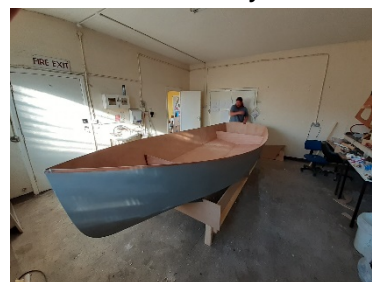


## North East Area Report 2019

It's been an exciting and fulfilling year here in the North East. As reported in this year's Gaffers Logs, our main activity has been getting our OGA Dinghy Project up and running. We're delighted to be able to report that we've started our first dinghy build at Tunstall College in Hartlepool. From our first contact with the Headteacher of Tunstall school at last year's Puffin Festival in May, we started the project at the school in November this year.

Fund raising for this first build came from our own efforts at a Curry Night (£500), Shanty Night (£400), Youth Fund donation (£500) and private donations amounting to £900.

Following our application to the Freemasons of Northumberland, we were delighted to be awarded the sum of £5,000 to build a complete dinghy sponsored by them. This second dinghy will be built at The Duchess School, Alnwick.



the National Lottery still won't give us any money!

At the start of the year we invested in our own lovely yellow NEOGA gazebo. We have been using this to promote the North East Old Gaffers at various festivals around the area. We attended the Coble Festival in Bridlington which generated a huge amount of interest in our dinghy project and the OGA in general, we're hopeful of picking up some extra members on the back of this.



Another highlight of the festival was a visit to our stand by Andrew Wolstenholme, the dinghy designer. Andrew was delighted to see that his design was being used for such a laudable project. He was glad that the build was being undertaken by a local school thereby encouraging young people to try sailing in gaff rigged vessels, which was exactly the brief for the original design.

Our President, Des, was invited to attend the AGM of the Coble and Keelboat Society to encourage our ongoing relationship with them.

Some of our members took part in the round Britain voyage on the Williams 2, completing several of the legs and having great fun sailing a 100-year-old 100 Ton Baltic Trader.

In the coming year, we will be progressing the Dinghy Project by starting the second build at Alnwick in February. Our fund-raising activities will continue, with another curry night and future events still to be confirmed. We would hope to have started the third dinghy build by the summer.

We are planning a North East Regatta to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of June at the Port of Blyth. We should have around 8 or 9 gaff dinghies, including the two we are currently building and hopefully Tony Kiddle's original dinghy. We are hoping to get local working cobs to attend and also a series of skiff races involving community skiff rowing clubs. We would

also welcome anyone from the trailer section who would like to sample sailing in the North East! And would hope to see some East Coast and Scottish members attend with their boats.