

## **East Coast Area OGA Secretary's Report 2019.**

Generally attendance at most East Coast events has remained fairly steady again this year.

For the second year running 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.

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. 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 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".

Over the winter we have planned 3 Sunday lunch get togethers at different locations in our area. The first was held on 8th December at Walton & Frinton Yacht Club and attracted 24 members. 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.

At our AGM held in November, we discussed both the OGA 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the OGA dinghy. Both topics attracted a lot of interest with some pleasing results. The East Coast Area has volunteered to host an Anniversary Event to celebrate 60 years of the OGA and members showed great interest in this event. We hope to build 2 OGA dinghies fairly soon, and various avenues are currently being explored to assist with the build. We plan to then host an OGA Dinghy Event during the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Lorna Hill  
East Coast Area Secretary