

## South West Gaffers

Promoting Gaff Rig in Devon and Cornwall

South West Branch of the



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[www.oga.org.uk/south-west](http://www.oga.org.uk/south-west)

OGA Web Site: [www.oga.org.uk](http://www.oga.org.uk)

# The Dog Watch

For the Sea Dogs of Devon and Cornwall

Issue 31

March 2018

## Welcome

During this soggy cold winter we have managed to have a couple of meetings, the get together at the China House for eats and jaw jaw and a fascinating visit to Crabbers at Rock with a great lunch. Read about it all in the ensuing pages. But now that Spring is trying to stir itself it is time to look at sailing opportunities, should the weather for a change, be kindly.

The Start Bay Rally has been replaced with a rally at Plymouth Yachthaven the "South West Gaffers Festival of Sail". By moving to this more central location and adding a flourish we hope to attract many more boats.

Trailer Sailors will be joining us, using the excellent facilities next door at the Mountbatten Sailing Centre. Socials have been organised at the Clovelly Bay Inn, and the Mountbatten Sailing Centre with lively music as well as a pontoon party. There will be two days of racing including a trip to Saltash Sailing Club. And as Plymouth Classics has been cancelled again this year so an offer is being extended to gaffers, luggers and wooden boats of any sail configuration to join us for this year. So our Festival of Sail is a must for your itinerary!

It is hoped the Classics will emerge again next year as Plymouth Maritime Festival probably at the William Yard.

Brixham Heritage Sailing Regatta starts our season in late May and perusal of our events calendar here or online shows the wide selection of events we have on offer.

But outwith our area there is also a must go event. That is the OGA 55 Rally on the Medina, just passed Cowes. Boats will come from all over for this which is likely to be a large and spirited occasion.

A sociable way to get there would be to join the "rolling snowball" as it returns from Douarnenez, if you have not made it to there yourselves. The returning fleet will come via the Scillies or Falmouth then onto Fowey, Plymouth, Salcombe, Dartmouth and then Weymouth where festivities are planned before the last leg to Cowes and onwards. The event is the 2018 Channel Cruise which is being organised by Piers Rowlinson, skipper of Carlota with further information on the OGA main site.

Happy sailing!

*Please note, as we were short on copy for this issue we have mailed round the yards to hear from them as to how they are getting on. If you have any tales you would like to share with other members please do send them in.*

## The Next Event

*Saturday 14th April 12.30 for 13.00*

*Fitting Out Lunch and Talk*

*Royal Western Yacht Club, Plymouth*

### Cornwall Winter Gathering - Visit and Lunch, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Don Garman

A discussion in 2016 regarding the focus of future winter meetings in Cornwall culminated in 34 members and guests visiting Crabbers in Rock on a



very cold morning in February. The group were welcomed by Peter Thomas the Managing Director and his two sons Harry and Ed.

Peter outlined the 50 years history of Crabbers which began as Westerly's of Rock, building Wayfarers in the very building in which we were standing. Later it became Cornish Crabbers and started with the building of the MK 1 Crabber designed by Roger Dongray, still a popular boat. Peter outlined the business model which involved continual review and development to ensure the company remains a leader in the niche market which it occupies. Some designs of the past are no longer produced whilst new ones such as the Shrimper 21 have been introduced and even more recently the new Crabber 24, which retains some of the elements of the original Crabber. Peter has been sailing the prototype at Mylor and is very pleased with the handling and speed. Perhaps the most successful boat has been the Shrimper 19 which is still in production.

There is encouragement to build a 32 footer but such a



*Hulls being fitted out before the deck & cabin roof are fitted*

development is a big investment as moulds cost upwards of a £100,000.

The core of the factory is where boats are fitted out down below and then the deck is joined to the hull. Here there were Shrimpers of different sizes, the Shrimper 21 motor boat version, Crabbers 26s and a pilot cutter. There were also a number of older boats in for refurbishment. Those already finished looked almost band new.



*Pilot Cutter being refurbished*

In the glass fibre workshop Peter explained the process of making the hull, deck and other glass fibre components. Of the 25 employees, six are laminators



*Hull being rotated to finish gel coating*

who apply the gel coat to the mould by hand to get a good coating and then hand lay the glass mat. Hulls are solid glass mat and take 10 days to complete, whilst decks are a sandwich construction using balsa and glass.

The mast and rigging workshop was full of shiny masts, stainless steel wire and fittings and many metres of rope. The masts are made of Sitka Spruce by Collars and finished with coatings of Sikksens. The running rigging is made in house. Sails are now made by Simon Freeman of Padstow having persuaded Peter to try a suit on his Shrimper. The improved performance convinced him!



*Paul Jolley presenting John G his prize amidst busy well fed gaffers*

To complete a boat on average takes 2,600 person hours and 99% of the boats are built to order so can be personalised.

The group were most impressed by the quality of workmanship and at the end of tour, Peter, Harry and Ed were thanked for a fascinating visit and presented with a bottle of Champagne.

The group then repaired to the Rock Sailing and Water Ski Club housed in a building of character overlooking the Camel. The group received a warm welcome from Stuart Robertson the Commodore and his wife Tina and enjoyed a great two course lunch. Following the meal Paul Jolley, South West Gaffers President, presented a National OGA award to John Gallagher for all his work in helping plan the Sou'by Sou' West cruise in company last summer and ensure a great stay over in Plymouth for the fleet.

Brian and Estelle Budden were thanked for making arrangements with Peter Thomas for the visit to Crabbers and for arranging for us to have meal in their local Club. They were presented with a bottle of champagne.

***All photos in this article were taken by Don Garman***

## Storm Disaster at Holyhead

Following the loss and serious storm damage to boats and Holyhead Marina our Area President, Paul Jolley, wrote a letter expressing our thoughts and support to the North Wales Area.

As the storm went through the harbour about eighty boats were either sunk or seriously damaged by being blown ashore. In essence the whole of the marina was virtually destroyed and Sue's boat is one of sixty that were sunk and are awaiting insurance assessors to develop a salvage plan

On his voice mail Paul received a message of sincere thanks on behalf of the North Wales Area from Sue Farrers the Area Secretary, who lost her boat in the disaster. She commented that they had received similar letters of support from some other areas. As our letter also referred to the wider boating community of Holyhead a copy of our letter is being placed on the marina notice board for all to see.



*Holyhead Marina after Storm Emma with winds reached up to Storm force 12 from East on the night of Thursday March 1*

*photo: BBC News website*

# What's happening Around the Yards ?

## Treluggan Boatyard

Sara Stirling

Much has been happening at Treluggan Boatyard since the opening party last March which many OGA members attended. Sara's mission to run a tidy boatyard is moving in the right direction with major clearing and organising going on! Road repairs, new electrics throughout the yard, workshops cleared and available for rent, storage units available for gear over winter and a team of shipwrights, riggers and engineers on hand. Treluggan is becoming quite a hub for small wooden boat repair and restoration with many of the Stirling and Son team now working from this boatyard due to the unlimited space.

Current wooden boat repair work in the yard includes the following :



*Swatchway* - 27' Maurice Griffiths Kylix Class (Mahogany on Oak) came to the yard for a complete re-finish and upgrade of systems including a new mast and rewiring.

*Gloria* - Some work to tackle patches of rot and then a repaint/varnish. Her work was inspected by an MCA surveyor for her coding as a passenger vessel on the Tamar .

*Alert* - 37' Smuggling Lugger designed and built by Will Stirling in 2007 and based in Plymouth had her mast lifted out for sanding back and re-varnishing.

*Sylphida* - 1948 Camper and Nicholson Phoenix 35. Work is being carried out on her Buhk engine for new

owners Greig City Academy (School in North London). She will be based in the Southampton area and used for sail training.

New Redwing Dinghy, (*below*) the last Redwing to be built by 93 year old Looe boatbuilder, Clifford Adams, to an Uffa Fox design. She has come to us for finishing and has been epoxy sealed and varnished. Look out for the local paper article on her builder soon.



Snekkes, these are two clinker, double ended ship's boats designed by Stirling and Son for a customer along the lines of traditional Norwegian open boats. New Yanmar 1GM10 inboard engines are ready for fitting.



## Stirling and Son, Devonport

At the Stirling and Son slipway in Plymouth Will Stirling is building clinker dinghy number 40 alongside the refurbishment of the large fishing vessel and increasing survey work.



*James welding the engine beds, Holy and Graham fit the ribs*

resonating to the hammering of copper rivets. The yard anticipates finishing the hull in the next week or so, and the fit out will follow. Her build marks a revival in wooden boat building on Penpol Creek and a return to new builds for Butler & Co.

Ashley and Holly say “there is definitely nothing quite like a new build traditional vessel for igniting a spark in a shipwright and engaging the local maritime community.

## Penpol Boatyard - Butler and Co build a ferry for Caldey Island

### Holy Butler

“Ila”, a second ferry for Caldey Island was a gem of a project for Butler & Co and has required a quick turn - around; following receipt of the order in late October, the wood arrived freshly sawn from Somerscales in November and the centreline, frames and sheer strake were up in time for Christmas. The New Year saw planking up and the lower shed



*Framed in time for the festive season*



*Graham, Ashley and Chris position the bilge strake*

## Calstock Boatyard

Mike Forwood

Travel twelve miles beyond the last marina in Plymouth, where the Tamar alternately bisects the granite rocks of Devon and Cornwall before the river turns east and then west and there Calstock is to be found on the Cornish bank. Beyond the viaduct the bends get tighter and more overhung by trees on both banks before the medieval port of Morwelham is reached and a further mile and half takes the wanderer to the weir head at Gunnislake and the short agricultural canal and then to Newbridge, at one time the first crossing of the river built by the monks.



Don't expect to find top class showers and toilets at the yard, although there is an honesty cafe with a great range of home made cakes. Calstock yard is one of the gems that are rare

in this world of marinas with plastic boats, car parks with lines on the tarmac and power boats and jet skis. It is true that plastic is still to be found here in quantities, many with years of "verdigris" and tucked away at the back of the yard but in the main yard you will see a good proportion of wooden and traditional boats and even in the winter, you can watch gig boats pulling yard against the tide between Halton Quay and a turning spot near the viaduct.



Café, pottery studio on right and jewellery studio round to left

The boats are tucked in together during the winter, the smaller ones often fitted with hardly a fag paper

between them thanks to the careful gyrations of a solid ancient Fairy Queen crane. A walk through the yard uncovers an interesting variety of boats to those of gaffer instincts.



*Spirit of Mystery in foreground, background Calstock Bridge*

The slipway and sheds are a relic of the Second World War where the Americans repaired landing craft and little has changed since then. Part of the building now houses a glass studio, a jewellery outlet, a pottery studio and a weaver's loom so with the cafe Calstock boatyard is a busy place for local walkers and visitors to this heritage Area.

At the very back of the yard is *Jane* a delightful Bogle design 1939 Harrison Butler 26 footer with the a distinctive coach roof and lozenge shaped windows. Just inside the yard entrance is *Butterfly* a 13 foot Mevagissy Tosher, built by Martin Heard at Mylor and just waiting for a new owner to launch it and preferably not to take it somewhere else. Nearby under restoration is a grey hulled Morgan Giles boat *Tess of Teignmouth*, with a long pedigree, under a stretched white polythene cover, the mast of which is in the shed undergoing re-gluing and repair.

Two wooden vessels are alongside in the mud berths, *Spirit of Mystery* which needs no introduction and *South Star*, a Mc Gruer built trawler that has had extensive work done over the years having been saved by the present owners on a Barry beach. It is now a live-a-board and will be away this summer exploring Brittany.

Two boats from well known builders are nearby. *Kett*, a Hilyard double ender, registered in Littlehampton of course is snug under a blue cover waiting for the owner to reappear and take it to its summer mooring at Weir Quay. Alongside is *Narija* a Silvers twin engined motorboat built in Greenock before the War and beautifully finished off inside in mahogany. Silvers were one of the top builders of quality motorboats in their time and Classic Boat frequently features them under restoration.

Moving into the shed itself at the very back is a black hulled clinker built sixteen footer used on the Tamar by Alex Frienship for general work and probably for salmon netting as Alex was one of the few with a licence.

Also in the shed is *Veracity* which has featured in an article in the latest Gaffers Log and will be taking the water this summer as part of the Brittany wine run with *Grayhound* and *Lynher*. She had rot in the transom which has now been rebuilt and also some in the bulwarks now replaced and raised off the covering boards.

Reclining in the shed can be found *Snowgoose*, a well appointed Falmouth Working Boat replica that hasn't seen salt water for some years now and outside, near the slipway are other replica workboats, *Maggie B* and *Arriana*, waiting poised to take the water as soon as the temperature rises.

And lastly a boat that is not yet here but was built and launched by James Goss, a mere hundred plus years ago. The *Lynher*, that was rescued from the mud by Charlie Force twenty five years ago and rebuilt at Morwelham in time for the eclipse of the sun, is coming up the river soon to take up a new berth opposite the place where it was put together.



Above: repairs to *Veracity* by the author pictured. Below: as she was in her prime.

Photos: above, Chris Pollard all the rest John Gallagher

## Treluggan Boat Jumble

The annual Treluggan Boat Jumble will be held on  
**Saturday 12 May 10am - 3pm**

**FREE pitches, FREE entry, FREE parking**

Have you got unused boat gear in your shed or garage?

Come and sell it at the Treluggan Boat Jumble  
(and buy something that you need!)

Undercover stall area available if the weather is bad

To book a pitch email, call or text; [in-fo@trelugganboatyard.co.uk](mailto:info@trelugganboatyard.co.uk) 07714706688

*Sara Stirling, Director*



## South West Programme of Events 2018

|                                             |                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 17th                                | Informal evening get together<br>7.00 for 7.30                                   | The China House, Plymouth<br>contact: John Gallagher<br>editor@southwestgaffers.org.uk          |
| February 11 <sup>th</sup>                   | Visit to Cornish Crabbers and<br>lunch at Rock S.C .                             | Rock, Cornwall<br>contact: Don Garman<br>cornwall@southwestgaffers.org.uk                       |
| April 14 <sup>th</sup>                      | Fitting Out Lunch - speaker Craig Young<br>"Youth Sailing with the Island Trust" | Royal Western Y.C., Plymouth<br>contact: David Bewick<br>secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk      |
| May 26 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup>     | Brixham Heritage Sailing Regatta                                                 | contact: brixhamheritagesailing.org.uk                                                          |
| June 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>    | Falmouth Classics                                                                | contact: falmouthclassics.org.uk                                                                |
| June 25 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup>    | SW Gaffers Helford River Rally                                                   | Helford River S.C. / Port Navas Y.C.<br>contact: Don Garman<br>cornwall@southwestgaffers.org.uk |
| July 6 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup>      | SW Gaffers Festival of Sail<br>( Annual Rally and Race )                         | Plymouth Yacht Haven<br>Contact: David Bewick<br>secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk              |
| July 10 <sup>th</sup> — 13 <sup>th</sup>    | Fowey Classics                                                                   | contact: Foweyclassics.com                                                                      |
| July 13 <sup>th</sup> — 15 <sup>th</sup>    | Sea Salts and Sail Festival                                                      | contact: seasalts.co.uk                                                                         |
| August 16 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>  | OGA 55th Anniversary Rally                                                       | River Medina, Isle of Wight<br>contact: David Bewick<br>secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk       |
| August 18 <sup>th</sup>                     | Dittisham Regatta Gaffers Race                                                   | contact: dittisham.og.uk/regatta                                                                |
| September 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Dartmouth Regatta—Gaffer Races                                                   | contact: dartmouthregatta.co.uk                                                                 |
| September 15 <sup>th</sup>                  | Brixham Heritage Rally                                                           | contact: brixhamheritagesailing.org.uk                                                          |
| October 13 <sup>th</sup>                    | Visit to Penpol Boatyard, Restronguet                                            | Hosted by Ashley and Holly Butler<br>contact: Don Garman,<br>cornwall@southwestgaffers.org.uk   |
| November 10th                               | Laying Up Lunch and AGM                                                          | Royal Western Y.C., Plymouth<br>Contact: David Bewick<br>secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk      |



### Thumble

A 1976 fine example of this popular classic Mark 1 Crabber 24 in very good condition. The original black gel coat still has a shine and the sheathed ply deck and Iroko hardwood is all sound and well maintained.

She has a Beta 13 bhp diesel with low hours and serviced regularly driving a fixed three blade prop. There is a dedicated engine start battery.

Two leisure batteries charged from the engine and a solar panel provide adequate power for the domestic needs with a battery monitor to keep an eye on the situation.

Instruments are a Nasa Clipper depth and log a traditional Silva compass and VHF radio.

Mainsail is new 2017 (Jimmy Laurence) and there are both standard and jackyard topsails, also the standard jib and staysail both on Wickham Martin furlers

Cruising and overnight stays are considerably enhanced by the sprayhood and cockpit tent. Very popular with friends alongside on a wet night !

An Avon inflatable is included in good condition.

She is well equipped for cruising with cabin lights, Origo two burner spirit stove – with the correct fuel (not meths) – low hours Porta Potti, fresh water tank to supply galley tap, 12 volt sockets for ancillaries , and 240 volt pontoon facility. Plus of course all the expected warps, lines, anchor, fenders etc.

Asking £12250.00 with delivery by road offered at very low cost.

Call Martin or Janet Elliott on 01594 563676 / 07831 297560 for more information, cruising stories, photos, or just a chat about Crabbers.

e-mail --- [martinelliott@waitrose.com](mailto:martinelliott@waitrose.com)

### Mast for Sale

The mast has been stored in a dry shed at South Hooe Farm, Bere Alston for for many years and now needs moving on. It is hollow and appears in fairly good condition although rather dusty. It is c.30' long and 5" diameter. Offers ?

Contact John Gallagher [johnphil.gallagher@btinternet.com](mailto:johnphil.gallagher@btinternet.com)



## SOUTH WEST GAFFERS CLOTHING

*Tee shirts, polo shirts and rugby shirts in your choice of virtually any colour.*

*..... the must have for properly dressed gaffers !*

*Please contact Paul Jolley to discuss and he can advise and order for you.*