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From the Editor

This is my first editorial because I am taking over as interim editor and look forward to finding some keen volunteer with an eye for copywriting.

We have a series of reports throughout the publication and a look forward to Mylor and meeting new members at the events highlighted on the last page. The latest version of the events is downloadable (1 side of A4) from the [SWG Events](#) tab of the OGA Website. Those events run by us are annotated in **Green**.

I have included a page on the use of WhatsApp because it is becoming increasingly useful to assist members to meet up or in the administration of events.

On the penultimate page you will see the appointments and email addresses for members of the committee. These addresses are live and you should be able to click on them to populate your browser.

Editor

President's Ponderings, March 2026

We are on the cusp – the new sailing season, of course – I am pushing aside more sinister events in the outside world and concentrating on a renewed enthusiasm for the necessary boat work prior to the ever closer launch date. I am sure that I will not be alone in feeling the pressure of a limited window of opportunity between the relentless rain and storms of the winter, and the rapidly approaching, pre-arranged date for launching. This date, had of course been arranged with the boatyard some time ago, in a conversation heavily accentuated by false optimism on one side, and a raised eyebrow and frown on the other. It would, of course, have demonstrated poor planning and perhaps personal ability to have expressed anything other than total confidence, when inevitably, raised eyebrow and frown enquired as to progress.

On the subject of boat preparation, and in particular the necessary evil of antifouling, the good ship 'Roxanne' seems to have stumbled upon the Holy Grail. A self-coating product that only requires the input of the masking up by the Skipper! The secret here is this – when son and daughter in law casually ask if there is any way they can help, never say no, quickly agree a date, and then steer the conversation into a prospect for a wonderful day's sail in June. Now, I will admit that it can become slightly more difficult to get away with this in subsequent years, but then it is necessary to become ever more imaginative.

We do, again, have a very healthy list of opportunities for social sailing on our patch in the coming season, all as listed on our programme of events. I would like to give particular mention to the second iteration of the Mylor event for trailer sailors this summer. This event was first staged last year, slightly flawed by poor weather, but this was just bad luck. We had a good attendance and it would be difficult to find a more suitable venue for a small boat event.

For this event in particular don't delay with your application. Actually it should be encouraged to enter any of the events as soon as the details are published, it is very helpful for the organisers.

The crew of 'Roxanne' very much look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the water this season.

Fair winds and following seas,

Martin Elliott 07831 297560

Secretarial Scantlings

After a busy 2025 sailing season, we entered 2026 with more changes to the SW Committee, some administrative work, which is referred to below, before another crowded program of events on the water, to look forward to in the summer. In the meantime, several of our members are recovering from health issues, those in Cornwall continue to emerge from the aftermath of Storm Goretti, some restocking on the “windfall” of oak and elm, those further east are starting to dry out after biblical floods and Lyme Bay is getting used to it’s recent terraforming!

Our AGM, in Fowey in November, was well attended by 31 of 32 attendees, despite horrendous parking because of the concurrent Christmas Fair. Following a splendid lunch, at the AGM, concerns raised regarding perceived liability, related to the unincorporated status of the Association, led to the loss of a further two, key, SW Committee members. However, within a month, we now have a new SW Treasurer (who does accounts!) in Paul Musgrove, who will be sailing “Arlett”, his recently acquired Crabber 26, to the SW from Scotland over the next two years. David Bewick, replaces Rob as SW Sailing Secretary, and will build on Rob’s work on the Sailing Instructions and his own “Risk Assessments”, as the way forward regarding mitigation of liability. He will also be organising, with Oliver Peterken, the Mylor Small Boat event in July (see website for registration details - already available), we hope for better weather than the inaugural event last year! Tim Price has stepped up to produce this and the next edition of Dogwatch, while we wait for a new editor to come forward. To enable more sailing, it had already been decided to reduce to two editions a year, for members to share their adventures and ideas. All issues of Dogwatch can be accessed on the SW Area of the OGA Website under the [SWG Communications tab](#). As ever, we welcome more fresh ideas and younger volunteers, as well as a new SW Editor for Dogwatch and, perhaps the web pages and a Trophy Officer.

The [OGA web site](#) continues to replace the Dogwatch as the source for information for events. Most events in the SW are now on the main [OGA calendar](#). A click on a [SW event](#) will take you straight to the SWG Events Future page in our own Area of the OGA website. Here, with the next event first, each forthcoming event is summarised in more detail, with links to registration forms etc, nearer to the time of each event. The full abbreviated list of future events, in the SW, can be downloaded as a, one side A4, spreadsheet or PDF, from the top of the list, and already indicates a busy 2026. Past events are now on the separate SWG Events Past tab, with the most recent first.

Tim Price, myself and Paul Musgrove have been updating the 2026 SW Almanac, and V1.3 will have been attached to an email to all SW Members on 21 March. Most of the useful data in the Almanac is also included on the [web site](#). The email also included an invitation to the Fitting out Lunch at Brixham SC on Saturday 18th April.

Please note that Paul Musgrove has already managed to open a **new bank account**, the Metro account has served us well but has several shortcomings and has been closed. So payments to it will be rejected. Please remove any Metro details from your banking app(s) and replace them with these details of our new:

NatWest Community Business account:

South West Gaffers, Sort Code: 52-30-42, Account number: 38129698.

The [South West Gaffers WhatsApp group](#) hosts informative and interesting exchanges and impromptu gatherings. It was particularly useful for the St Malo event, and now has 60+ participants. The group is for anyone, but by invitation, only if a name and reason to join is emailed. All anonymous requests, from other continents have been successfully kept at bay by Barbara and David.

Six SW Members attended the **OGA AGM** in Harwich at the end of January. Three of us also attended the ACM in the morning. There are reports in the Gaffer's Log and Dogwatch but we were delighted that Paul Hardy (SW "Stardust" R. Yelam) won third prize in the "Life At Sea" category in the OGA photography competition for his photo "Plotting a Fix".

You may wish to note several new names at the top of the OGA. Mathew Bradfield (SOL) is taking over as Online Editor, keeping the Facebook pages alive and will be making further improvements to the OGA website, where the SW Area is represented. Now we have David Bewick back on board, Mike Dixon (EC) will be leading the Small Boats section. Roger Hardman (SOL & "*Indian Runner*" from RBC60) has taken on the OGA Trophy Officer role and Mary Gibbs ("EC ex *Molly Cobler*"), who preceded Clare Thomas (EC "*Transcur*") now OGA Membership Secretary, is taking on External Communications & Sponsorship. Tony Kiddle (SOL "Step back in Time") is hoping to stand down as OGA Treasurer after many years.

The OGA will be tightening our Risk Assessments, building on David B's past work, ensuring we follow RYA guidelines and the International Rules of Racing and no longer cut down the standard Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions. It is now clear, after the OGA AGM (& ACM), that the OGA's existing insurer, as recommended by the RYA, provides cover for all officers and members, the £5m limit can be changed and raised for specific large events, such as was the case for OGA 60 in Ipswich.

However, regardless of our legal entity, which remains as an unincorporated Association, we need to be seen to be taking reasonable steps to mitigate any losses, over and above common sense and our own vessels' insurance. To this end, a small working group was formed in November and are well on their way to producing advice and templates, based on RYA practice, for the all Areas to use at events. They still plan to have them available at the beginning of the sailing season.

We have already enjoyed a very pleasant informal pub lunch, with 24 of us sheltering from the rain, at The Rock Inn, in Yelverton, central to our elongated Area, in February. We will be hearing all about the Pilgrim Trust at Brixham, from Carolyn Brown, instead of the Shipping Forecast! At our Fitting Out Lunch on 18th of April.

More importantly, as above, we have a rather full sailing season, ahead! Dates for our own Helford Rally in June, Mylor SB Rally in early July and The Plymouth Rally and Annual Race at the end of July, are all confirmed and plans are already well advanced. You will get emails about three weeks before each event but we also try and put the forms on the Area pages of the OGA website at the same time.

These SW OGA events are dovetailed to work with Brixham Heritage, Falmouth, Fowey, Looe Classics and others. The reopening of Charlestown Harbour, probably land based as the lock gates won't be ready for Easter, will still go ahead ashore. They still have plans for an inaugural "Traditional Sail & Ale" event in August. Other events in the SW are, or will, appear on the website.

Let's hope, as the winds still howl, that March does go out "like a lamb" and we can get on with preparing our boats!

David Patuck SW Sec 07974827469

MISCHIEF IN PAIMPOL - MIKE GARLICK

“Le Festival du Chant de Marin”, a biennial musical and nautical extravaganza takes place in Paimpol harbour, north Brittany. If you haven’t been, you should. For three days the harbour is filled with traditional boats, large, medium, small and this year some 204 were recorded on the official T shirt, including Mischief, Syrinx and Alice from the SWG.

To call this a sea shanty festival is a long way from the truth as the music embraces almost anything that can be played informally; to a programme on sets ashore and afloat, by ad hoc wandering bands or just by individuals. Traditional choirs, Breton pipe bands and shanty singers compete with wacky bands of all sorts, both in dress and style, starting at 10am and continuing relentlessly until late at night, when it seems the unofficial ones take over for the middle watch! Sleep afloat is not guaranteed.



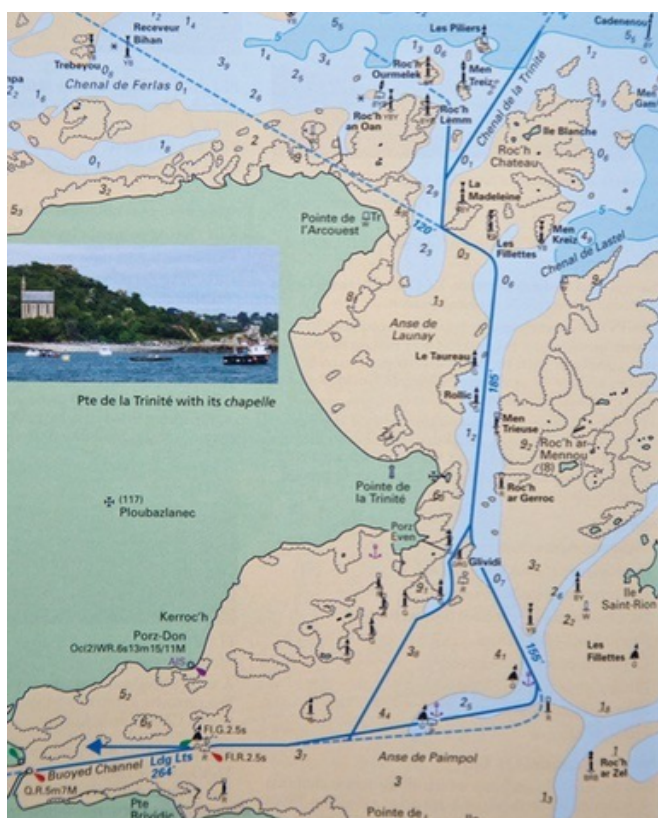
The attractive old town almost surrounds the harbour and lends itself to being sealed off for the event. Visitors by the thousands pay to enter the area whilst the boats, part of the attraction, pay no harbour dues! Are you listening Falmouth? Apart from the visual treat and the music there are endless stalls and food outlets, with harbour side cafes and of course an abundance of the local speciality of “fruits de mer”, Not to be missed. To sail there sounds like a done deal, but Mischief is a Crabber of 22 ft. so a cross Channel trip to the lovely but challenging Brittany coast needs some careful consideration. This would be Mischief’s first Channel crossing: my first since Brexit and also first in a boat this size.

Planning - Suitable crew, weather, tides, shipping lanes, customs formalities and safety equipment all were reviewed. Cool professional judgement prevailed, nothing gung -ho there, Penny! First Mate Sue, albeit a seasoned ocean crossing sailor, ruled herself out from the start, but friend Anthony's wife was going over by ferry to attend so he was easily snared. Robert is always game for a long passage, so there was a crew. Three is more than enough to fit into Mischief. That gave us plenty of experience, but a very sad lack of youthful vigour! The chosen route was Dartmouth to Guernsey, then Lézardrieux as this is a non tidally constrained harbour, which then gives a short pilotage passage for the tidal window into Paimpol.

Customs - A lot of this is now done digitally which is quite a challenge; for me at least. Arrival or departure from the UK should be reported on a Gov.UK programme giving a time to within 2 hrs for each event ! My passage plans were acknowledged but I never received any subsequent authorisation in either direction so Mischief should presumably still be sitting outside Dartmouth flying a yellow flag. Post Brexit France now has a composite system allowing entry/ exit into non PPF ports without any passport stamping either way. This should be done on line but was not possible on my phone. Fortunately both in Lézardrieux and Paimpol they seemed totally happy with a paper form, previously downloaded and printed, much to my relief. Guernsey is as easy as ever with a paper form, to be dropped into the yellow box.

Sailing Across - Passing west about Guernsey gave an obstacle free route clear of the Casquets TSS. The dominant timing factor was to clock into a fair tide around the south of the island. Sadly it looked as if a night time crossing of the shipping stream was unavoidable. Crew were available from Saturday 2nd and with a favourable forecast for 24 hrs we left Dartmouth at 1600 with a SW force 4, course 150. Running a rolling 2hr watch system gave two on deck at all times with one below, resting as well as possible. The west bound shipping lane was busy, AIS an invaluable tool to separate the good from the ugly but the worst offenders were fishing boats, one of which turned towards us as we were clearing him astern, giving an uncomfortable pas de deux in the dark. Words were spoken. The east bound lane was easier and after a night with a SOG of between 2 and 6 knots we arrived at our waypoint off Les Hanois as planned, picking up a fair tide to see us round the corner to drop sail in Havelet Bay just as the forecast bad weather arrived. A tight corner was found in a crowded Victoria Marina, one advantage of being small. Passage time of 22hrs, distance 83nm.

After two nights in St Peter Port allowing the blow to pass through we slipped early on Tues 5th. Clearing skies gave us a glorious reaching passage to the west of the Roches Douvres, passing close to the three masted barque “Les Francais” under full sail and into the open approach to the Trieux River. Smiles were somewhat strained when we were intercepted by a French Douanes patrol boat, but after a brief VHF exchange we continued. There was a friendly welcome into Lézardrieux Marina and a cosy berth found, whilst other larger boats were directed to the midriver pontoons- small wins again. Passage time 12 hrs; 48nm. A formal TOT of Pussers Rum was issued to celebrate Mischief’s first Channel crossing.



Wednesday saw the crew partaking fully of French culture, mainly paté, saucisson, fromage and vin, whilst I was greatly relieved at the relaxed attitude to my paper non PPF passage plan form. Thursday 7th, the final pilotage leg to Paimpol, to slot into the carefully orchestrated arrival schedule. A gentle sail down the Trieux River and into the Rade de Bréhat, then cutting through into Paimpol Bay via the Chenal de la Trinité, an interesting rocky passage of cardinal beacons and lateral buoys. Locking in amongst a fleet of disparate boats with the harbour walls filled with a clapping crowd, bagpipes playing, is an unforgettable experience and a fitting start to the atmosphere of the festival. That evening all boats’ crews were welcomed with a meal and ad lib vin at the Salle des Fêtes.

The Festival - It's full on, so apart from a few dedicated shanty lovers most will want some escape. I had a peaceful day's walking to Pointe de Guilben, south of Paimpol, looking into the bay at low tide.

Return passage - It's not easy leaving Paimpol; firstly a long haul east out of the tidal bay, then legs skirting the rocky shallows. Overfalls and standing waves were generated by the strong cross tide, mostly avoided but some gave us a bounce. Omimously named rocks- "Les Charpentiers!" to be avoided. Finally we were able to set course west of the Roches Douvres plateau on a NE wind into empty water until the shipping lanes had us ducking again before the final dawn leg into the welcome sight of Start Bay and the gentle Devon coastline. Passage time; 26 1/2 hrs , mooring to mooring. 112nm.

Aftermath - Traditionally Jack Tar returned from abroad with an unwanted souvenir; so did I- no not that one, but Covid, and was quarantined for several days.



Five SW Gaffers go to Harwich! By David Patuck
(a newer plastic gaffer's account of attending an OGA AGM W/E)

Well as it happened at least six SW Gaffers made their way from the treeless, flooded SW peninsular, to join the OGA at Harwich. With an unusually dry journey, rare glimpses of blue sky, and, absurdly, national flags and union jacks flying at half-mast from Essex lamp posts, three of us found our quirky Dutch style digs, two the splendid Pier Hotel, and one the Premier Inn, before darkness and the return of rain, as we all repaired to the nominated hostelry.



We enjoyed good local beer and meeting old & new friends and gaffers at the Alma Inn, where good grub was enjoyed in the multiple rooms of this cavernous pub. This was the “local”, of Chritopher Jones skipper of the “Mayflower”, a vessel little larger than a Brixham trawler, with 102 Pilgrims aboard, to establish a colony at Cape Cod in the New World, stopping on route at Plymouth, for essential repairs, over 400 years ago.

Our many East Coast (EC) hosts had turned out, from as far away as the Caribbean, to organise the weekend around the unexpected delights of the old port town of Harwich, all with flat easy walking between excellent venues and plenty of fresh cool air coming in from the N. Sea. For some of us it was strange seeing the old town, having only passed to seaward, either on the ferry or in our own vessels.

On the Saturday morning, those not attending the ACM, were able to enjoy an excellent guided walk revealing the many features of Harwich, which has served for millennia as a fortified gateway to Britain from the Low Countries & Scandinavia and more recently the World, as far away as Antarctica. Still a home to Trinity House, for servicing the buoyage we all rely on. With vessels, under the Harwich Haven Authority, serving the North Sea energy industry and the pilot cutters for the enormous container ships, seen under the iconic cranes at Felixstowe, across the entrance to the Rivers Orwell and Stour. Also enjoyed was the fascinating tour of the Harwich Life Boat station and the Lifeboats “Albert Brown” the Severn AWL and “Tierney, Harvey and Sonny Reid”, the Atlantic 85 ILB. The LV18 Light Vessel, now a museum for pirate radio and home to the current “legal” replacement Radio “Mi Amigo”. The old fortifications and the delights of Ha’penny Pier.



Meanwhile a few of us were ensconced in the Harwich Town Sailing Club bar for the Area Committees to discuss the workings of the OGA, management of the Gaffling 4.1. Encouragement of younger Gaffers from the Solent, EC & elsewhere, by Georgina. Good progress, by Grant and his sub team, towards confirming, for the AGM, the potential robustness of the OGA systems while, like most sailing clubs and associations remaining an unincorporated entity. So the OGA can continue to use it's limited resources to encourage all ages of gaffers to continue practicing the art of traditional "four cornered" sailing. This was well illustrated by the Area reports to the ACM from around the UK, Eire, NL and beyond. As an indication, perhaps, of how the OGA's initial efforts 60 years ago have borne fruit, while many of our oldest vessels still remain too small, the practice of our gaff rigged sailing is being considered, by National Historic Ships, to be possibly worthy of recognition as an Intangible Cultural Heritage, to be safeguarded for the future!

The explorers rejoined us in the afternoon for the OGA AGM. Like at the ACM, our President, Mike Beckett, kept the business moving briskly, both on the floor and in Zoom. Our membership remains fairly static and Claire Thomas presented some interesting figures confirming that events and the internet were both good hunting grounds for new members. Tony Kiddle, who after many years would be happy to be replaced, presented another strong set of accounts, with a surplus building towards an effective sum for the OGA 65 event to be held in the Blackwater by EC. Mike introduced our new OGA on line editor, Mathew Bradshaw, and David B's replacement, Mike Dixon, as OGA Small Boats Secretary. Mike Beckett was then re elected, unanimously, as OGA President for another three years. The assembled members approved a revision to the Rules, regarding the Yearbook, who's on line presence is saving funds and is to reviewed in 2028. Alison Cable, with Julian on Zoom, outlined some of the recent and future improvements to the OGA Boat Register and the Member's Area, for which log in is increasingly useful for members to get the most out of both. If you've not looked for a while the map of builders and yards is worth a look and an opportunity to consider updating your own boat's OGA BR entry.

There followed three, brief but entertaining and informative, presentations.

Ben Collins, gave an illustrated review of the events towards, and at, St Malo, as guests of the Vieux Grements** (French OGA). Where the EC contingent enthusiastically campaigned, several smaller gaff rigged boats on the Vauban Basin and unable to sail there because of the weather, successfully lead the larger boats present, in the race!

David Thurston gave a, very entertaining and humbling, talk on how he berthed and turned around the massive container ships, as a Harwich Harbour Authority pilot.

Pete Elliston gave an update on the progress of the 7 existing Gaffling 4.1's, outlining how under the auspices of the OGA, they could be hired by members and assisted to trail to events, while also encouraging more to be built.

The results of the 2025 Photography competition were exhibited and then Mike Beckett, as OGA President, then presented some of the many OGA trophies to their respective winners.

Paul Hardy won Third Place in the photography "Life at Sea" category with his "Plotting a fix" and David Bewick managed to track him down and present his prize.



With the official business now concluded, good use was made of the bar, before repairing to the Pier Hotel, for an excellent and elegant two course meal. We all then returned to the Harwich Town SC, where the “Black Deep” Shanty Crew had assembled their guitars, harps, accordions and recorder to accompany the other singers, lead by Pete “the knife”, in a program of local and more widely known shanties, all printed out for us, so no excuses not to join in!



The second set concluded with at least three partisan shanties written by Claudia Myatt, extolling the innumerable advantages of our craft over the “White Goods” as defined by BC during the ACM, but aka “Average White Boats”, by the rest of us!

The Black Deep, seen at Falmouth is only one of many shanty bands to perform at the Harwich Shanty Festival in October, second only to Falmouth Sea Shanties (& Classics!) in Falmouth in June.

After a well earned night of rest, most of us made our way to the other side of this small peninsular to the Harwich & Dovercourt SC, in Landing Barge Kitchen, LBK6, on the banks of the River Stour.

After much needed coffee, the current H&D SC Secretary described how LBK6 was commissioned and deployed to Sword beach on D Day and others later, to feed exhausted troops. She went on, under her own steam, to feed, first the reconstruction crews but then the still starving population of Holland at the end of the war. She ended up at the top of Langstone Harbour, from where she was towed to, and acquired by, the SC about 20 years ago, after refitting as a very serviceable club house, she sank, because of rust in one of the four corners of what was a basic “swim” barge from the Thames. Repaired with a steel internal box and concrete, in the hope that the other three corners would hold, she has again been refitted.

Then, as planned, Claudia Myatt, an EC gaffer of many talents and well known for her maritime sketches, gave a wonderful illustrated talk on her cruise in a Dutch gaff ketch to the Falklands from Western S. America, via the Galapagos and Easter Island. Delayed by Covid, as artist in residence, the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) enabled her to join HMS Protector, while she surveyed in Drake’s passage between S. Georgia, the S. Sandwich Island, Signy and Rothera on the Antarctic peninsula and back to Stanley. Throughout she shared her techniques for capturing the light in just 3 colour for her sketches. For some of us it brought back memories never preserved on 35mm transparencies!

Another excellent lunchtime buffet and too much talking, eventually brought the weekend to a close and we all returned to our floods and the next yellow rain storm in the SW!

**Small Boat Rally at Mylor,
Friday 10th to Sunday 12th July 2024**

We are pleased to send you an invitation to attend the second a rally for small boats to be held at Mylor from 10th – 12th July, 2026. This will be again be based at Coastland (<https://www.coastland.life/>) which is a water sports business and campsite that is conveniently situated just behind Restronguet Sailing Club at Mylor and that has direct access to the beach and the fantastic sailing waters of the Carrick Roads. Small boats may be easily launched and recovered from the beach. Larger ones can use the free slipway by the first car park or the Mylor Yacht Harbour (MYH) facilities by separate arrangement. Boats may berth or moor in the marina by separate arrangement with MYH, too.

SW Gaffers has already taken a block booking for all the campervan spots at Coastland for the nights of 10th and 11th July. If you would like to book one of these, please book it using the registration form. If you would like to book a pitch for tent camping, please book this direct with Coastland. Visiting crews may, of course, stay at Coastland before or after the Rally, by arrangement with them.

The plan will be to have a get-together on the Friday evening over a pasty and a pint in Mylor Yacht Club and then sailing events of some kind on both Saturday and Sunday. The exact programme for the on-the-water parts of this event will depend on the weather (which we hope will be better than last year!) but there are many options and the tides for this weekend are good. On the Saturday evening, there will be a meal for those who are interested, at a local restaurant.

If you would like to attend this event, please download the registration form, complete it and return it to us, preferably by email to: mylor@oga.org.uk, or by post to:

David Bewick, 7 Yealm Road, Newton Ferrers, Plymouth. PL8 1AH.

Mobile: 07971 621448

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We very much hope you will be able to join us at this event.

Best regards,

DAVID BEWICK AND OLIVER PETERKEN,
ON BEHALF OF SOUTH WEST GAFFERS.

SOUTH WEST GAFFERS WHATSAPP GROUP



Members with smartphones are invited to join the South West Gaffers WhatsApp group, which acts as our primary communication channel. Like many other sailing clubs, this group is used for:

- Organizing informal local sailing outings
- Coordinating events
- Sharing weather updates
- Offering or requesting help and advice
- Posting photos from our gaffer activities

WhatsApp is an encrypted site and we encourage new members to join the group to engage in local events and gain support and insights from fellow members. The SW Secretary is available to assist with sign-ups, or you can easily scan the QR code next to this message using your smartphone camera. If you're accessing this on your phone, you can join the group through this link.

Please remember to include your name and/or boats name in your WhatsApp profile and also for the administrators and others recognize you and confirm you are genuine.

WhatsApp is a fantastic platform for sharing your sailing-related photos. To ensure the best quality for our Instagram feed, please set your photo sharing settings in the app to 'best quality.' Keep conversations relevant and friendly. By sharing photos, you agree to have your images featured on Instagram and our OGA website to promote our activities.

If you have a smartphone but haven't yet installed WhatsApp, the installation process is straightforward. Just download it from your phone's app store. If you have any questions, feel free to contact David Patuck at swsec@oga.org.uk or Barbara Runnalls at swcomms@oga.org.uk.





West Country Classic Series 2025

Fourteen Classic yachts that raced in the June Falmouth Classics Regatta and at least one other classics event in the south west scored points in the West Country Classics Series. Skippers and crews, whose race achievements had scored points in the series, first established in 2021, gathered at Saltash Sailing Club in November for the annual prizegiving sponsored by Hattiers Rum. Two traditionally built, pre 1940s yachts, topped the prize list. The winner this year was “Ayesha” a 1922 gaff cutter built at the Aldous yard in Brightlingsea, Essex, for the yard’s owner. During the winter she is based at Mylor where she is looked after by well-known yachtsmen and Falmouth resident Timmy Bailey. Currently owned by Richard Bond, she gained two first places in class at Fowey and the Looe Lugger Classics and a second at Falmouth. In second place was “Mat Ali”, built to a Harrison Butler design in Malaysia in 1935 and gaining points at Dartmouth, Falmouth and Fowey. In third place was “Sarabande of Dart”, a Nicholson 43, and in fourth place “L Aquarelle”, a Contessa 32.

There was a further increase in the number of vessels gaining points in two or more races at the four classic events – Dartmouth, Falmouth, Fowey and Looe Lugger Classics. For the first time four vessels scored points in races in three events. The addition of Looe Lugger Classics for the first time in 2025 provided two luggers with sufficient points to feature. Barnabas, a St Ives lugger built in 1881 and the oldest vessel to score points in the series so far, was placed ninth and Ocean Pearl, a 1933 Fifie based at Chichester, and the furthest travelled, was placed twelfth.

The boats of three South West Gaffer members featured: Mary Ritchie in sixth place, Picotee II in seventh and Susan J eighth. The four winners were presented with inscribed trophies and a bottle of Hattiers Rum by Philip Everett- Lyons. The other twelve vessels received inscribed glassware as a memento of their participation.

The 2026 dates for the four classic events that comprise the West Country Classic Series are: Falmouth 11th June -14th June, Dartmouth 7th July – 9th July, Fowey 27th July -30th July and Looe Lugger Classics 31st July – 2nd August.

Images

West Country Classic Series prize winners at Saltash Sailing Club Credit: Kate Ryder

Ayesha, the winner of the 2025 West Country Classics Series racing in Falmouth Classics in June 2025
Credit: Jan Pentreath

Further information about the series can be found at www.westcountryclassic.com

Contact: Don Garman 01326250604 email: dj.garman@btinternet.com

New Members since Oct 25

It is always a delight to see new members or rejoining members and we look forward to meeting them at many of our events.

Name	Number	Boat	Home	Joined
Andrew Kinnear	6882	"Millie B"	Fordingbridge	October 25
Stephen Evans		"Dora"	Bristol	Jan 26
Richard Woods	6915	"Iris" 5m Gaff Cutter	Shropshire	Feb 26
Anthony Wakeman	6624	"Claret" Golant Gaffer	Dorchester	Feb 26
Greg Dwyer	6925	None		Feb 26
Dave Colbert	6934	"Quinell 2" 5m gunter	Poole	Mar 26
Joe Rycroft	6938	"Pintail"	Gloucester	Mar 26

SW Committee 2026

SW Area President: Martin Elliot
swpresident@oga.org.uk

Life Vice-President: Mike Lucas

Commodore 25/26: Rob Brown

SW Secretary: David Patuck
swsec@oga.org.uk

SW Treasurer: Paul Musgrove
swtreasurer@oga.org.uk

SW Sailing Secretary: David Bewick
swsailingsecretary@oga.org.uk

SW Communications: Barbara Runnalls
swcomms@oga.org.uk

Trophy Officer: Vacant

Examiner of Accounts: Jan Elliot

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Dog Watch Editor: Tim Price (temporarily)
sweditor@oga.org.uk

Committee Members: Martin Elliot, David Patuck, Paul Musgrove, Barbara Runnalls and Tim Price

SW Web site:
www.oga.org.uk/south-west

OGA Web Site:
www.oga.org.uk

OGA Facebook:
<https://www.oga.org.uk/about/facebook/facebook.html>

Instagram:
[instagram.com/southwestgaffers](https://www.instagram.com/southwestgaffers)
[instagram.com/the-oga1963](https://www.instagram.com/the-oga1963) - this is maintained by the OGA

The Area's bank details are changed:
Nat West Bank; Acc. Name: South West Gaffers; Sort Code 50-30-42; Acc. No: 38129698

SWG EVENTS FUTURE (FOLLOW THIS LINK).

DATE	EVENT	ORGANISER	LOCATION	EMAIL(s)	CONTACT(s)
Easter W/E 1st - 6th April	Charlestown Harbour - reopening after lock gates repair d/c berthing and activities	Charlestown Harbour	Charlestown, St Austell	rose@mundcorp.com	Rose Hatcher
April 18th	Fitting Out Lunch & Talk- The "Pilgrim" Trust by Carolyn Brown	SW OGA	Brixham YC	swsec@oga.org.uk	David Patuck
22nd - 24th May	Brixham Heritage Regatta	Brixham SC	Brixham	www.brixhamheritageregatta.uk	David Dickens (& Panny J)
11th - 14th June	Falmouth Classics (West Country Classics series (1 of 4))	Falmouth Classics	Falmouth	www.falmouthclassics.org.uk	tbc Chris Williams
15th-17th June	Helford Rally BBQ Mon pm @ Tremayne Quay. Dinner Tuesday @ HRSC	SW OGA	Helford River	timpriceabroad@hotmail.com	Tim Price
19th-26th June	Shrimper 19 Annual Rally TBC	Shrimper Owner's Assoc	Plymouth		Martin Blake
June TBC	Plymouth Boat Fest at Plymouth Yacht Haven	Plymouth YH	Plymouth YH	plymouth@yachthavens.com	Steve Cox TBC
3rd - 4th July	Sea Salts & Sail	Seasalts	Mousehole	www.seasalts.co.uk	enquiries@seasalts.co.uk
10th - 12th July	Mylor Smaller Boats Rally Camping & caravans at Coastlands Campsite Launching (free) or Berthing at Mylor Marina	OGA Small Boats (& SW OGA)	Coastlands & Mylor SC & Marina	mylor@oga.org.uk swsailingsecretary@oga.org.uk	David Bewick (& Oliver Peterken)
7th - 9th July	Dartmouth Classics tbc (West Country Classics (2 of 4))	Royal Dart YC	Dartmouth	classics@royaldart.co.uk https://dartmouthclassics.org	tbc
7th -16th July	Classic Channel Race: Dartmouth to St Peter's Port,	Classic Channel Regatta	Dartmouth, St Peters Port	www.classic-channel-regatta.eu	Bruce Thorogood bruce@
7th -16th July	Classic Channel Regatta to Leardrieux to Paimpol (race to Isle de Brehat) Paimpol	Classic Channel Regatta	Lesardrieux, Paimpol	www.classic-channel-regatta.eu	Bruce Thorogood bruce@
24th-26th July	Plymouth Rally & Annual Race Sat 25th	SW OGA	Mayflower Marina	swsec@oga.org.uk	Martin Elliott /DP
27th July	Sail in company towards Fowey via Cawsands	SW OGA	(South coast)	South West gaffers WhatsApp	(DP & Committee)
27th-30th July	Fowey Classics (W/Country Classics (3 of 4)) Race Tue & Thur meal FGSC Mon&Fri RFYC Tues	Fowey Classics	FGSC Fowey	www.foweyclassics.com	Karen Toms
31st July	Sail in company towards Looe Luggers & Classics	SW OGA	(South coast)	South West gaffers WhatsApp	(DP & Committee)
31st July-2nd Aug	Looe Luggers & Classics (all traditional rigged boats incl GRP) (West Country Classics (4 /4))	Looe Lugger Classics	Looe Harbour Commissioners	office4luggers@btinternet.com	John Collings(YJA) Jonathan Brice
7th -10th Aug	Gaffers race at Dittisham Regatta	Dittisham SC	Dittisham	wearsailing@hotmail.com *	via Gil Hayward*
August TBC	"Sails & Ales" TBC A new relaxed gathering of traditional craft d/c berthing and activities	Charlestown Harbour	Charlestown, St Austell	rose@mundcorp.com	Rose Hatcher
28th-29th Aug TBC	Dartmouth Royal Regatta Sailing Week - Gaffer & White Sail events tbc	Dartmouth Sailing Week	Dart YC TBC	www.dartmouthsailingweek.com Mooring: info@dartharbour.org	tbc
Early Sept TBC	Brixham Heritage Rally TBC		Brixham	www.brixhamheritageregatta.uk	David Dickens tbc
MID Nov TBC	SW Gaffers Laying Up lunch and AGM	SW OGA	Fowey	swsec@oga.org.uk	David Patuck
End Nov TBC	West Country Classics Series Prizegiving & Lunch	West Country Classics	Saltash SC tbc	bruce@classic-channel-regatta.eu	Bruce Thorogood