



EASTCOASTER

The Newsletter of the East Coast Old Gaffers Association

February 2020 Issue 122

Forestay

This winter has been busy, with the East Coast and the Main AGM as well as the winter season Sunday lunches. These are proving popular, with one still to go, at the Colne Yacht Club in Brightlingsea, so come along if you are in the area. Then there is the highlight of the social season, the Annual Dinner, this time at the Walton and Frinton Yacht Club. Don't forget to book for this one as places are limited.

As usual we have arranged a talk at the Nottage. Our speaker Dawn Woods is a marine policewoman based in Burnham on Crouch. Last year she rowed single handed across the Atlantic, and after hearing a talk she gave at the RBYC in the Autumn the committee were urged to arrange for her to talk to us. It should make an interesting change of pace.

We will be having an East Coast Flag this year, with the design coming from the crew of *Titch*, who submitted it during a competition on the summer cruise. The colours are red and blue for those reading in black and white! It will be available at all sailing events this year, so please remember to buy yours.

If you want to try your hand at building an OGA dinghy why not join in with the two area dinghies currently being built in Essex and Suffolk? See the details later.

Meanwhile I hope you enjoy reading what the area is up to.

Alison Cable. Editor



Winning flag design by Titch

In this issue

Forestay

Report from the AGM

President

Faith on the Thames

Bristol AGM

East Coast lunches

Annual Dinner

Dawn at the Nottage

May events

OGA Dinghy

Backstay

East Coast Area OGA President's Report 2019

by Robert Hill

I hope you have all enjoyed a good sailing season and included as many OGA events as you could. Generally our attendances at most events has remained fairly steady.

Again the Stone Sailing Club proved excellent hosts for the East Coast Race, which this year benefited from more wind, but less sun. With a boost from its inclusion in the summer cruise, the Crouch enjoyed record attendance for recent times, while the Pennyhole Bay Race, incorporated in a Stone Point Rally, saw fewer entries, but again probably due unusually to not being in this year's summer cruise.

As always, events are well covered by Eastcoaster, but two new additions to our programme deserve special mention. The Deben Rally over August Bank holiday weekend was very well attended & generally considered a great success by those who came. A special thanks must go to Tony Lyon, the Waldringfield harbour master, who was most helpful in finding us all moorings on an understandably busy weekend. He even said he would love to see the Gaffers back again! Many thanks also to James Palmer (*Kestrel*) for his helpful local knowledge & for providing his lovely waterside beach hut for morning coffees.

Likewise we had a small boat rally at Slaughden Sailing Club where we were made very welcome, invited to return & again reports from our members were all very positive.

Regrettably this year began with the sad news that Lena Reekie, who I'm sure was well known to most of you here, passed away. Not only was Lena a regular supporter of OGA events, both with her own boat *Linnaea* & also as crew on *Crow*, but she was a driving force behind the organisation of the Swale match. The huge turnout at her memorial celebration at Faversham was testament to the high regard in which she was held.

Sadly over the year we also lost Donald Barrett, Brian Green (former owner of *Jubilee*, a regular at past Shotley festivals) & Paul Webster, another long standing member who was for many years owner of the smack *The Quiz*.

Looking forward to next year our diary is beginning to take shape. Over the winter we will have 2 or 3 Sunday lunch get togethers at different locations in our area, starting on 8th December at Walton & Frinton. Unfortunately the usual dinner at Royal Burnham YC will not be possible this year, but plans are underway to put on an alternative at Walton & Frinton on 7th March, so watch the website & Eastcoaster for further details.

The 2020 East Coast Race will be at Stone Sailing Club again on 25th July and will be immediately followed by the summer cruise week. Overall, this format seems popular with the majority of participants. The plan is for the cruise to take us north this year, so the Crouch Rally will move back to May. Lots of you found the way there during this year's cruise, so Trevor expects to see you all back next May!

Last year I told you that there was interest in the East Coast Area hosting the OGA 60th anniversary celebration in 2023. This looks set to go ahead but will obviously involve a significant amount of planning. The only venue in the area able to provide the necessary berthing, launching & camping facilities seems to be Suffolk Yacht Harbour, so the event is likely to be based there. One thought that occurred to me was that we should try to aim for the opportunity to incorporate an OGA dinghy open meeting, if sufficient boats are sailing by then. Unfortunately, while I believe some are being built in other areas, I'm not aware of any to date in the East Coast. Again maybe we could revisit that later in the meeting.

As I already said, quite a lot of planning will have to go into OGA 60 & to that end we will need volunteers. I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work over the past year, as always they have been excellent, but I am concerned that it is asking a lot of them to expect them to shoulder all the organisation of OGA 60 as well as everything else, so if anyone is prepared to help, even in a small way, please let me know as soon as possible.

Finally I would like to thank all our sponsors for their support over the year, all the clubs who have hosted us and everyone who has helped in any way with our events. Their support is invaluable to us & we would certainly struggle without it.

Thank you.

East Coast AGM roundup and results

After the president's address the secretary said a short piece about some then upcoming events, followed by Clare Thomas the Treasurer reporting on a very healthy financial situation. It was decided that some of the money would be better spent than sitting in a bank account, and the meeting approved a proposal to buy two OGA dinghy construction kits, one to be built in Suffolk, and one in Essex. The completed boats could then be match raced at OGA 60!

A discussion took place and the meeting voted in favour of supporting the central OGA idea to print a new members directory in 2020. As many members as possible would be encouraged to agree to their data being published; although the final format was yet to be agreed.

The members of the East Coast OGA roared their approval when Mike McCarthy was awarded the coveted Bateman's Tower trophy for "Extra Special Effort" helping the OGA on the East Coast. Mike is a regular supporter of OGA events with his motor boat and can be relied upon to transport Beer, more Beer, Barbecue stuff, More Beer and just about anything else.

Trevor Rawlinson recounted so many ways that Mike should be remembered that he was overwhelmed!



Mike McCarthy being awarded the Bateman's Tower © Richard Giles

Other awards were:-

Points series

Gaffers; 1st *Cygnets of London*

2nd *Irene*

3rd *Transcur*

Bermudan Hussar**Needham Trophy** *Cygnet of London***Small boats** 1st *Minnow* 2nd *Willow* 3rd *Pearl*Summer cruise flag design
*Titch***Log/blog** Alasdair MacKenzie

You will find an extract from Alastair's log below. The full version is available to download from the East Coast OGA website, and it makes a great read.



Alasdair MacKenzie being presented with the log award photo
© Richard Giles

FAITH ON THE THAMES

Words and photos by Alasdair Mackenzie

Faith is an 18' traditional inshore East Coast working boat, or winkle-brig. My sister Elspeth and I thought of joining the festivities in Morbihan but trailing to Bristol to visit my son and then coming home by the Kennet and Avon canal and the Thames was also worth looking at. We



Preparing dinner on board

hadn't realised how far it was and neither of us could manage that much time. Exploring CanalPlan AC I realised that what we could do was to tow 'FAITH' to Oxford and sail her home. Surely with our combined sailing experience of

140 years we could try doing that.

Below is an extract from the Ship's Log of The Adventure:

Phase 3: Out to sea

Managing to get Met office and BBC weather data on my phone. North-Easterly, 4 or 5. Up at 0700. We discuss the options and decide to 'have a look'. This is a classic way to get caught out. We stow carefully, using the groundsheet as a second layer of defence under the for'rard spray cover that stretches from the stem to the mast and shrouds.

0900 Into the lock. We are told that the lock is having maintenance work and will not reopen until 1300. But we've decided to go, so go we do. Onto the waiting pontoon to finish breakfast and preparing for the sea. Our gear is dry stowed as far as we can manage and our mattresses folded and wrapped in the white tarpaulin.

0946 Away under o/b and double reefed main up ASAP but Canary Wharf stealing our wind and we motor on, 5+knots on the GPS. A police RIB comes racing past, 'blues and twos'. The fast Clippers shoot from pier to pier, first one side of the river, then the other. Never an indicator between them (as if...), but there is less traffic on the river than we feared and no frights.

1050 Refuel.

1105 Through the Thames Barrier with sail down as required. Wind right on the nose. Not NE but due East. Short wind versus tide chop and rather wet.

1125 Under sail at last! Two reefs and small jib, beating along with tide pushing us sideways down the river.

1405 Under the QE II Bridge. Very, not rather, bouncy and wet in the narrow confines of Dartford. Tacking in the flatter shallows and trying not to take too much aboard. Fierce beat and spilling wind to avoid water coming over aft of the shrouds as we fall off steep seas. Able to keep her upright enough to pump several times with a lot of water coming over the bow. The spray cover works well, water being channelled over the side by the upstands running from mast to shrouds but it's obvious that a lot is coming up the bow and over the rail underneath it. It's all a bit too near Faith's limits for beating. Reaching would be fine and running terrifying!

Past Greenhithe the wind frees slightly as we turn north. Without discussion

we luff onto an empty buoy close inshore off the Thurrock Sailing Club. I think we both feel a little battered. I certainly do. We had intended to get further down river but neither of us have any thought of going on.

Almost as soon as the sails come down a dinghy comes off the hard and out to us, asking whether we are alright. Yes, we are fine thank you, and thank you for coming to ask. He welcomes us to the club and invited us to join them for their Thursday Club Night. Three other people pass by and come close to check whether we need any help. The wind feels quite strong and the although safe the boat is uneasy in the turbulence. We talk about options with one of the Club's leading lights and aim to go onto the shore for the night. We motor as people move boats around on the hard. Wider discussion suggests the silted up dock alongside the club and as the tide rises enough we creep in there so that when the tide ebbs we will sit at peace on soft mud.

We explore Grays before moving Faith into the dock as soon as we can, then get the tent up. My mattress, being under Elspeth's, is very wet but is non-absorbent so should dry OK. Otherwise things are not as bad as they might have been. We join the club members for a drink but don't sit up long.

Download and read more of the log <https://oga.org.uk/eastcoast/Log%20of%20Faith%202019>



Sailing away from London

Report from the Bristol AGM

By Alison Cable

100 members arrived in Bristol for the Association AGM on 11th January, the best turn out for an AGM ever. There were a number of changes on the general council, with the President, Alistair Randall standing down at the end of his term. Patrick Vyvyan-Robinson was elected unopposed as the new president, having served on the council previously as the youth fund manager.

Beverly Daley-Yates stood down as the editor of Gaffer's Log, and the website, having served two terms in this demanding role. The new editor John O'Donnell has a hard act to follow, and I wish him all the best. He has already sent out an appeal for content, so don't forget to send him articles to help maintain the standard in Gaffer's Log!

There is also a new trophies and awards officer, Mike Forward, but unfortunately he did not take up his post in time to organise the presentation of the prizes. However Beverly did award the ones for Gaffer's Log, with Peter Hudson of *Crescent Moon* being awarded the Janty Cup for young contributor for his piece on the August Cruise, and yours truly getting the "Tales of Sail" award for articles on *Tiki* in Ireland, and two boat register articles.

After the official business, and a tasty supper, a large and boisterous brass band arrived to get us on our feet and dancing.

Sunday saw 80 people taking to the water in trip boats for a tour of Bristol's Floating Harbour, followed by a visit to the Underfall Boat Yard. Although there are wooden boats on display there this was the harbour's maintenance yard and we were shown round the equipment, much of which dated back to the Victorian period. Rolt's Boatyard near



A trip round the Floating Harbour Photo © Bev Daley-yates

the Albion dock also opened their yard for us to see the three boats they are working on. It is always interesting to see wooden boats with their bare wood on show....

Next year's AGM will be held in Newcastle, another city with a lot to offer nautically minded visitors. It makes a nice change to move the meeting round the areas like this, so I would encourage you to come along!

Double the numbers

Last time the gaffers came to the Walton and Frinton YC for Sunday lunch we were told "only 12 people please!" No such restriction was put in place this time, and 24 gathered for a most enjoyable carvery there on 8th December. We filled two long tables, squeezing the club's own members there for their AGM into the remaining space. Between catching up on last year's events, and discussing the upcoming season plans the afternoon passed in a flash.

Knights of the Round Table?

By Lorna Hill

For anyone who doesn't know the Royal Burnham Yacht Club, there is a very large round table which has a commanding view of the River Crouch and is in close proximity to the bar! A very impressive wall display of half models, some dating back to yester year and the heyday of Burnham as a yachting hotspot for Londoners escaping the capital, completes the picture. This is where our Diners gathered for the East Coast Area, second in the series, 'Gaffers Who Lunch' event on 26th January!

Before being called through to the beautiful deep blue dining room of the RBYC for their delicious carvery Sunday Lunch our diners enjoyed some small talk. Now what an amazing bunch of Old Gaffers we had gathered together. One was jetting off to Bergen in a couple of weeks to seek the Northern Lights courtesy of Hurtigruten, another had recently purchased an Itchen Ferry and was keenly looking forward to this coming sailing season. Mine Host & Hostess were setting off for the Caribbean the following day for a fantastic holiday and another keen diner had the amazing task ahead of him, of editing the Gaffers Log! I am so disappointed that I couldn't make the event myself as all reports state that it was a most enjoyable Sunday Lunch, but then I wouldn't have been able to compete with these guys. Huge thanks must go to the RBYC for their hospitality.

Our third Sunday Lunch is fast approaching on Sunday 23rd February, this time at The Colne Yacht Club in Brightlingsea. Please drop a line to ecsec@oga.org.uk if you would like to book or for further details. Being a globe trotter is not a requirement to attend! Everyone is welcome, and I look forward to seeing you there.

The Annual Dinner, Saturday 7th March

By Alison Cable

It's that time of year again, brush off your best clothes and dress up for an evening of exclusive dining!

Our Annual Dinner this coming year will be a break with tradition, we are holding the event at the Walton & Frinton Yacht Club during the evening of Saturday 7th March. There is a brand new chief in place, who wants to ensure that all our guests enjoy a high quality menu served without delays. Due to this the whole of the downstairs restaurant has been reserved for us, giving a total of 40 places, so book early.

The format will be the same as before with good food, conversation and maybe the odd sailing yarn from the last year's OGA gatherings.

We have a delicious menu @ £26.95 per head:

- Starters - House King Prawns poached in a sweet chilli and cream sauce served with garlic toastie or Stuffed Mushroom large portabella mushroom with creamy dolcelatte cheese duxcelle of wild mushrooms and a parmesan crust drizzled with hot garlic butter
- Mains - 28 day old Fillet steak cooked medium rare served with a rich recurrent jus creamy mashed potato with a hint of garlic and fresh tender stem broccoli or Italian baked Cod fillet wrapped in Parma Ham served with a cream pesto sauce crushed new potatoes and fresh tender stem broccoli or a homemade nut roast with red currant jus and fresh vegetables
- Desserts - Chocolate Mousse homemade (contains raw free range eggs) topped with a Chantilly cream and chocolate flakes or Brioche bread and butter pudding with Baileys and chocolate served with a cream vanilla custard.

See enclosed booking form for details, or go on-line to book via the website

Dawn at the Nottage

You may not have heard of Dawn Wood yet, but you will certainly remember her after hearing her talk at the Nottage Institute on Saturday 28th March.

In 2019 she took several months off work (as a marine policewoman in Burnham on Crouch) to row single handed across the Atlantic. She aimed to raise funds for the campaign to increase awareness of plastic in the oceans, and to beat the current single handed woman rowing record from the Canary Islands to Barbados.

If you wish to eat in Wivenhoe before the talk there are many food outlets available, including the Rose and Crown pub next to the Nottage. If you pop in you may well find other OGA members meeting there before the talk, but I would suggest booking if you want food so they can make sure they have enough staff on hand to cope with the influx!

The talk will start at 8pm, with the Institute open from 7.30pm.

The cost of the talk is £5, payable on the door or in advance. To help with planning please book places using our online booking form:



Dawn Woods at Burnham on Crouch

photo © Dawn Woods

Events in May, for small boats and yachts

By now I expect that everyone is aware of the changes to the early May bank holiday. This means that the Tolledbury rally for small boats will take place on the 2nd Saturday in May rather than the first. More details will be available in the next issue of Eastcoaster, but the outline plan is to gather at Tollesbury on Friday evening (the bank holiday) ready for quite an early morning launching and race. Hopefully the weather will be kinder this year than last, when the race had to be postponed until Sunday.

When heading home on Sunday people might like to drop in on a new event at Maldon. Maldon has just gained heritage harbour status, and the Maldon and Heybridge Heritage Group are hoping to celebrate this over the bank holiday.

The Colne race has now returned to its familiar late May Bank holiday slot, so why not aim to get your yachts ready for this event? Last summer saw over 20 boats gather at the North Fambridge Yacht Station, many of whom had never visited before. Now you know how great a place it is, it would be wonderful to see a revival of this event at its normal time of the year.



A gathering of Gaffers at North Fambridge

photo © Ian Kemp

East Coast OGA Dinghies

After the East Coast AGM it was decided that the area would build two OGA dinghies. The plan is to build one in Suffolk (Barham Green) and one in Essex (Mistley). The two ply kits have now been cut and the aim is to get both boats ready for sailing at the latter end of the season.

Contact Pete Thomas at pete.m.thomas@btinternet.com or phone 01473 832808 to be added to the work parties. You can of course work in both venues!!



update by Pete "the knife" Elliston

On 28th January two dinghy kits were picked up from Demon Yachts in Aldeburgh on the way home from Sizewell. The first problem was to load the trailer with what turned out to be two entire kits in individual parts - I was expecting several complete but nearly cut out sheets of ply. An hour or more later the kits were on there way home, one to Barham near Claydon and the other to Mistley near Manningtree to the workshops of Pete (the Glass) and Pete (the Knife). We had some "dimensional differences" to overcome as we realised the kits were very slightly different but hey ho we carried on with

some constructive feedback to the cutters. Having produced our own “Haynes style” manual based on the information on the website (thanks to Tony Kiddle’s postings) we had the same set of instructions sufficient to make a start. There is the sailing adage “that two boats going in the same direction is a race”-- but we keep saying this IS NOT ONE!! (don’t we Pete?) So we started..... Great progress has been made with help from some other interested members who, like us carefully held their hands up at our AGM!

The first set of photos is from Mistley showing stern section with routed prep for joint taping followed by hull side shot with tiewraps with filler in between and the bow shot of James Palmer adding some patches of fibreglass tape in between ties where the bow is under stress (as James was! Not).

Do get in touch with either Pete Thomas or Pete the Knife and come along to help out at the various stages but it is likely that 3 or 4 people at any one time will be the limit. We have done a full hazard assessment for each workshop and suggest that those attending will need suitable footwear and overalls. If anyone attending has personal PPE then please bring it along as well. It is a very social activity as we have already found out this weekend!



Backstay

This issue is finalised as storm Ciara fades away and the next high wind system prepares to batter the country. This winter has been warmer but much windier than the last, and circumstances have conspired to prevent *Robinetta* coming out of the water. It feels as though every time there was sufficient rise of tide to get her out of her berth the weather was too bad to tow her round to the slip way. As a consequence building her new rudder has not been started. We will probably have a late start to the season!

Thanks to everyone who provided content for this Eastcoaster, I could not produce the newsletter without you. Please continue to contribute! You can submit electronically to alison.margaret.cable@gmail.com, or through the post to Alison Cable, 146 Stortford Hall Park, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 5AP.

There have been a number of "Stop Press" items that have come up while I procrastinated over publication, so I am trying to tell myself that the delay was worthwhile, but I do feel I should apologise. I like to publish on the first of the month, not half way through. Very hot of the press is news of a possible event in Maldon over the early May bank holiday, celebrating Maldon's hope of becoming a heritage harbour. I am not sure how much will be happening, as it is very short notice.

Please let me know if you have any comments (or corrections) on the content of this issue. The deadline for next issue is Monday 20th April for inclusion in the May Eastcoaster. Every gaffer has a unique story to tell, and some see the most amazing things on their travels....



A duck on the thames

photo © Alasdair MacKenzie

For Sale Price: £4,500

Jacinta is a typical Maurice Griffiths design of Leigh Cockler class, and handles well under sail. In the last twelve years hundreds of man hours have improved her appearance and condition. Re-caulked below waterline during winter 2013/14. The pine and teak decks have been completely refurbished and sealed with silkaflex and varnish. The spars and sails are recent, in excellent condition.



The electric wiring has been overhauled and replaced as necessary. Jacinta is maintained in working order available immediately, in full commission at Maldon, Essex.

Engine Yanmar 2ym15. Installed 2009, currently approx 600 hours use.

Large Cockpit with extensive locker space. Very roomy main cabin with standing headroom, under flush deck and doghouse. New spinflo thetford 2 burner hob and grill gas cooker in stainless steel case. Cabin has two berths and centreboard case. Forepeak has sea toilet, single berth and chain locker. Electric lighting throughout and navigation lights.

Aluminium spars. Bowspirit 6 foot varnished pine spar installed on stainless steel forestay fitting (Autumn 2003) New forestay 2011. New backstays 2012. Stainless steel standing rigging White mainsail, staysail and foresail on Wykeham roller reefing - all James Laurence. New mainsail and staysail 2013 New jib 2014

Compass and new depth sounder Hand bilge pump plus 3 electric pumps driven by 2 seperate batteries. CQR Anchor, chain and fishermans anchor.

New keel bolts 2004. Recaulking below waterline completed March 2014

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