

South West Gaffers

Promoting Gaff Rig Sailing in
Devon and Cornwall

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The Dog Watch

For the Sea Dogs of Devon and Cornwall

Issue 37

September 2019

Welcome

The sailing season seems to be all but done now. But of course there may be the odd few decent sailing days yet. Although it's not looking encouraging at the moment. But it has been a generally fine season with plenty of opportunities to sail away.

So in this issue we have one article about a sail to that amazing Paimpol Festival du Chant de Marin and another on the tribulations of getting to the Dittsum Rally. But there should be more tales for the December issue. I have great hopes that I may be spoilt for choice with colourful salty tales. If you have a story to tell that others might enjoy then do please send it along.

In this Dogwatch you will find reports of our events, firstly the Plymouth Festival of Sail which went very well indeed and all who went seemed to greatly enjoy it. The weather was really good for us and of course the socials on the boats and in the bars all help engender that camaraderie which gaffers are all about.

Dittsum Regatta had weather problems but they found ways to overcome such a slight obstacle and in the end, fun was had by all.

Then on the latter pages you will meet some of the new members who have joined us. This is a new approach we have introduced which in fact come from a relatively new member, Rob Brown. So the plan is, you read, digest and immediately know who you are talking to at our next meeting. But that of course relies on the crispness of our own memories where for some of us it occasionally can be difficult remembering what you did the day before yesterday or for others and possibly I am guilty, of what you actually did yesterday!

And don't forget when you get next year's calendar to highlight 10—12th January as a must to go to Bristol for a jolly. Read the "From the Poop Deck" to find why.

Of course we should all be meeting up at Skinners, Truro for our annual Cornish Autumn event. Every one of these meets has been a winner. So see you there.

Ed

Next Meeting

Visit to Skinners Brewery, Truro

12pm Sat 26th Oct

Lunch, Tour and beer tasting

AGM of the OGA 2020 - will be at BRISTOL - 10th—12th January

Paul Jolley

Following a decision at the last AGM a proposal from the South West, supported by Bristol Channel, OGA accepted that as a trial, the meeting for next AGM would be held in Bristol, hosted by the two local areas.

Bristol has a strong maritime heritage and is fortunate to have Brunel's floating harbour right in the vibrant city centre. Also there are numerous places of interest located around the harbourside.

The AGM and Dinner will be held at the Novotel, Victoria Street close to Temple Meads Railway Station which is also the terminus for airport coaches. From Temple meads ferries operate a service throughout the city's waterways to most of the maritime attractions.

So put **January 10th – 12th 2020** in next years diary

Together with the support of The Bristol Channel Area and the OGA Secretary I am actively finalising the arrangements and drumming up support for this event.

In outline, on the Saturday we have planned for attendees to visit *SS. Great Britain*. But of course there are many other maritime attractions in Bristol. In early afternoon we hope all will go to the OGA National AGM. This will be followed by a buffet supper after which there will be music from our own South West Gaffers musician Vic Love, with his Ambling Band. Socialising and chatter might even involve a visit to the two very good pubs nearby.

On the Sunday, the Bristol Channel Area have organised a boat tour of the Floating Harbour which will depart from the Temple Meads Pier, near the Novotel AGM venue and will then take participants to Underfall's Yard for a guided tour and also afford them the opportunity to visit a couple of nearby pubs for lunch.

At present we have booked a boat for 40 people on a "first come first served" basis with the prospect of using another boat if required.

In order to promote the event and drum up support I will be speaking at the Bristol Channel AGM and will also update our members at our laying up lunch and AGM.



We were the only area to respond to the request for ideas on future AGMs and their locations. Our proposal was supported by our Bristol Channel neighbours and agreed nationally so please do support this initiative.

It should be a really good weekend !

Introductions for New Members

Rob Brown our newest Committee member has come up with the idea that we should use this newsletter to introduce new members to the rest of us. We agreed this was a very sensible plan so in this issue I have made a start.

More new members will be in the next Dogwatch

It's encouraging to have new blood, much of it younger than many of us and who may even come up with useful ideas, like Rob.

John G your ED

SW Gaffers, Festival of Sail, Plymouth 8th –10th July

David Bewick

The second South West Gaffers Plymouth Festival of Sail took place at Queen Anne's Battery (QAB) marina. We had 21 boats registered with some visitors from outside the Area as well as a few new members joining many of the regular supporters for this lively event. Most of the boats arrived at QAB on the Monday and the crews got together for a friendly supper in the Chandlers Bar and Bistro just twenty yards from the berths.

The weather forecast for Tuesday, our race day, was not very encouraging - warm and sunny but with very light and variable winds. As it turned out, the wind was rather better than the forecast and, after a delayed start due to an incoming vessel, was certainly enough to get most of the boats around the race course. Doubtless, some would have liked a bit more wind, but I think everyone had a good sail. The fastest boat, by some margin, was Bristol Channel Area member Robert Green's beautiful home-built gaff-yawl *Lapwing*. The full race results are shown in the table on the next page.



Lapwing, foreground coming up to Thetis .

Photo: Gil Hayward

Our evening event on race day was held at The Royal Western Yacht Club (RWYC), where we had supper, the prizegiving and entertainment from the wacky local "Rubber Band", a group of very talented musicians from

the Calstock area over the river in Cornwall.

On the Wednesday, we left QAB for a cruise in company up the Tamar to Saltash that left Drake Island to starboard, taking several crews over "The Bridge" for the first time. There was then a relaxing broad reach/run (some motored) most of the way up the river, giving the crews ample chance to pit their wits against each other in the nautical quiz that had been set for the occasion by Paul Jolley. It seems that Chris and Cathy Danby were more knowledgeable than most and, over lunch at Saltash SC, they were presented with a fine bottle of Rum for their achievement. The stop-over gave us all time for a pasty, a pint and a bit of a natter before returning to QAB. For some reason, the return trip seemed to induce engine trouble for a couple of boats, but everyone got back just in time for the now traditional pontoon party before dashing off to the B-bar in the Barbican for yet more food and music to end the event.



A resplendent Mary Richie

photo : Chris Wells

Awards

Robert Green with *Lapwing* was first overall and received the Dittisham Bottle. The Commodore's Burgee for the first SW Area boat and the Redundant Caulker for the first grp boat were awarded to David Bewick in *Thetis*.

In Class 1, John Crellin, first in *Theta*, received the Dartmouth Deadeye, Don Garman, second in *Marie Ritchie*, the Solent Block and David Patuck, third in *Susan J*, the Tyrone Trophy.

In Class 2, Gil Hayward, first in *Mary Hay* received the Lewthwaite Trophy, Chris Danby, second in *Ester*, the Pin Rail Trophy and Mike Phillips, third in *Tom Tit*, the Marie Mahon Trophy

Class 3, Robert Green, first in *Lapwing*, received the Scrimshaw Trophy, David Bewick, second in *Thetis*, the Sheave Trophy and Rob Brown, third in *Heron*, the Oyster Ring.

The Plodder's Pin was awarded to Paul Jolley in *Minx*.

Tim Price was awarded the Victory Trophy for the longest passage to the event in *Mayblossom*, beating Don Garman in *Mary Ritchie*, also from the Helford, on the basis that his passage was both single-handed and non-stop.



Finally, as a charitable gesture, John Gallagher in *Periwinkle* was given a special award of the Anchor Trophy for his imaginative interpretation of the course.

Top, Mayblossom chasing Annabelle and Cariad to the fore.
photo: John Gallagher

Left, Tregatreath just ahead of Roxanne

Bottom, happy sailors Paul and Penny in Minx
photo: John Wynn



The Bernard Gibson Memorial Trophy went to Mike Phillips in *Tom Tit* for, whatever his age might be, when combined with that of his boat, it was simply unbeatable.



The amazing ancient Tom Tit born in 1894

photo: John Wynn

A gallery of pictures from the event has been set up on our website:

<https://oga.org.uk/content/plymouth-festival-sail-2019>

Skipper	Boat Name	Class	Handicap	Elapsed Time	Corrected Time	Position in Class	Position Overall
John Crellin	Theta	1	0.96	1:16:32	1:13:28	1	4
Don Garman	Mary Ritchie	1	0.948	1:21:06	1:16:53	2	7
David Patuck	Susan J	1	0.98	1:22:53	1:21:14	3	9
Martin Elliott	Roxanne	1	0.968	1:31:14	1:28:19	4	14
Mike Forwood	Arriana	1	0.96	1:47:53	1:43:34	5	17
Paul Jolley	Minx	1	0.901	1:56:40	1:45:07	6	18
A. Londesborough	Tregatreath	2	0.9	Rtd	0:00:00		
Gil Hayward	Mary Hay	2	0.849	1:18:23	1:06:33	1	3
Chris Danby	Ester	2	0.893	1:24:12	1:15:11	2	6
Mike Phillips	Tom Tit	2	0.906	1:30:20	1:21:51	3	10
Mike Garlick	Mischief	2	0.867	1:35:20	1:22:39	4	11
Brian Budden	Annabelle	2	0.907	1:33:36	1:24:54	5	12
Martin West	Cariad	2	0.91	1:34:16	1:25:47	6	13
John Gallagher	Periwinkle	2	0.888	1:42:34	1:31:05	7	15
C. Wigdor	Ellen	2	0.893	1:47:00	1:35:33	8	16
John Wynn	Swallow	3	0.832	DNS	0:00:00		
J Tomlinson	Gimli	3	0.863	Rtd	0:00:00		
Robert Green	Lapwing	3	0.827	1:09:22	0:57:22	1	1
David Bewick	Thetis	3	0.824	1:19:28	1:05:29	2	2
Rob Brown	Heron	3	0.872	1:25:50	1:14:51	3	5
Tim Price	Mayblossom	3	0.862	1:29:36	1:17:14	4	8

Please remember that Dogwatch is your newsletter so if you have any fascinating exploits involving boaty matters which you feel may be of interest to other members don't hesitate to contact me. I need input from members to keep Dogwatch lively and interesting and of course colourful ! So send me copy

John G your editor

.....keep on sailing



Fowey Classics 23rd—26th July

Steve Lorraine

Four SW Gaffers boats attended this year's Fowey Classics, which is always a fun event and a chance to see and compare some wonderful classic designs and make new friends.

Our boats were *Tregatreath*, *Minx*, *Little Tern* and *Aeolus*.

We were the only Gaffers the rest of the fleet being Bermudian.

All in all there were around 20 boats but only 8 boats on were on the reserved pontoon, the four of us and a Hilliard, a Folkboat, a Vertue and a 36ft Robert Clark design.

It was a fairly relaxed affair this year, the two planned races being dogged by choppy seas and winds varying in strength and direction. However it was very sociable. There was a very enjoyable organised picnic up at Penmarlem and a pop up pontoon party on our pontoon which went on late into the evening.

We were hosted by the Fowey Gallants Sailing Club and had a very interesting illustrated talk about the construction of a new Troy class boat, originally built in Fowey by Archie Watty this being the 90th year of the class.

The final evening saw us at the Royal Fowey Yacht Club where we were treated to the Troys Racing followed by an excellent barbecue supper.

This was the 27th year of the Fowey Classics. Attendances have been variable over the years with the record number of boats one year being 67.

It is a very enjoyable event and it would be enhanced by more of us Gaffers coming along.

So do think about joining in the fun for 2020.



Pontoon party which went on late into the evening !

Photo: Steve Lorraine



Troys, all lined up to race making a colourful sight

Photo: Fowey Classics website 2019

Dittsum Regatta - River Dart Rally 2019

August 9th—11th

Carolyn and Gil Hayward

There has been a 'Gaffer Race' at Dittsum Regatta for as long as we can remember but in 2014, South West Gaffers were approached to see if we could organise a 'Parade of Sail' as part of the Regatta. The sailing events off 'Flat Owers' were too remote from the shore based regatta activities and the rowing races. An eclectic group of boats, many with tan sails, proved popular, so the event has evolved over the years and is now promoted as a South West Gaffers' trailer sailer event. As it involves quite a lot of travelling for many people, the weekend starts off with a 'Drinks Party' in our summer house overlooking the river on the Friday evening. On Saturday, there is the 'Gaffer Race' followed by the 'Parade of Sail' with the prize giving and supper in the club room at Dittisham Sailing Club in the evening. Sunday starts with a cooked breakfast in the 'Red Lion' at 10am. There is then an informal sail up river ending with a cream tea in Stoke Gabriel, before people leave for home. You may conclude that eating (not to mention a cask of Doom Bar) is as important as the sailing!

This event is only possible because of the co-operation of the Dittsum Regatta Committee, Dittisham Sailing Club, who run the 'Gaffer Race' and allow us use of the clubhouse and Dittisham Parish Council who permit us to park campervans in the car park overnight and pitch tents on 'The Ham'.

2019 saw the 5th 'River Dart Rally' (there was only a 'Gaffer Race' in 2018 as it clashed with the OGA 55 event in Cowes). Although there had been the odd windy day, each of the four previous rallies had enjoyed lovely summer weather. This was not to be the case in 2019. The weather forecasts had constantly predicted an early autumn storm over the weekend. With the event fully booked, there was real concern that we would have few people turn up to eat all the pre-booked food and drink the Doom Bar!

We need not have worried as most people still came, some without their boats – we can only assume they had enjoyed the catering on previous rallies. The drinks reception went ahead as planned but all sailing was cancelled on Saturday. DSC did not even hold their normal weekly racing. The National Trust closed Agatha Christie's Greenway House due to the strong winds and the risk of injury from falling trees.

This proved a bit of a challenge for the Prize Giving. However, an award was presented to Yvonne Mitchell, who had brought her 'Winkle Brig' over 200 miles from Essex. A journey not without incident as described in her article. Alan Sibley was also awarded a 'Dartington tumbler' as despite the horrendous storm overnight, he still pitched his tent on The Ham. The following night, Heather Green, (*Lapwing*), the youngest member on the rally slept in a Pup Tent adjacent to her parents' campervan and so earned a 'Dittsum Regatta' mug.

Sadly, the exceptionally strong winds had also resulted



Prototype OGA Gaff Dinghy racing at Dittisham

in *photo: Gil Hayward*

the 'Parade of Sail' being cancelled. This was particularly disappointing as Tony Kiddle had kindly lent us the prototype OGA Gaff Dinghy, which we were keen to promote. We had arranged for it to be sailed in the 'Gaffer Race' by one of the instructors of the local sailing school. However, all was not lost, as Dittisham Sailing Club agreed to put on a 'Gaffer Race' for us on Sunday, despite their running an event for their cruising section that day. As there was only one safety boat available, the start had to be from the starting box adjacent to the club house, so the start line and the windward mark were amongst the moorings. This was a challenge given the brisk wind and flood tide resulting in fewer entries than normal. Mike Bennett, a member of DSC and the OGA, agreed to helm the OGA Gaff Dinghy, crewed by his friend, OGA member, John Wynn, now based in Plymouth and the owner of a 'Tela'.



Pippin just passing the OGA dinghy photo: Gil Haywood

The above photo shows the order in which the first 3 boats finished. After an hour and a half race, *Pippin*, a Swallow Boats 'Sea Raider' – not to be confused with the slower 'Bay Raider', very ably sailed by Mark Darley finished less than a minute ahead of the OGA Gaff Dinghy. The latter was the clear winner on handicap - a credit to both boat and crew. It was particularly appropriate as the trophy for the 'Winning Gaffer' had been presented some years ago by John Wynn.

This is a report of the event from Yvonne Mitchell, an East Coast member and proud owner of the Winkle Brig "Philomena" and her challenging travel to get to Dittisham and back.

It's a long way to go for a very short sail !

Yvonne Mitchell

The trailer section of the OGA planned to go to Dittisham to join in the Dittsum Regatta. Despite the dreadful weather forecast I decided I'd go and join in. I have a cousin who lives nearby and I haven't seen her house so if sailing was completely off I could at least visit her, albeit with boat in tow. But her granddaughter of two got chicken pox and there was a desperate plea for help from granny, so that part of the plan was foiled.

Ninety nine percent of the journey went without event but as Blackness Marine was not on the map I used the satnav for the last few miles – big mistake – I was going up and down narrower and narrower lanes and eventually onto something I can only describe as a goat track. The satnav showed the destination flag just round



Mike Bennett, left and John Wynn photo: Gil Haywood

the next bend, unfortunately the car wouldn't have it. I thought I'll just walk round the bend and have a look. The trailer is braked but as it was hanging back from the car, so the brake wasn't on. I put the hand brake on the car but there wasn't a chance that would hold so I put the engine in gear but as I gingerly lifted my foot from the brake pedal the engine turned over! – STUCK. To my good fortune a helpful lady suddenly appeared and assured me that Blackness Marine was NOT just round the bend. It wasn't far away but it wasn't up this track. With her excellent help I achieved a 'twenty three' point turn and was at Blackness Marine in about 15 minutes. But with winds gusting force 7 to 9 a launch was out. So I decided I would leave the boat on the trailer for the night and drove to Dittsum to Gil and Carolyn's house for the reception and then snuck back onto the boat for the night.

By Sat am the wind had died down a little, the staff were still dubious about launching but agreed to do it, so in she went. Twenty minutes down river and I was on a buoy outside the sailing club and being retrieved from the boat by Gil in his dinghy.



*Winkle Brigs - Philomena on the left,
on the right Drifter*

photo : Gil Haywood

I do have a blow up canoe for short hops to the shore but thought using this in such strong winds might necessitate a rescue from some far flung shore. Saturday was spent ashore with all sailing events cancelled. We did have a fantastic 'prize giving' supper in the club house and I won a prize for having travelled the furthest to the event. I borrowed Gil's dinghy and went back on board for the night. I had frapped all the usual rigging but not the lines that run across the cabin top which periodically managed to bang loudly for just enough time to wake me every now and then and the bilge plates did a good job of banging and crunching any unsuspecting barnacles that thought they had found a quiet crevice to live in.

Morning broke with sunshine and a little less wind and it was decided we could have a race. A few of us thought it was a bit too risky racing among so many moored boats in a still quite blustery wind. Five boats did race and the OGA dinghy went like the proverbial s—t off a shovel.

I had been expecting another Winkle Brig to join us at this venue but as she hadn't turned up, I sent a text saying I guess they had thought better of boating in this weather. No, no, came the reply, "we're here, we're coming down from Dittisum right now, everything took longer than we expected but we're here".

They joined me on a buoy at Dittisum where we spent a much quieter night.

Monday, when most others had left for home, we had a good sail down to Dartmouth and back to Blackness where the boats were put back on their trailers for the long drive home. By now it was 7.30 and I had had no supper. I didn't want to set off to be driving half the night so I slept on the boat hoping to leave before any staff appeared in the morning. Up at 5.30 intending to get on while the roads were still quiet. Up to the first barrier, punched in the code and up it went. A little further up the track to the exit and I was confronted with a steel wall that seemed to have been wheeled out of the hedge and completely blocked the entrance, this, of course did not move with any code that I knew of. I checked their opening hours and found that they opened at 7.30. Back on board for breakfast and a mug of tea that I had intended to have when I had a few miles under my belt. 8.45 and the steel wall quietly rolled back out of sight into the hedge. So... home we go!

Then about 100yds down the lane I was confronted by a huge tractor and trailer. It was an even tighter fit in the lane than I, so it was reverse back to the beginning and start again. This time no goat tracks, no more tractors and trailers and NO Costa coffee either. I had promised myself costa coffee on the way home but every time one was mentioned so many miles ahead, I needed to turn off before we reached it! So, you can get all the way from Devon to Walton without passing a single Costa.

It's a long way to go for a very short sail.

Festival du Chant de Marin -Paimpol August 2nd to 4th

Mike Forwood

Such is the scale of this event that I wondered if an Old Gaffer could get away with forgetting his national identity papers, ie. his passport, when entering Paimpol for the premier maritime music festival in Brittany ?

I have to confess that the old grey matter was letting me down when I was packing my bags before punting out to Pete Sharp's *Maggie B*, a Falmouth Working Boat, which John Gallagher and I had commandeered for the trip. My boat *Arriana* was still having tantrums. Well, it's not like going to the airport is it with two hour check ins, endless security checks, boarding passes and scrutiny of every item down to your toothpaste. Yes, getting ready for a conventional holiday abroad can get you in a high state of tension.



Even so, I was a little apprehensive when we were greeted by thousands of French onlookers along the dockside on our arrival welcoming us into the harbour. There was also a strong presence of security officials but even they were full of smiling welcome. Also no one said - go home you Brexiteer Brits ! Of course, I suppose it's a possibility that the illegals may try to steal a boat from the marina but they'd be in for a rough ride with the spring tides as anyone who takes a boat there knows. But I assured myself the security was there to control the crowds coming into the festival each day, not catch me! There were phenomenal numbers on each of the three days with estimates of some 10's of thousands each day each paying about 30 euros a day to enter.

Each year the French seem to discover, restore, repair,

nurture and exhibit more and more wooden boats and this year I have never seen so many. In fact, I have never seen so many traditional boats in the harbour and it was almost possible to cross the water without getting one's feet wet. The French have also snapped up the *The Grand Turk*, built for the Hornblower series and *Kaskalot* from Square Sail in Charleston to become prestige vessels for their ports. A day sail back to St Malo on one of them was advertised for some hundred and twenty euros.



There was a good smattering of pilot cutters and luggers, schooners and brigs and the OGA was well represented from Falmouth through to the Solent and that included the intrepid *East Breeze*. Shortly after the Festival she went on to complete the whole circumnavigation of Brittany and must surely come up for an award at the next AGM.



As well as onboard socials and good going parties we decided to get together for an impromptu Saturday night dinner for ten gaffers at a restaurant that we had used before in the back streets, away from the thousands on

the quayside. Back there it was it was definitely fast food for the masses championed by steaming pork knuckles for which there were endless queues. Oddly enough I can't recall seeing hordes of gulls. Have the French found a way of culling them or have they exported them all to Brixham ?



With nonstop music from ten until two for three days it's a lot for the body to stand but we certainly gave it a fair go. And despite all the good cheer and revelry we saw no signs of antisocial behaviour as would be expected back here. It was certainly a really enjoyable, sociable time we had there. When we awoke on the Monday morning the stands, barriers and debris was being cleared away. No Glastonbury clear up in Paimpol ! By the time we cleared the lock the town was back to normal and within an hour of leaving the channel there was hardly a sail in sight. Paimpol was over for another year.

Louise, in the foreground, the first Heard Falmouth Working Boat for the French market . Behind is Maggie B another of the five Heards, Witch Hazel, Roxanne and Myvonne



All photos by John Gallagher



Top and bottom: music everywhere with strolling bands



..... and they gave us presents for going to the Festival !



Introducing Our New Members

Those who managed to get to our Festival of Sail event in Plymouth will already have met some of the new members there. But for those who did not, here are some of them.

Mike and Sue Phillips.



They may be “new” to the South West but Mike joined the Solent brach of the OGA in 1974. Last year they moved to Weir Quay on the Tamar where they can look out on their Ichen Ferry type gaff cutter *Tom Tit* which was built at Fay’s Yard, Soton for Earnest Cave a yacht painter and decorator in 1894. Her LOD is 25ft but she has a 10ft bowsprit

As far as is known her hull has always been varnished. She was fully restored in 1990 using original materials including all hemp rope and cotton sails. She has no engine or electrics ,only an emergency outboard.

Mike also has a Steam Boat which had a local debut at the recent Calstock Steam Boat Fair. She also is of the similar vintage to *Tom Tit*.



Christopher Wigdor

Christoper has only joined in the last year or so and is enthusiastically embracing life with a gaffer in the form of a Tamarisk 24 called *Ellen*. She is moored on the Yealm at Newton Ferrers on Vic Love’s mooring at the moment.

Ellen was formerly owned by Claudia Myatt and was latterly used as her liveaboard before she bought her current tug boat. *Ellen* had deteriorated somewhat in the meantime so completion of the restoration with some alterations will be the winter project.



Tom Tit , without her topsail—a very fast boat !
photo: from Mike Phillips



Ellen , with Vic and Christopher at the Plymouth Festival
photo: John Gallagher



Tim Price

In 2018 Tim bought *Mayblossom*, a New Blossom clinker built Gaff Cutter designed by John Leather and built by Patten Brothers in Althorne, Essex in 1973.

She was known to many members as the craft sailed all over for many years by Paul and Penny Jolley. She had been in fine condition but the person to whom they originally sold her was unable to fully maintain her and she had been a little neglected and deteriorated somewhat before Tim bought her. Now Tim has her in fine order again and he sailed her singlehandedly non stop from the Helford to our recent Plymouth Festival of Sail.

Tim joined the OGA South West Gaffers branch in 2018 after buying the boat and now keeps *Mayblossom* moored on the Helford.



Mayblossom with all up looking resplendent photo: John Gallagher

John Tomlinson



John's boat is *Gimili* and is a Memory 19 Gaff Sloop designed by Tony Robinson in the style of the Brightlingsea fishing smacks and built in 2009 at Salterns Yard, Burlesdon. He keeps her at Weir Quay on the Tamar

John bought *Gimili* in 2018 and joined the OGA South West Gaffers section only this year. Both he and his wife Anika are keen sailors. Having sold their Wayfairer and bought *Gimili* John now describes sailing her as more like "armchair sailing"

Gimili is very much a day boat and is open but for a small forward cuddy. She also has a topsail but he says putting it up will be a challenge he will be working on !



Gimili - without her topsail. Photo: John Tomlinson

South West Programme of Events 2019

January 10th	Informal evening get together	Miller and Carter—Steakhouse, formerly The China House, Plymouth Contact: John Gallagher editor@southwestgaffers.org.uk
February 9 th	Lunch followed by talk by Jan Pentreath “ The Last of the Tall Ships In Falmouth”	Castaways then Mylor YC Contact: Don Garman cornwall@southwestgaffers.org.uk
April 27 ^h	Fitting Out Lunch then talk by Steve and Tim, Skippers of <i>Our Daddy</i>	Royal Western Y.C., Plymouth Contact: David Bewick secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk
May 25 ^h - 26 ^h	Brixham Heritage Sailing Regatta *	Contact: brixhamheritageregatta.uk
June 14 ^d - 16 ^h	Falmouth Classics *	Contact: falmouthclassics.org.uk
June 17 th - 19 ^h	SW Gaffers Helford River Rally	Helford River S.C. / Port Navas Y.C. Contact: Don Garman cornwall@southwestgaffers.org.uk
July 8 th - 10 ^h	SW Gaffers Festival of Sail (Annual Rally and Race)	Queen Anne’s Battery, Plymouth Contact: David Bewick secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk
July 23 rd —26 th	Fowey Classics *	Contact: foweyclassics.com
August 9 ^h —11 th	Dittisham Rally *	Contact: Gil Hayward gilbert.hayward@btinternet.com
August 25 th - 26 th	Dartmouth Regatta—Gaffer Races *	Contact: dartmouthregatta.co.uk
September 14 th	Brixham Heritage Rally *	Contact: brixhamheritageregatta.uk
October 26th	Visit to Skinners Brewery, Truro Lunch and beer tasting !	Contact: Don Garman, cornwall@southwestgaffers.org.uk
November 9th	Laying Up Lunch and AGM	Bridge Restaurant, Plymouth Yachthaven Contact: David Bewick secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk

* these events are not organised by South West Gaffers but we publicise and fully support them