

OGA Image Archive Project

This short version of Project documentation has been prepared for GMC and AC meetings: 16 September & 7 October 2026. Full documentation is available in the Officers Area on the OGA website.

Visit <https://oga.smugmug.com/> to review a selection of curated Galleries and search some of the OGA Image Archive. **Please do not share this link more widely than GMC & AC Officers.**

What does the Project aim to achieve?

Since the 1960s, hundreds of images have been produced to record OGA activity. The OGA uses these images to represent, celebrate and promote the Association in Gaffers Log, the maritime Press, on websites and social media. However, OGA Officers and Editors often find it difficult to find and re-use images. Where can we look for images to represent OGA activity or know what images we hold that may be useful?

The OGA Image Archive Project aims to provide a secure, searchable online catalogued collection of selected images drawn from the existing archive, the Boat Register, Gaffers Log, Photo Competition and other sources. New material will be added as the Project develops to create a dynamic archive.

OGA Officers and Editors will be able to find and re-use images from the collection.

Online projects don't have an 'end point', but we have defined milestones which deliver incremental benefits to the OGA. More milestones will be added as the project develops.

Image Archive Project Team

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SY	Steve Yates (Image Archive Assistant, EC)
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Image Archive structure & protections

Keywords, Titles, Captions, Folders & Galleries

A draft set of Keywords has been applied to selected images held in newly created sample Folders and Galleries for review and feedback. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the SmugMug functions and test how to organise the Archive to achieve the Project aims at technical and user levels.

To enhance the user's experience when viewing the Archive and to improve search capability within the Archive, 'Keyword rich' Titles and Captions will be applied to all images as the Project develops.

Following review, the Keywords list will be confirmed. Keywords will be applied retrospectively to all existing images. All future uploads will have Keywords, Title & Caption included on upload.

Credits/Copyright & Protection for all Images

The OGA Handbook for Officers states: "Images submitted to the OGA remain the copyright of the current holder. Submission gives the OGA the right to use them in print and online. If you submit an image and are not the copyright holder, you must have permission from them for the OGA to use them and you must provide their name with the submission."

The Image Archive Project team will ensure contributors understand this statement and will try to protect images submitted to the OGA for use/re-use online which are held within the SmugMug Library.

The OGA has well-established relationships with a number of professional and semi-professional photographers. The Image Archive will include a list of these individuals with a link to their own websites where available.

The Caption on all images in the Archive will adopt the existing policy of including '© image credit'.

Where copyright holder/photographer is unknown or potentially incorrect, the terms 'OGA Archive' or 'Boat Name Archive' (for older images) or 'Pending' (for recent images), will be used. In cases where investigation is still being undertaken, the image will be 'hidden' from public view.

Annual Photo Competition

The project team will develop a process for Photo Competition images to be submitted online in early Autumn and uploaded to the Archive prior to judging in December 2026.

The Image Archive project will review and upload entries from 2014 - 2025 to the Image Archive for use across new and existing Galleries.

Boat Register

None of the current Boat Register integration with SmugMug will be compromised by the OGA Image Archive project. The Project Team will review existing images in the existing and future Boats folders, update keywords, captions and titles where appropriate and re-use, as required, in new Galleries generated within SmugMug.

News & Events reporting: online and in print

The project team will approach interested Editors in OGA Areas to develop a strategy for collaboration on sharing images past, present and future held in the Image Archive. This will include selection of high resolution images suitable for print publishing and, in some cases, to offer exclusive use of images prior to sharing more widely after print publication.

SmugMug features

SmugMug is a commercial company providing online image storage and management solutions: www.smugmug.com

The OGA has used SmugMug for Boat Register slideshows since 2020. Use of SmugMug will be developed to support an extended online Image Archive, including the Boat Register, for the OGA.

Technical considerations

As with all IT projects, there are some constraints on development due to the functionality of the SmugMug software. The Project Team will develop solutions driven by need, not the software functionality. Furthermore, developments agreed for the OGA Image Archive will be sustainable, extensible and documented.

This is to ensure that we provide a solution which may be managed by the OGA if/when current members of the Project Team move on for whatever reason.

- All OGA Images will be uploaded to SmugMug and held in the secure, online Library.
- There are powerful tools enabling the Boat Register and Archive Editors to control the visibility of everything in the SmugMug Library from an individual Image to a Folder or Gallery. This ranges from 'only me' (ie Editor) to public access with options for password-protection, sharing, download etc.
- Folders may be created by logged in Editor(s) to contain sub-Folders, Galleries and Pages. Images may be re-used across Galleries and Pages.
- SmugMug uses Keywords, Captions and Titles to generate search results for individual Images, Folders, Galleries and Pages.
- SmugMug enables Folders, Galleries and Pages to be displayed online with customised user interface designs to include OGA branding and custom URLs.
- SmugMug Galleries may contain images and/or videos.
- SmugMug Images and Galleries may be shared via Social Media.
- SmugMug Galleries may be exported and/or shared through a range of embedding options eg in blog posts, websites etc.
- It is possible to 'tag' images with map location. This feature will be explored to enable searching the Archive and displaying results via OGA Area maps.

Beverley Yates, Julian & Alison Cable
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