

North East Old Gaffers Association Annual Report 2024

In 2024, the North East Old Gaffers Association (NEOGA) set off with the clear objective of arranging enjoyable activities both on and off the water, while minimizing background administration.

2024 Activities

Visit to NEMT Boatyard: We started the year with an encouraging visit to the North Eastern Maritime Trust (NEMT) boatyard. The visit included a guided tour of their 136-year-old lifeboat, the Bedford, followed by a first-class fish and chip lunch at Coleman's Seafood Temple.

- Unfortunately, unsettled weather throughout the summer restricted our activities. We had to call off our planned visit to join in NEMT's biannual event on the Tyne.

Hosting NEMT

With the help and hospitality of the Royal Northumberland Yacht Club (RNYC), we were pleased to host NEMT for a weekend in Blyth. This included an RNLI consultancy session offering skippers advice on how to prepare to come under tow in an emergency. Despite indifferent wind and weather conditions, we had an enjoyable dinner on board the LV50 lightship, RNYC's club headquarters.

Gafflings

Our completed Gaffling is still loaned out to a school in Hartlepool. The uncompleted one is currently in storage while we seek a sponsor to help with the cost of completion and to be involved in its use once commissioned.

Current Challenges

The unexpected illness of our Secretary, Martin Haigh, following the recent loss of our late President Des O'Meara, have deeply affected us all. As a result, we have deferred our AGM until Q1 2025 to allow time for members to take stock and decide on the future of NEOGA.

Our Plans:

In advance of our delayed AGM, which we will schedule for quarter one, members will be circulated with a paper outlining options for the future of our group.. We will encourage discussion and feedback so that all are well-equipped to decide how to move forward into 2025.

Acknowledgements:

Our thanks to Mike and Colin for their support and understanding during this difficult time, we will report back on progress as the year develops.

Francis Mogg, President, NEOGA

09/01/2025