

Report for the Old Gaffers Association AGM Jan 31 2026

2025 in the Northwest area was a year that was greatly anticipated. At our local AGM in January we unveiled our programme that included a planned Cruise/Regatta off Lytham, the Arnside Classic Boat Regatta, an event on Ullswater which included the National Gaffling Championship and an event at The Windermere Jetties Museum.

Unfortunately, bad weather conditions affected all but our Ullswater. This was the only event which any sailing was possible. This event has been written in in the Gaffers Log and in other sailing publications. The sailing conditions over the 3-day Bank Holiday weekend were excellent- a rare treat for those of us experienced in Lake District sailing. I do feel that I need to stress to all those participants that attended and those who have read about the event that this is very much the exception to the weather conditions in Cumbria!

Whilst our planned events were affected by the weather we did manage to get out onto the water throughout the season. I would particularly praise Ann Ingram in her shrimper Eagle Owl who stayed on the water cruising until December!

Our year ended with our Christmas get together at Lancaster Maritime Museum which ended our year of nicely.

Over the year I am pleased to say that our membership has continued to grow, this has been mainly in our freshwater fleet.

Members of the OGA have also been heavily involved in the restoration of Spray an 1896 Morecambe Bay Prawner which is now on the water at Glasson dock. Hopefully next year we will start sea trails and plan to sail in company with Seven, another Crossfield Boat that is nearing the completion of its restoration.

2025 has been a year with some frustrations but these have been overshadowed by the progress on Spray and Seven. Looking forward to a 2026 with some fair winds and good sailing