OGA

THE ASSOCIATION FOR GAFF RIG SAILING

OGA BRISTOL CHANNEL AREA

Bristol Channel Old Gaffers Association

Photographic Competition 2026

Categories

Sailing Gaffers
Photographs of gaffers in any situation: at work, at rest, or under repair. The photograph may feature one or multiple boats, showing either the whole vessel or a specific detail. Entries should convey something of the unique character and qualities associated with sailing gaffers.

Life at Sea
Photographs that focus on the human story, situation, or atmosphere. The subject may capture the best or worst of life at sea: peace, excitement, challenge, or adversity.

Judge
Roselle Marie, a UK-based photographer whose work has been published in magazines including *Nightingale & Sparrow*, *FERAL*, and *Acropolis Journal*. Roselle enjoys capturing the world through photography and can be found on Instagram at **@rosellemarie_photos**.

Sailing Gaffers



Is this a Chinese Gaffer?

Viv Head

Judge's comments:

A striking image with a bold red sail that immediately draws the eye. Strong colour contrast and a clear focus on the vessel make it memorable.



❤️

Lee Boards and Oak

A “Tjotter” in Heeg - Friesland. Big skies - beautiful boat

Andrew Kelland

Judge's comments:

A classic sailing image that combines technical quality with atmosphere. It captures both the beauty of the vessel and the enjoyment of being on the water

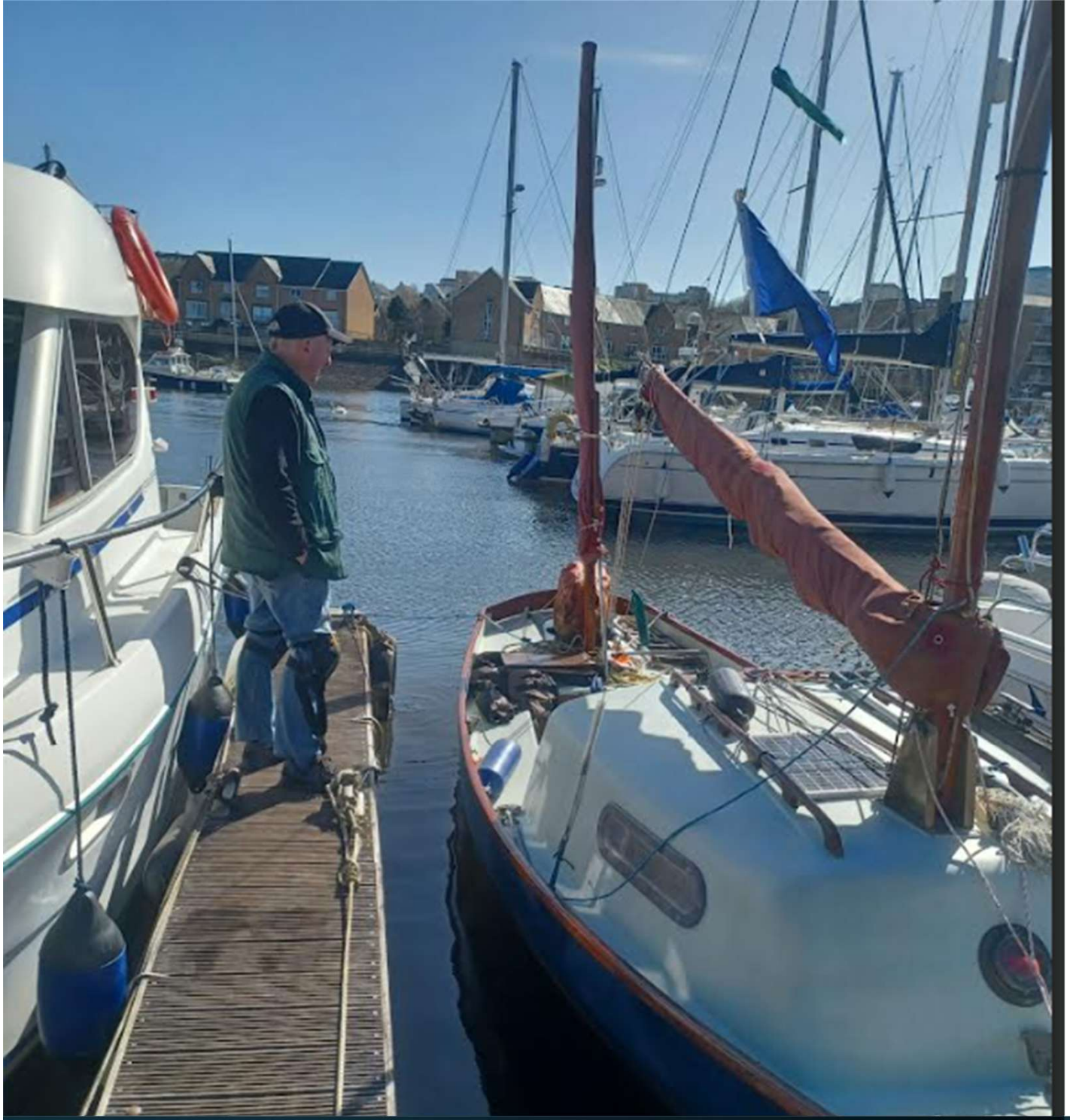


A good day for the topsail !

Sue Harris

Judge's comments:

Excellent use of space and scale, with the boat standing out against sea and sky. Simple, elegant and very effective.



"Thinking about Sailing Pintail"

Julia Carson Sims

Judge’s comment:

Good use of perspective, with the pontoon leading the viewer naturally into the scene. Plenty of detail and character.

OGA
THE ASSOCIATION FOR GAFF RIG SAILING

Life at Sea



A friendly turtle near the walkway on the Ely River

Viv Head

Judge's comments:

An unusual wildlife encounter that captures attention immediately. The subject is clearly defined and well positioned.



Bringing the baton ashore at Whitmore Bay on its round Britain tour to Glasgow for the Commonwealth Games

Glynis Parsons

Judge's comments:

A dynamic action shot full of energy and storytelling. The lifeboat and jet ski create a strong sense of occasion.



A chilly February day looking across the Channel from Barry Island

Glynis Parsons

Judge's comments:

Beautiful light and dramatic clouds combine to create a striking seascape. The reflection on the water adds depth.



"How many masts?!" Day break opposite the SS Great Britain June 26

Andrew Kellam

Judge's Comments:

A visually interesting image that makes great use of repetition and pattern. The busy marina scene is engaging throughout.



It’s a long way down! Visit to the Shannon lifeboat at Barry RNLI Station

Glynis Parsons

Judge's comments:

Strong leading lines and an unusual viewpoint create impact. The composition effectively conveys depth and scale.



The winner is...

Highly Commended

Bringing the Baton Ashore at Whitmore Bay – Best storytelling image.

A Chilly February Day Looking Across the Channel – Best use of light.

Is this a Chinese Gaffer? – Most visually striking sailing photograph.

Winner

🏆 A Good Day for the Topsail! – Sue Harris

This photograph is the strongest overall image due to its simplicity, balance, and visual impact. The small sailboat against the vast expanse of sea and sky perfectly captures the spirit of sailing while creating a memorable and elegant composition.



Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who entered this year's photo competition. Your photographs captured the beauty, character, and spirit of life on and around the water, making the judging both enjoyable and incredibly difficult.

Congratulations to all our entrants, and thank you for sharing your talent, creativity, and passion with us. We hope to see you back behind the camera again next year!