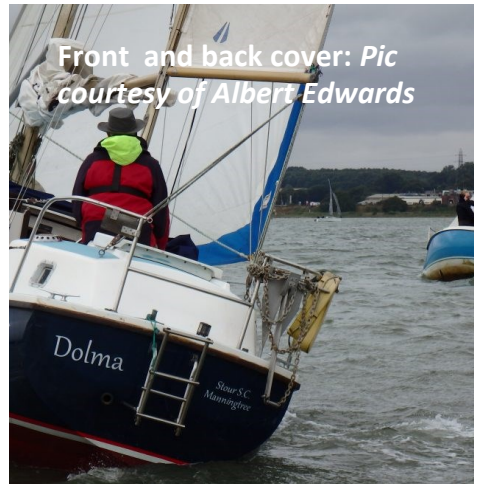
All management committee members may be contacted through the club's website at <http://www.stoursailingclub.co.uk/contact/>

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Telephone: 01206 393 924 or 07874973173 (please be aware that the club is not always manned).

PLEASE SEND US YOUR ARTICLES AND PICTURES, WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOU AND YOUR ADVENTURES ON THE WATER!!

Contact the editor at bowspriteditor@gmail.com





Commodore's Corner

Another year and a continuation of Covid restrictions! Some aspects of the impact of these restrictions need particular mention.

The 2021 AGM – on line via Zoom for the first time EVER! As always the Committee and our Members stepped up and embraced the very different format.

The turnout for both the Open Forum and the AGM was really gratifying as was the remote voting process. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this happen – particularly David Waters our IT Administrator and Data Controller who managed the Zoom platform calmly and professionally, it simply would not have happened without him!

In April, following permission from Harwich Haven, Spartacus (a jack up barge) arrived to start putting in the piling for the pontoons – this was after final approvals had been given not only by Marine and Environmental agencies but also RSPB as migrating birds had to be taken into consideration. The piling was all done in 2 days, and, whilst Covid has had an impact, progress towards the next phase continues.

We still could not open the bar BUT Tom West very generously opened up The Red Lion to Club Members every weekday lunchtime from May 17th until the club



could open. Not only that, but he allowed members to pay for their drinks at sailing club prices! We were also allowed to restart the monthly cake and coffee mornings in the pub as well. I will be forever grateful to Tom and the team at The Red Lion for enabling our members to meet and enjoy a drink and a chat.

At last, we were able to open to clubhouse on July 19th and one of the first events we held was a (free) thank you BBQ for members for sticking with us through thick and thin! It was a big decision to hold the annual Regatta in August but we bravely went ahead with a pared down format – eg no mud sports for example. The weather could have been a bit kinder but it was such a joyous event that nothing could dampen our enjoyment. Wonderful!

Also in July, the refurbishment work in the clubhouse was completed! This huge project was overseen by Neil Watts who went above and beyond to get the project off the ground right through to completion.



Commodore's Corner

I am so very grateful to him for managing this work ensuring the clubhouse facilities are much improved which will take the Club forward for years to come.

You will see several reports within this publication from various Committee members which will outline just how active we have been as a Club. One area that has taken a tremendous amount of time behind the scenes has been the preparation for the move to a new database – I must particularly mention Jenny Pavey (Membership Secretary) and David (Muddy) Waters who have spent many hours on this work.

Despite the numerous restrictions we did see a great deal of activity on the water with members making the most of opportunities to get out there. The Micro Worlds still took place as did the Harkers Yard Rowing event in October. Jerry and Margaret Garner sailed around the UK and some of our rowers took part in various legs of the 2021

Great Britain Row. Cruising members went on various jaunts, we had success in the Combined Clubs event and finished the season with the annual Curry Cruise. Way to go everyone!

This is my last report as Commodore. It has been quite a ride, as a Club we have had numerous challenges, of course, Covid was the major influencer on our activities. However, we have seen it through together and we are still here and in good shape.

To our members I would like to say thank you very much for sticking with us through the challenges we have faced. I am content that as a Committee we have made structural and constitutional changes, implemented policies and instigated procedures which will ensure the Club is not just in a strong position now but is equipped to face the future.

Signing off!

Sarah Howlett



Welcome to Freya ! - By Dominic Watts

The evening sun glinted on the surface of the river as my wife Lucy and I drifted on a 5 knot warm breeze down the Stour, beers in hand and smiles on our faces, with the sound of the estuary's birds and the water lapping up against the hull of our Cornish Shrimper.



It was for this that we decided to share with a friend the purchase of Freya, a 2002 Shrimper 19, dark blue with red gaff rig sails. We love the traditional rig, and the boat has what we call RAF, or 'Row Away Factor'; in other words, as you row away from her on her mooring you can look back at her in admiration.

We felt that her size was perfect for us to explore the stunningly beautiful rivers and backwaters of Suffolk and Essex, and her lifting centreplate raised gives her a draft of 50cm meaning we should be able to navigate some of the smallest creeks (the centreplate has in fact caused a bit of grief in that it tends to get jammed, due primarily to mud and small stones getting between the plate and its housing when she settles on the mud at low tide, but we're keeping our fingers crossed that recent modifications will prevent this from reoccurring; locals and members of the Stour Sailing Club have been very supportive with advice about this).

Another reason for choosing a Shrimper is the

ability to sail her comfortably single handed, as I'm not a very accomplished sailor. I've windsurfed in my youth which gave me a reasonable understanding of the wind and how it affects the centre of effort in relation to the centre of resistance etc, and I've sailed Wayfarers in Cornwall while on holiday near the Helford River. I helped a brother in law bring his 36ft yacht back from La Roche Bernard in Brittany to Chichester last August and I've done a few cross Channel trips. I did a Day Skipper course in April 2021 with Shearwater Sailing School out of Woolverstone (it was freezing!)

We're hoping to be able to get to know the Orwell, Deben and Alde rivers in 2022 and beyond, together with the Walton backwaters. We're not too keen to spend many nights out on her, day trips are more our idea, although the disadvantage of having a mooring at Manningtree is of course the restriction imposed by the tide, having only about two hours either side of high to navigate onto the Middlebridge Creek mooring. We think that if we want to stay out longer then we could either tie up at Halfpenney Pier at Harwich or anchor or pick up a mooring at Wrabness, get the train home and recover Freya the following day.



We've lived in Manningtree for about eighteen months now, and bearing in mind the way all our lives have been restricted due to the Coronavirus, we really appreciate the close knit community, the beautiful Stour valley, and the kindness shown to us by so many.

Lionheart 2021 - A Gentle Paddle (Halfway) Around the Coast of GB — *By Keith Paxman*

Last June I embarked on the challenge of rowing halfway round Great Britain from Penzance to Fraserburgh. Fortunately, I would not be entirely alone with other SSC members also signing up: Maria and Shirley for Leg 3; Sarah, Lorena and Sam for Leg 4 and Caroline for Leg 6. We had managed to get in some longer stamina training rows in the gigs and we also attended a training weekend in May to meet our fellow rowers and understand what was expected of us.

The first leg from Burnham on Crouch to Penzance had been completed in hot sun.

Roxy has a crew of twelve but only accommodation for six. So, at any time half the crew would be rowing or at least on deck and the other half out of the way in either the forward or aft pods. We were split into four watches of three and I was sharing the fore 'cabin' with Mark and Ali, a couple of really nice guys with plenty of experience who were doing the whole Round Britain circuit.

I use the term cabin loosely. On entering through the hatch there was a triangular area starting at about the width of a small double bed and narrowing towards the bow. There was a step and standing position enough for one person to ease in and out of the cabin at a time. A small stowage area for kit and a slide-in coffin for one of the lucky three for sleeping. Nestled on a shelf was a portable Jet boil and along the side of the cabin were some pockets to tuck necessary items plus daily food allowance.

I resolved the need to be absolutely on top of personal admin over the weeks ahead, looking after myself and my kit.

Leg 1 Penzance – St Ives 28 NM; St Ives – Fishguard 123 NM; Stranraer - Glenarm 37 NM

Total 188 NM

We left Penzance mid-afternoon and eased out of Penzance Harbour about 2.30pm in bright sun and for a very short while a following light breeze. Our plan was to round Lands End, head up the Cornish coast for a while and then straight across the Bristol Channel towards Milford Haven, round St David's Head and then follow the Welsh coast and then the Irish coast

up to Belfast. A simple enough plan but the execution was rather more difficult.

Penzance Harbour was soon receding as I got the feel of rowing this boat. With six of us we were managing around 3 knots with a bit of help from the wind and tide about slack. It is a sliding seat,

sweep oar boat, so just one blade to contend with. But with any sort of waves and with the movement of the boat every stroke must be carefully placed to avoid going too deep in a wave or missing completely in a trough.

As the afternoon wore on we passed Mousehole and made our way along the coast and we rounded Lands End during the evening. At this point the wind shifted to head us and the seas started to slam into the bows. We were on the 9pm to midnight watch and it was full waterproofs as waves slopped over the side of Roxy. The forecast had taken a turn for the worse with strong northerly winds forecast. Initially we still felt that we could head up the north Cornish coast but as the night wore on it became certain we would need to seek shelter in St Ives.



Roxy ready and waiting



Plenty of room inside for three

Lionheart 2021 - A Gentle Paddle (Halfway) Around the Coast of GB — *By Keith Paxman*

Over the next two days we got to know St Ives quite well as we waited for the weather to improve. We had found some accommodation so could dry our clothing and sleep comfortably. By Wednesday morning the forecast was more positive but the wind was still northerly and quite brisk as we left the shelter of the harbour watched by holiday makers on the pierhead observing our slow progress as we headed straight across the Bristol Channel aiming for the Welsh Coast.

There were still white tops on the waves and a dead headwind and even after three hours rowing the coast seemed quite reluctant to let us escape. Once out of sight of land it is difficult to judge progress apart from the readout on the aft cabin which was showing speed over

the ground and wind direction and strength. Neither were encouraging. More dispiriting was the occasional buoy which seemed static and in sight for literally hours.

Each three hours of rowing seems endless especially the last thirty minutes. The only break was to visit the loo. When I say loo I mean a plastic bucket positioned in front of the hatch window of the forward cabin. Removing outer layers, balancing with the boat rocking and pitching and focusing on the matter in hand became an art.

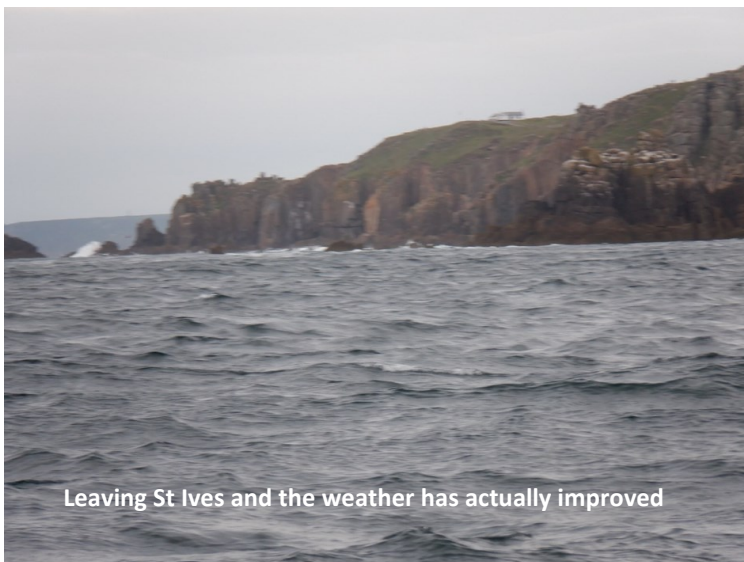
As we crossed the Bristol Channel the pattern of row until exhausted after three hours then eat and rest became routine. Whilst we rowed with the aft two watches the only times we saw

our opposite numbers from our cabin Arya, Neil and Rick was as they relieved us at our rowing seats and then when we returned ready for some more.

Over the next couple of days we could see them looking more tired and worn with every session. No doubt they thought the same of us.

Eventually with improving weather the coast of Wales came within sight and we were heading for the gap between the mainland and Skomer

Island. Sea birds aplenty and some warm sun as we approached. With help from the tide we were making good progress now and when we hit the tide race between St David's Head and Ramsay Island we managed



Leaving St Ives and the weather has actually improved

the fastest speed Roxy had so far managed at 10.8 knots over the ground.

Our joy was though short-lived as the weather forecast gave us strong northerly winds and rain for the next couple of days. It was clear we would not make it up to Belfast by Sunday so swap some crew members and start Leg 3.

Reluctantly the decision was made to put into Fishguard that night and arrange for a trailer to take us up to Stranraer in Scotland and then hop across to Northern Ireland.

Next day after breakfast we found that Charlie our Skipper and his team had worked wonders and we boarded a minibus heading across Wales and up the M6 and M74 for another overnight at Stranraer.

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The boat followed on a trailer to the surprise of those following its position online with its sudden burst of speed.



The next day we set off heading north up Loch Ryan into our familiar head wind which again headed us as we turned west across the Irish Sea towards the coast of Northern Ireland and the small village of Glenarm. An uncomfortable, tiring and chilly night but we

were delighted when we arrived to be greeted by our new companions including Maria and Shirley.

Leg 2 Glenarm – Port Ellen 45 NM; Port Ellen – Oban 59 NM; Oban – Mallaig 83 NM

Total 187 NM

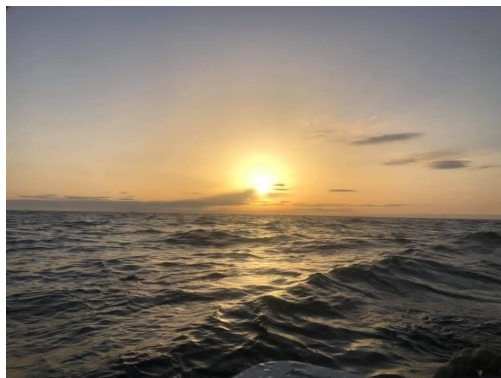
Another night in a hotel and off the next day, one day later than planned. The new crew members could not understand why we were late and why we were not eager to leave immediately. They were to fully comprehend not 24 hours later after a tough and rough row back across the Irish Sea, along the Mull of Kintyre and across to Port Ellen on Jura. It was a bit of a shock for the new crew members as they became accustomed to the routine of the rowing and off watch system whilst dealing with rough seas and some initial sea sickness. But everyone stuck to it and soon we were tucking into a breakfast in a local hotel.

For the rest of the day, we continued to row north-east along the coast of Jura and into the night past Islay with fog closing in. This far north the sky does not fully darken in late June and colours start to reveal themselves around 3am. The head wind was now a light breeze and we were making good progress as we heard the roar of the Corryvreckan whirlpool between the islands of Jura and Scarba.

We needed to make a tide gate to carry the current or face 6 hours flogging against the flow or at anchor and we made it with minutes to spare and continued onto Oban.

It was now Wednesday and despite leaving a day late we were ahead of schedule for our Leg

3 destination of Mallaig so it was agreed that we would row around the outside of Mull and then take in Muck and Rum and perhaps the coast of Skye aiming to arrive on Saturday.



So, Thursday morning at 11.00 am we set off for our final part of Leg 3 in bright sun and almost calm conditions. We headed south-west into what soon became a sailor's nightmare, a strong breeze with thick fog. Even with satnav we decided it was not a combination we wanted to test so we turned about to take the alternative route of the Sound of Mull between Mull and the mainland with of course a head wind and tide against us. We passed Lismore Lighthouse and went off watch for three hours returning to find it was still very much in sight.

The evening wore onto night and we missed sighting Tobermory where we had hoped to land in daylight. We continued with fog closing in and in the early morning heard but did not see Ardnamurchan lighthouse.

We rounded Rum and pulled into a beautiful inlet off Kinloch picking up a mooring buoy where we sat in the sun resting, snoozing, (some) swimming and (all) eating as the sun lowered in the sky. Here the sun hardly set with a faint glow over the north horizon all night. We headed off to the Skye coast which we followed and then across to Mallaig arriving around 4.30 am.

Leg 3 Mallaig – Lochinver 87 NM; Lochinver – Wick 116 NM; Wick – Fraserburgh 86 NM

Total 289 NM

Our new crew members had arrived – Sarah, Lorena and Sam who are all SSC members plus Jo, Jules and Julie from Maldon Rowers.

Lionheart 2021 - A Gentle Paddle (Halfway) Around the Coast of GB — *By Keith Paxman*



This Leg was to take us from Mallaig up the remote western coast of Scotland and along the top and down past Wick onto Fraserburgh. Potentially this was the make-or-break leg facing what the Atlantic, Pentland Firth and North Sea could throw at us.

We left Mallaig in very pleasant weather and at least the head wind was light. We worked our way between Skye and the mainland and were treated to a fine display by the dolphins as we left Kyle of Lochalsh. We made good time as the new crew settled in.

After a night out, the next day brought increasing head winds and we ground to a halt making no headway. Lobster pots around us were static and the sea state was rising. We had to round Stoer Head and the forecast was not great. A decision was made to start the electric engine and head into Lochinver for shelter.

The next day dawned warm and sunny and the wind although of course still heading us was

light. An early start at 06.30 meant we rounded Stoer Head passed the Old Man of Stoer by mid morning and we were now hugging into the shore to cheat the tide with the cliffs of NW Scotland towering above us.

We rounded a very benign Cape Wrath which did not live up to its name and almost for the first time for me there was no north in our heading. But surprise, surprise despite a 90 degree change of course the wind was still ahead, now an easterly. Rowing was good and it was the sort of weather when you could not decide whether to wear wet weather gear or lighter clothing and inevitably ending stripping off layers as you warmed up rowing. What was also inevitable was at the end of a dry three hour row just as you were thinking of a well earned rest a wave would just flop over the side of the boat to give a last minute soaking.

Uncertain whether we would make our way along this northern coast in one leg we made another tide gate and decided to continue to Wick around the corner. We were now facing probably the toughest waters so far, the Pent-



Old Man of Stoer



Cape (Not Very) Wrath (ful)

land Firth where the Atlantic meet the North Sea and is squeezed between the mainland and the Orkney's. Once into the maelstrom there was no looking back.

Boat speed picked up and Sarah, Jules and I off watch went into our cabin and firmly closed the

hatch in case of mishap. We could not see ahead so we were watching the backs of the six rowers and the expressions of Charlie who had taken over manual steering. Speed over the ground notched up and Charlie's face set firm as he focused on his course.

Lionheart 2021 - A Gentle Paddle (Halfway) Around the Coast of GB — *By Keith Paxman*

We passed the previous record of 10.8 knots and moved into 11's and 12's finally managing 13.2 knots but by now our east current was meeting the north set of the North Sea with standing waves ahead.

Rounding Duncansby Head we imagined Wick about 30 miles ahead would soon be achieved. However, our mean-minded wind god shifted the wind yet again this time to the south and with an adverse tide we made a little over 7 NM over the next 6 hours. Eventually we were in Wick harbour by late evening and then off to our yurt camped in a field outside of town.

The forecast was not great and we needed to wait a few hours until the now south easterly winds eased. It was going to be a tough row across the Moray Firth but we would hug the coast as far as Lybster and then head across to the other side. We left late afternoon and progress was slow. Gradually the night passed as we crossed the Moray Firth and we found the next morning that for the first time we had a true following wind as we headed east.

This was a delight and the novel experience of easy rowing made me realise how different these three weeks would have been with at least some wind assistance. Morale was high and even higher when we were followed by a Minke whale for over an hour. One moment it was ahead and then it would dive and be following astern, then swim under the boat upside down looking up at us as it shot past. A truly memorable moment.

All too soon this magic day was over and we rowed into Fraserburgh harbour, tied up and made our way to our hotel accommodation and my last night as part of this unique adventure.

Total distance rowed over the three Legs was 674 NM

It was a strange next couple of weeks knowing that Roxy was still completing her quest and I was not part of it. Caroline was though representing SSC on the final tough leg from Scarborough to Burnham on Crouch.. The final day of the Lionheart Round Britain typified most of the journey with a grim forecast of high winds and rain. The crew set to it and moored to a pontoon off the Burnham Yacht Club literally minutes before the gale hit. Her circumnavigation was complete.

Writing this account some months after the trip, negative memories: the blisters, aches and pains, sleep deprivation and discomfort of the accommodation, those little annoying behaviours of others have all faded. Lasting memories are rowing through the tide-races of Ramsay and Pentland Firth; dolphins, gannets, guillemots, puffins; rowing through the night with stars and full moon or mist; pies at Lochinver; the brutal Bristol Channel; using the bucket in rough seas; the Yurt; cooking, eating and trying to sleep in the cabin; struggling towards Port Ellen and Wick; the following wind and the Minke whale.

Most of all was the companionship, humour and shared endeavour of fellow rowers.

Others who were there too will have different memories and will have had different experiences.

My significant learning is that whatever stage of your life if you want to do it, you can and should!

Keith - Lionheart Rower 2021



Rowing Roundup by Caroline Cunningham - Rowing Secretary

Looking back at 2021 it is easy to forget that we started the year once again in lockdown with rowing, and many other aspects of life, on hold. Rowing is a very active part of the Club and in normal circumstances the Gigs are out on the water rowing and racing all year round both at home and away.

The Club has two Harker's Yard Gigs: William Rose and Hunter both purchased with the aid of Sport England Lottery Funding and donations from the families of William Rose and Ian Hunter Edmond for whom the Gigs are named. William Rose joined the Club in October 2016 and Hunter in March 2020, with impeccable timing, on the day that the first national lock down was announced!

Both Gigs spent much of 2020 tucked up under cover in the compound, the 2020-2021 HYGA winter race series was cancelled and the prospects for 2021 did not look promising.

At the end of January 2021 we realised that we needed to do something to replace our time on the water and to keep positive and active. The answer was our 'February Fun' and 'March Hare' challenges in which rowers, friends and family members 'virtually rowed' over nine thousand kilometres from Manningtree to Grenada, though walking, cycling, indoor rowing, running and circuit training. We all ended the challenges fitter than we started, with a number of very fit canine companions that had also benefitted from extra walks.

Then at the end of March 2021 we were finally able to get back on the water as outdoor, organised team sports were given the green light to re-start.

Welcoming New Rowers

During 2020 it had been difficult to get new rowers involved as restrictions were in place for much of the year, and when we could row we had to limit contacts between different 'bubbles' of rowers.



When we returned to rowing in 2021 it was great to be able to run some covid secure new rowers' sessions. Since March 2021 over forty new rowers have been out on the water, and some are now amongst our most regular rowers.

Scenes from the water

Home Waters

After all those lock down months when we could not row we don't let much put us off and are out on the water come rain or shine. But it is always lovely when the sun shines!



Hunter and William Rose in Levington Marina

We aim to have a mixture of short rows, longer rows, training rows and more social rows and this year we also made some longer trips, rowing out on one tide and back on the next.

In 2021 we rowed to Levington Marina and back (46 kilometres) and made two trips to Walton Backwaters (55 kilometres) where we almost reached Titchmarsh Marina but were just thwarted by the tough rowing conditions on both occasions.



Lionheart Round Britain Row

During the third lockdown five of our rowers signed up for one or more legs of the Roxy Lionheart



Round Britain Row, which took place over six, week long legs in June and July 2021. The row started and finished in Burnham on Crouch taking a clockwise route. Keith rowed three legs starting with the second leg from Cornwall to Glenarm. He was then joined by Maria and Shirley for leg three from Glenarm to Skye and Sarah (along with Lorena and Sam, who are both also now SSC) for leg four from Skye to Fraserburgh. Caroline then rowed the final leg from Scarborough back to Burnham. members) for leg four from Skye to Fraserburgh. Caroline then rowed the final leg from Scarborough back to Burnham.

The Bowsprit Spring 2022



Roxy



Not a common sight on the Stour

Rowing three hours on and three hours off for 24 hours a day, living off expedition rations and 'sleeping' in a tiny cabin was a challenge and very different to Gig rowing on the Stour. It was a great adventure for all of the rowers and everyone returned with new experiences and tales to tell and pride in their achievements.

Racing

The Harker's Yard Gig Association (HYGA) Winter Series had been cancelled in 2020-2021 and so it was with great excitement that we held the first event of the 2021-2022 Winter Series here at Manningtree on 10th October 2021.



With 16 Gigs taking part launching, running three races for men's, women's and men's crews, and recovering the Gigs at the end is a logistical challenge on our short tidal window. On the morning we discovered that our start line triangles had disappeared overnight, meaning that we had to make new ones and get them in place before the race. This was an unwanted complication but with the help of Club volunteers it was achieved.

We are one of the few Clubs in the HYGA that have the space on the start line for a mass start event (many events are run time trial style). The racing is extremely competitive with Gigs finishing within seconds of each other across the whole of the start/finish line which sets a real challenge for the race organisers and timekeepers. However the event was a great success and a credit to the Club and all of the volunteers.

We even managed to give Hunter her long delayed formal launch as part of the day with Sue, her brother Colin and Sue's son Sam doing the honours in memory of Ian Hunter Edmond – Sue and Colin's father.

The Bowsprit *Spring 2022*

The Winter Series continued with events at Rowhedge and Mersea before bad weather caused the cancellation of the fourth event, and concerns over the omicron variant led to the cancellation of the fifth and sixth events. The Series is due to resume in February with four events remaining including the final races scheduled for Brightlingsea on 20th March 2022.

Off Water Activity

Our limited tidal window means that we can't get on the water at the same time or even on the same days every week. However, we hold a regular weekly 'erg and circuit' session where rowers can get together to work on technique and fitness on an 'Erg' (otherwise known as a Concept 2 indoor rowing machine), and work on core strength and flexibility with a circuit session. It is also very sociable and great fun.



Come and Row in 2022

New Year's Day 1st January 2022

We welcome new rowers at any time of the year, you don't need any prior experience or special equipment, and there are no upper age restrictions.

We take new rowers out as part of a crew with more experienced rowers. And we try to make the whole process as easy as possible, with at least two organised 'Open' rows each week all year round when tide and light allow that any rower can book on to.

You can row to get a bit fitter, for the social and team aspects or just to enjoy our beautiful estuary. However if you are competitive and want to race then there are also plenty of opportunities to do so.



As rowers gain experience there are further opportunities to row as part of 'fixed crew rows' and race crews. Experienced rowers also learn to Cox, and if you just love being on the water and don't want to row we are always keen to hear from Members who have on the water experience and would like to learn to Cox.

Both members and non-members of the Club are welcome to have a go. After six rows (three free, and three paying £3 per row) we ask non-members to join the

Club if they wish to continue to row. All rowers make an additional rowing contribution of £3 a row (or an annual payment of £75). This goes towards replacement of equipment (including thole pins), and the maintenance of our beautiful Gigs.

If you would like to try rowing just email rowing@stoursailingclub.co.uk and we will send you further information and get you out on the water as soon as we can.

Caroline Cunningham - Rowing Secretary

Russell Harvey, Keith Paxman, Judy Wakeling - Stour Sailing Club - Rowing Sub Committee

Racing by Will Harvey - Sailing Secretary

This year we have had an interesting sailing year. Lots of people out on the water in a variety of craft and a very wet and windy Regatta. There have been some members traveling out and about for some cruising.

We were lucky and managed to get out on the water lots this year, whether this was racing or cruising from SSC or in different events. Again this year, Stour sailing Club had a good turnout of boats racing in the Haven Combined clubs series, with some good results had by SSC members and some unfortunate breakages as well. The Haven combined clubs series is a fantastic opportunity for those with cruisers or racers to get out about and sail around Dovercourt Bay, as well as visiting local clubs.

This year we saw some dinghies race in the Regatta. Some raced out in the keelboat and yacht racing as well as a small group doing some inshore racing with me. This was a good split and we saw some competitive racing in both groups and those who stayed inshore were able to progress on their sailing skills and have some very close and exciting racing. The Sunday was very windy and we saw some breakages and lots of capsizing. We would love to see more dinghies out racing so please see the calendar. All racing is open to dinghies, yachts and micros.

This year little micro racing happened before the regatta. The Regatta was a well attended event by the micros and again those who suffered the wind and rain managed to have a fantastic weekend out on the water. The

Worlds was a fantastic event that was well turned out and very well attended. Many thanks to Martin and Jenny Pavey for their continued hard work and commitment for helping us run this event. We managed to have some brilliant windward leeward races with it being very close at the top throughout the weekend, with Well Done (Ian and Stef Bloomfield) reigning victorious. Virus (Rheanna Pavey and David Robertson) as runners up with Pathogem (Ed Roberts and Nick Evans) winning the passage series. This event was sponsored by East Anglian Sea School and One Sails both based in Suffolk Yacht Harbour.



Impromptu winter series - there were a few gems left in the water over the winter and have been conducting regular bi-weekly races between 2 or 3 boats. We have thoroughly enjoyed this and will be continuing this in 2022.

There have been a few people interested in purchasing Micro's, we would love to hear from you and help if we can as most of us are aware of any micros or GEMs for sale in the UK.

Plans for 2022

Our main focus for this year is to get as much up and running as possible.. We are putting together a current calendar which will outline the events in an ideal situation. The main process for this is to look at the tidal situation and ease for local sailors to be able to enjoy the water at peak times.This will include cruises and racing. If you have any ideas for local cruises that you like to do from SSC please get in contact.

Racing by Will Harvey - Sailing Secretary

Micro Racing - It is my plan to keep the format very similar to normal years however, I am planning on having a micro match racing regatta which has got the attention of the keel-boat department of the RYA.,The idea of this is to have more of the short, sharp racing that we all thoroughly enjoy in the micro worlds. As well as getting more boats in for the beginning of the season. The details and the dates for this will come out with the calendar.

Dinghy racing - Due the interest from this year, we will be looking at hosting regular dinghy racing alongside the Micro's. If you are interested in dinghy racing please let us know so we can keep you informed.

Try sailing and crewing opportunity - There are many of our members who are looking to go sailing but are perhaps not using their boats because of needing a crew. We also have many members of the community who would love to try sailing and are not sure where to start or just want to try it. It's our plan to put these

groups together to encourage as many people out on the water as possible. So please get in contact with me if you:

- Are a boat owner and are looking for crew to sail with.
- Are a member who would like some crewing opportunities
- Know of any members of the local community who would like to try sailing.

Thank you all for your continued support over last year and we are all looking forward to the 2022 sailing season.

If you have any queries or are interested in crewing opportunities the please contact me on:

Sailingsec@stoursailingclub.co.uk

Will Harvey

Racing & Sailing Calendar 2022

Please note HW in Mistley is approximated HW Harwich +25 mins

Day	Date	HW	Start	Race	Cruises and other events
Sun	6 March	14:11	13:10	SSC Micro Winter Series	
Sun	20 March	13:10	12:10	SSC Micro Winter Series	
Sun	3 April	14:07	13:00	SSC Micro Winter Series	
Sun	17 April	13:05	12:05	SSC Micro Winter Series	
Sat	30 April	12:31	11:31	Micro Match Racing	
Sun	1 May	13:07	12:05	Micro Match Racing	
Sat	7 May	16:26	10:45		Haven Combined Clubs
Sat	14 May	11:09	10:45		Haven Combined Clubs
Sun	15 May	11:54	10:55	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Spring series	
Sat	28 May	11:24	0900		Haven Combined Clubs offshore

Racing & Sailing Calendar 2022

Day	Date	HW	Start	Race	Cruises and other events
Sun	29 May	12:05	11:00	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Spring series	
Sat	4 June	15:28	14:25	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Spring series	
Fri	17 June	14:45			Backwaters Cruise
Sat	18 June	15:34	10:45		Haven Combined Clubs
Sun	19 June	16:24	15:25	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Spring Series	Backwaters Return
Sat	25 June	10:02	10:45		Haven Combined Clubs
Sun	26 June	10:54	09:55	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Spring Series	
Sat	2 July	14:38	13:40	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Summer Series	
Fri	8 July	18:59	0700		Haven Combined Clubs offshore
Sat	9 July	07:48	07:00	21 Mile Race	
Sat	16 July	14:33	TBC	REGATTA	
Sun	17 July	15:19	TBC	REGATTA	
Sat	23 July	08:15	TBC		Felixstowe Regatta
Sun	24 July	09:22	TBC		Felixstowe Regatta
Sat	30 July	13:48	12:50	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Summer Series	
Fri	5 Aug	17:21			Lowestoft cruise via Shotley
Sat	6 Aug	18:18	0900	Haven Combined Clubs offshore	Shotley to Lowestoft
Sun	7 Aug	19:32			Lowestoft return
Sat	13 Aug	13:31	12:30	Presidents Race	
Sat	27 Aug	12:51	0900		Britannia Race HCC
Sun	28 Aug	13:24	12:24	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Summer Series	
Sat	10 Sept	12:28	10:45		Haven Combined Clubs
Sun	11 Sept	13:11	12:10	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Summer Series	
Sat	24 Sept	11:42	10:45		Haven Combined Clubs
Sun	25 Sept	12:18	11:20	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Autumn Series	
Sat	1 Oct	15:52	14:50	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Autumn Series	
Sat	8 Oct	11:21	10:20	MICRO WORLDS/ GEM NATIONALS	
Sun	9 Oct	12:07	11:00	MICRO WORLDS/ GEM NATIONALS	
Sat	15 Oct	15:42	14:40		Curry Cruise
Sun	16 Oct	16:22			Curry Cruise
Sat	29 Oct	14:57	13:50	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Autumn Series	
Sat	12 Nov	13:40	12:40	SSC Dinghy, Micro and Yacht Racing Autumn Series	
Sat	26 Nov	13:01	12:00	SSC Micro Frostbite Series	
Sat	10 Dec	12:47	11:45	SSC Micro Frostbite Series	
Mon	26 Dec	13:43	12:40	SSC Micro Frostbite Series	

Micro Worlds 2020 by Jenny Pavey

There was a very good turnout of 8 boats on the first day of this year's Micro Championships held on 18/19 September with an even better 9 boats on the second day, following a much-reduced Covid-affected event in 2020. Only one was a Micro 18 with the rest being Gems.

A morning tide made for an early start, the wind was slow to materialize, as was the tide, so a decision was made to forego the passage race out from the club and to use the Committee and Safety RIBs to tow the Micros out to the windward/leeward race area to be ready to maximise racing time when the wind did appear. After a short delay, enough wind filled in from the south-east to make racing possible and two windward-leeward races of two laps each were held. Ian and Stef in Well Done won the first race with Will and Edd Harvey second and Rheanna and David won the second race with Ian and Stef coming second. A passage race back to the club, with the windward leg first followed by the usual route back round the Hooks and Royalty, was won by Ed Roberts and crew.

beat down river. Racing was close but both were won by Ian and Stef with Ed Roberts second in the first race and Andrew Thorp crewing for his young helm second in the second race. The final passage of the weekend was won by Ed Roberts and crew.



The event is split into various categories and the prizes are distributed in such a way that no boat can win all of them, so the results were;

Micro 'World' Championships overall (one discard)

- 1st – Ian and Stef in Well Done
 - 2nd – Rheanna and David in Virus
 - 3rd – Edd and Will Harvey in Takita (kindly lent out by Tony Power)
- Passage Series (excludes the 'Worlds' winner and one discard)
- 1st – Ed Roberts and crew in Pathogen
 - 2nd – Rheanna and David
 - 3rd – Ian and Stef
- Gem 'Nationals' (Micro 18s excluded and all races to count)
- 1st – Ian and Stef
 - 2nd – Rheanna and David
 - 3rd – Edd and Will Harvey

A special prize was awarded to Phil Martin and Matt Baker in 10 who completed all the races but weren't in the main prizes.



Sunday's start was a little later and there was enough wind and water for the passage race out, which was won by Rheanna and David. With the wind more east south-east than on Saturday, there was plenty of room for two good-length windward-leeward races, with a



The Stour Sailing Club signs the Plastic Free Pledge

Walking through Manningtree market one sunny Saturday morning, I stopped to have a look at a stall set up by members of Manningtree PACE (Practical Actions for Climate and Environment). There was a list of local businesses and organisations who had signed up to be Community Allies. Noticing that SSC was not on the list I chatted to Bekki the Plastic Free Community Lead about how the club could become involved.

Sarah, our Commodore, was very supportive so I presented the suggestion that the club should sign the Plastic Free Pledge at the next committee meeting. Having considered the proposal and what is involved, the committee fully supported the idea and so on behalf of the club, Sarah signed the Plastic Free Pledge.

What are Community Allies?

Community Allies are an integral part of helping Manningtree start and build on its journey to turn the tide on plastic pollution. Together we're tackling avoidable single-use plastic, from beaches and green spaces all the way back to the brands and businesses who create it.

What does all this mean for the club?

The Plastic Free pledge has 3 main aims which are the focus of our action plan:

1. To work to remove at least 3 single-use plastic items from day to day activities.
2. Commit to include our stance on single-use plastic in our communications.
3. Raise awareness and support plastic free initiatives in the community.

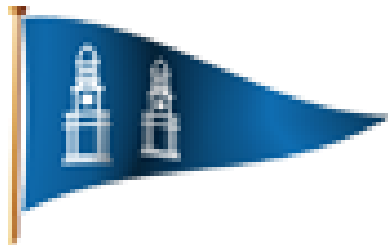
It is important to understand that the pledge is not about removing all plastic from our lives. It is about reducing the use of avoidable single-use plastic and changing the system that produces it.

Our action plan will ensure that we reduce our use of single-use plastic and raise awareness of this amongst club members and visitors to the club. If we all work together and do what we can, it will make a difference.

Judy Wakeling



REGATTA 2021



It has been a difficult time this year. We were unable to hold a regatta in 2020! It then seemed unlikely we could hold one in 2021! But we did! It was smaller this year but still perfectly formed focusing on sailing, rowing and fishing events. Also the early morning Yoga on the Beach which was open to everyone.

Fishing Results

In difficult conditions both days the fishing competition was won on both days by Mark Bentall who caught a 41cms Bass on Saturday and a 32cms Bass on the Sunday. Needless to say that all fish caught were under the regularity 42cms in length so all were immediately returned to the water after they were caught, measured and recorded.

Sailing Results

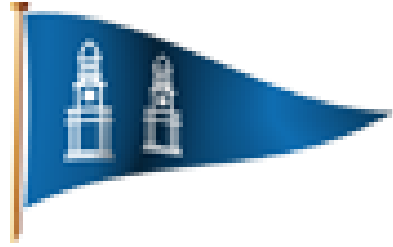
Twenty-six boats, a mixture of dinghies and cruisers modern and classic, entered Saturday's Pursuit Race, in which the slowest boats start first and others follow every five minutes until the fastest boats which start last. Once you've been overtaken you can't win the race. There were some torrential downpours but the forecast strong wind didn't materialise, so the racing was more tactical than physical. The race was won convincingly by Jim Stewart in a Laser Radial dinghy. Sunday's class racing was much windier and the challenging conditions proved too much for some, but nine boats managed to complete an exciting race.

Rowing Results

The rowing races was made up of Harkers Yard Gigs and a Clayton Skiff which was a delight to see back in competition. As mentioned challenging conditions but these hardy rowers carried on despite the weather and proved, as usual, to be very competitive!

Saturday	Sunday
<p>Pursuit Race finishers</p> <p>Laser Radial – Jim Stewart – first overall and first dinghy Hawk – Will Langton TT Pebble – Tim Goodwin – first classic Byte – Reuben Manning Well Done Micro Gem – Ian Bloomfield/Stef Goodwin Loup de Mer – Tony Power and crew – first cruiser Virus Micro Gem – Rheama Pavey/Andy Pugh Muscle Micro – Ian Pavey/Matt House Anagram of Meg – Andy Thorp/Luke Thorp/Caspar Thorp Solution – Bob Townley Full Circle – Chris Clayton/Ray Clayton Micro Gem Pathogger – Ed Roberts/William Roberts Micro Gem 10 – Phil Martin/Matt Baker Micro Indecision – Dave Waters/Andrew Yates/Phil Smacks Boat – Pete Elliston/John Roberts Micro Gem Geminy Cricket – Eleanor Bates and crew Magnum – Garron Baines Dolma – Richard Martin/Lance Warren Jeanneau – Alexis Girard/Nitomi Kumai Ozzie Owl – Craig Williamson</p>	<p>Dinghies</p> <p>Hawk – Will Langton Topper – Will Harvey</p> <p>Micros</p> <p>Muscle – Ian Pavey/Matt House Well Done – Ian Bloomfield/Stef Goodwin Pathogger – Ed Roberts/William Roberts 10 – Phil Martin/Matt Baker</p> <p>Cruisers</p> <p>Full Circle – Chris Clayton/Ray Clayton Dolma – Richard Martin/Adrian Ludlow/Alix Ludlow</p> <p>Classics</p> <p>Magnum – Garron Baines</p>
<p>Junior Races</p> <p>Pico – Nicolas Kumai-Girard Topper – Leo Kumai-Girard Topper – Sebastian Poku-Hebbewhite</p>	<p>Rowing Results</p> <p>Race 1: Women's Crews Hunter – 12.25 min William Rose – 12.34 min Race 2: Hunter – 12.51 min Witchoar – 13.48 min</p>
<p>Rowing Results</p> <p>Race 1: Women's Crew's Hunter – 12.25 min William Rose 12.34 min Race 2: Hunter – 12.51 min Witchoar – 13.48 min</p>	<p>Race 2: Technical Draw – Witchoar and Hunter 18.45 min</p>

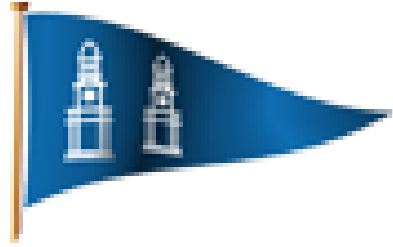
REGATTA 2021



Pictures courtesy of Albert Edwards

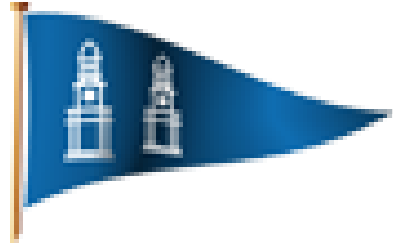


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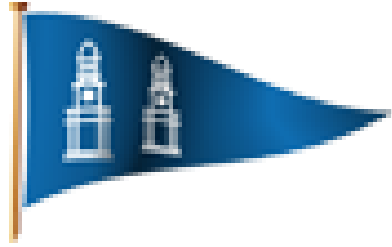
Pictures courtesy of Albert Edwards

REGATTA 2021



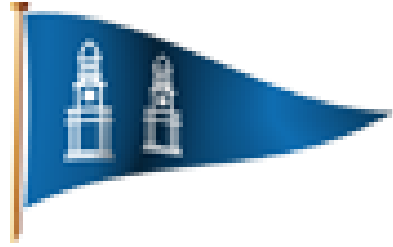
Pictures courtesy of Albert Edwards

REGATTA 2021



Pictures courtesy of Albert Edwards

REGATTA 2021



Pictures courtesy of Albert Edwards

A Day Out on Galmina with the 2 Ts! *by Ted Brightly, Tony Jiggins, and Sarah Howlett*

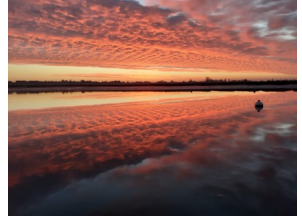
Lets set the scene! Galmina, a Cox 22 which still has her original engine, 40 years old, is based in Titchmarsh. We have Ted Brightly (owner) and Tony Jiggins, long time members of SSC, sometimes joined by Mark Bentall and Dennis Compton. These seasoned fishermen go out as much as the weather allows, and in Tony's case as much as Sylvie allows! They get down to the boat as the sun rises. Start off with a cup of tea and they get the boat ready for a day on the water - anticipation rises – what will we catch today ?

Then after a discussion to decide where to head for (although if the catch turns out to be poor the individual whose choice is selected does get a bit of a ribbing!) – they are off! Favourite areas are Stone Bank, Dovercourt Bay, Outer Ridge or Fox's Racing Mark – generally a location about an hour to an hour and ½ away from Titchmarsh. On arrival another cup of tea along with a general discussion about what bait (squid or king ragworm) to use and then set up.

There is no formula to guaranteed success – they could catch something within 5 minutes or it could be 5 hours. How do they fill their time?

A mixture of good discussions, eating, drinking tea/coffee, a good laugh, seal watching, looking at migratory birds and always plenty seagulls waiting for an easy meal. A source of entertainment is listening to VHF16, 8 or 71. A couple of their favourites was when a 54ft yacht radioed in to say that they had run out of diesel and could someone bring them some out. The response was to put up their sails which seemed to horrify these sailors as something unthinkable! On another occasion one yacht confirmed to the other member of their fleet that they had arrived in Shotley. Their friends in the other yacht said they could be another couple of hours but then

proceeded to give them a shopping list in preparation of their arrival until the authorities advised that they were not on a shopping channel! Sometimes they see other boats racing and recognise fellow SSC members, very often Galmina is used as a turning point!



Every fish that is caught has to be checked to see if it meets the regulatory requirements for size, if okay the fish are put in a hold basket, but if not they are thrown back.

The types of fish caught are; Bass, Skate, Dogfish, Whiting, Dabs, eels, Smooth Hounds, Tope and sometimes, if lucky, they might get a cod but they are few and far between. The lack of cod is a real change over the years and obviously the type of available fish will change according to the time of the year.

The catch is gutted on the way home and the seagulls get a good feed.

They like to get back to the marina by about 3.30 to 4.00. I asked - is it because of the tide and the answer was NO, perhaps it is because they are cold, again the answer was NO. The reason, I was informed, is it to get a pint in!



The pictures here are some of their catch on a single day (3rd February 2022).

They would very much like to encourage more people to fish and looking at ways to do this. One thought is to offer a day's fishing for members to try, perhaps in mid summer- watch this space.

*Ted Brightly, Tony Jiggins
and Sarah Howlett*



From the Compound *by Will Langton - Compound Manager*

Despite restrictions due to the Corona-virus pandemic, the 2021 season was very successful for the compound with most members being allocated the storage space they requested.

Cruiser lift in took place on 26/27th April with the compound being available for tender, dinghy and kayak storage until lift out, on 3/5th November.

Due to an increase in demand for kayak storage, and to make the best use of the limited space available, we will be providing a rack for some of them to stored on end for the coming season. I had the idea from a visit to St

Ives last year where I saw a similar arrangement.

Gig rowing continue to be a significant activity at the club. Again we have managed to arrange the west compound during the winter season to allow gigs access to the slip-way and, by storing boats on trailers which are easy to move in front of the road gate, access to the road for away events.



As usual a few requests:

There have been occasions when the flood and road gates to the west compound have been left open. Members are

reminded that we, the SSC, are legally responsible for closing and securing the flood gate when not in use. In order to maintain security the road gate should be closed and locked when not in use.

Please ensure that all items stored in the compound, including the oar shed, are marked with your membership number.

The 2022 season will be my 7th as compound manager. As I approach a significant birthday it is my intention to relinquish the post in March 2023. If any member, or members, are interested in taking on the position and would like to work alongside me this year please contact me for further details.

Have a great season on the water in 2022 !

Will Langton

Mooring Updates

by Toby Horne - Moorings Manager



I've been a sailing club member for 10 years now and done little more than go fishing and prop up the bar but recently I have felt I need to give something back.

I started helping Russell with some of the mooring tasks and then he got me into rowing which I have been thoroughly enjoying. When Russell decided to resign as Moorings Master to focus on the rowing I thought I'd step up to the mark and try to give that something back to the club after it has given me so much.

I've got plans to make the numbering of the moorings and their locations clearer

and easier to find which will be a work in progress over the coming year. The end game will be to have every mooring spot allocated a what-3-words tag (Google it if you've not heard of it before) so if you're out visiting your mooring please do send me your location so I can update the records.

It's essential to regularly check your moorings and even the thickest of chains will wear through in a surprisingly short amount of time, sometimes less than a year for new chain! We regularly have boats going adrift and we want to keep that to a minimum this year please.

We've updated the mooring vessel clarification to make it clearer with a dinghy being defined as a craft no

longer than 4.88m (16ft) and any craft designed to be powered predominately by oars; anything else will be defined as a cruiser/fisher.

There is plenty of mooring spots available with only just over half in use so please do encourage your friends and family to get their boats on the water.

I look forward to meeting members old and new this year in my duties as the new Mooring Master!

Toby Horne

Social Events Report - by Maria Vigneau



At the time of writing, the Annual Dinner and Dance at Wivenhoe House is a few days away and after two years of covid social limitations, it is tremendous to have over 80 members attending this evening with a superb band playing.

Cake and coffee mornings (held each third Wednesday of the month) have been very well attended during the last year and many thanks are due to the loyal cake makers we have amongst us for the ongoing success of these gatherings.



Over the warmer months many members participated in club night meals (great pies, puddings, bangers and mash), BBQs, a walk/sail/row trip to Stutton beach and of course the regatta.

A presentation was given by the Manningtree and District Photographic Society who awarded the prizes from our club photography competition. The best overall photo across all categories was awarded to Roger Devonshire. The winning photos of each category are displayed in the bar.

A rather informative and thought provoking talk was given by James Goodfellow, Assistant Harbour Master, Harwich Haven in January. The illustration of recent examples of marine incidents generated a lot of discussion in the parlour, with a full house audience in attendance.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming social events throughout 2022!

Maria Vigneau, Social Secretary



First prize Roger Devonshire

THE VANE by Sid Smith



*At the age of 84 I stumbled out the back way door
To see the canopy of spring and all the song birds on the wing.*

The daffodils, so golden waving,
To greet the North East gale they're braving.
The snow broth, sodden, keeps on thawing
As the drainpipes keep on pouring.

The weeping willow and the Birch
Leave me slightly in the lurch,
Their green leaves sadly, not yet peeping
The leaf buds surely still are sleeping.
Too early, yet, I thought
But all as ever not for naught

For the weather vane was pointing
As if the bow wave were anointing
Her stem head and the bow,
For she's spreet rigged I will allow,
And makes a wondrous sailing sight
When the sun is shining bright

And the dark clouds come and go
With a flake or two of snow.
She cannot brail her flattened main,
And still her tops'll's set, that's plain.
She never fills and never backs,
Although her vang's are never slack.

She's sailed on, through it all,
For fifteen years or even more.
A touch of paint a dab of grease,
She's weathered all, without cease.
In dreams I'll take the wheel, I know,
And like the Dutchman I will go,

Flying round this globe of earth,
To see these verses show their worth.

Obituaries

We regret the passing away of fellow members of the club:

John Buxton



Gerry Brown (SSC President)



THE EDITORS PAGE

Dear Readers,

A huge thank you to those who have contributed to this edition of Bowsprit:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Caroline and Phil Cunningham | Sarah Howlett |
| Dominic Watts | Sid Smith |
| Jenny Pavey | Ted Brightly |
| Judy Wakeling | Toby Horne |
| Keith Paxman | Tony Jiggins |
| Maria Vigneau | Will Harvey |
| Roger Devonshire | Will Langton |
| Russel Harvey | |

Fair winds to all this spring!

Alexis



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