

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 36

June 2019

Welcome

Due to an accumulation of circumstances, not really indolence, this issue is later than it should be. My apologies for but this is the busy time for sailing.

Our next event is the Plymouth Festival of Sail which this year will be at Queen Anne's Battery marina. The plan is to raft up together to make a cosy social event as we had last year. We have 20 boats booked at the moment but we can easily accommodate more so if you suddenly decide you can get there by the 8th July do contact David Bewick..

So far the season has gone well. As you will read the Brixham Regatta went very well and enjoyed bumper entries in balmy weather.

Falmouth Classics did have some inclement weather before its start which resulted in some boats not getting there but still entries were high. The weather was fine enough when we got there and as ever, Falmouth went into carnival mode and the comradeship and general atmosphere were great. The large number of boats on The Historic Ships Register which this event attracts makes Falmouth Classics very important in preserving our national maritime heritage for all to see.

The Helford Rally was as convivial as ever with its hostelry tucked away by a creek in this idyllic part of Cornwall. The winds were light for the race but fun seemed to be had by all and there was a fine spirit amongst the crews.

So now it's Plymouth's turn for the next fun event. With the weather looking really good at the moment we can hope for another brilliant time. So latecomers don't hold back.

Enjoy

Ed.

The Next Event
Plymouth Festival of Sail
Queen Anne's Battery
8th—10th June

AGM 2020 – FORWARD PLANING! “ALL SHIP SHAPE AND BRISTOL FASHION”

Enjoy a weekend in Bristol next year

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 year 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. 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, the Connubia real ale pub near the Hotel may be of interest to some members! From Temple meads ferries operate a service throughout the city's waterways to most of the maritime attractions.

As usual the plan is for the Association AGM to start late afternoon which will enable those attending to visit SS. Great Britain or other venues of choice before the meeting. After the meeting there will then be a break while the room is reconfigured for our evening dinner – an opportunity to perhaps visit the Connubia for a pint!

On the Sunday morning a visit will be made to Underfall's Yard, which is an operating yard generally working on traditional vessels and also has some of the pumps and associated machinery used to operate the floating harbour and associated locks. Following the yard visit a suitable nearby pub will be recommend for lunch.

Further details and final arrangements will be published in the November Gaffers Log and on the OGA web site.

If this weekend is a success, there is a probability that future AGMs will be rotated around the countries visiting places with significant maritime heritage and good communications.



Above: The unmistakable SS Great Britain, very well worth a visit

Below: the famous Unfalls Yard

So put **January 10th – 12th 2020** in next years diary and enjoy a weekend in Bristol.

Fitting Out Lunch and Talk

April 27th

John Gallagher

A fine lunch was had at the Royal Western YC and it was generally agreed that they have certainly improved their cuisine.

Afterwards, Steve Styles and Tim Sunderland gave a fascinating talk about Our Daddy FY7, the last Looe Lugger to fish out of Looe. She was built in 1921 by Dick Pearce for the J E Pengelly family and fished for pilchard, mackerel and later shark for 65 years. She ceased all this in the mid 70's and became a charter boat under a couple of owners before Steve and Tim bought her. Then they set to renovating her before chartering her again for all manner of events including filming.

Steve and Tim ran a successful RYA training course school in Torbay and Our Daddy is now berthed in Brixham. She is on the *National Historic Ships Register* and following her renovation she was awarded the



Register's National Flagship of the Year Award in 2107.

Their website is: www.fy7charter.uk

BRIXHAM ROYAL TORBAY HERITAGE SAILING REGATTA 25th & 26th May

Penny Jolley, Regatta Secretary.

A wonderful mix of boats arrived in Brixham to celebrate the 23rd year of the Regatta in its current form; the original event took place over 100 years ago under the auspices of King George V, whose Perpetual Challenge Cup is awarded annually to the fastest trawler. What the late King might not have anticipated was the arrival of a fleet of junk rigged boats to Brixham, where we hosted their AGM alongside the Regatta

A total of 43 boats entered in the Regatta this year, some increase over the past 10 years, when entries originally amounted to fewer than a dozen. The popularity and success are a tribute to the hard work of the Heritage Regatta Committee, its team of stalwart helpers, Brixham Yacht Club and Torbay Harbour Authority; the latter kindly extending free berthing facilities to our visiting Heritage vessels over the entire weekend, allowing the Regatta entry fee to be kept as low as possible, so a big thanks to them.

Boats and crews were met by welcoming ribs to assist mooring in the sunshine on Saturday, one of which was driven by South West President Paul Jolley (co-opted by his first mate Penny), following passages from as far afield as Brittany, Cumbria, Gravesend and the Isle of White. An informal start to the proceedings was an offer to boats sailing up from the west who were able to join in the passage race from Dartmouth, although many boats did arrive by Friday evening and started a weekend of serious socialising at the Yacht Club. We welcomed eight OGA boats: *Ariana* with Mike Forward, *Charlie Bravo* with Ralph Bell, *Cynthia* with Peter Lucas, *Marie Louise* with Mike Lucas, *Minx* with Paul Jolley, *Mischief* with Mike Garlick, *Roxanne* with Martin Elliott and *Theta* with John Crellin.

Registration and distribution of goodies bags at Brixham Yacht Club were accompanied by our excellent local sea shanty "Missin' Tackle", who kindly gave their services in exchange for a pint a head, and followed by the traditional fish pie supper. And after a few jars out onto the harbourside for a spectacular firework display, courtesy of Brixfest.



Mischief racing after Vigilance

photo: Penny Jolley

The weather on Sunday was simply perfect! A steady Force 4, gusting 5 from NW offered excellent conditions for all – the smaller boats had a terrific sail whilst the big boys were fully rigged. Torbay appeared to be in a time warp showing off a wide variety of heritage boat styles and rigs to their best. We started with a reach down towards Paignton, which is always a comfort for gaff rigged boats (and also, incidentally, junk rig, which has preferred sailing points similar to the gaffers). Then a long sail up towards followed by heading towards the windward mark at the start/finish line again. At least that was the plan; fluctuating wind strengths and direction kept us up to the mettle, with reconfigurations of course to also take account of the tidal system in Torbay. Therefore an anticipated 3 laps reduced to 2 for most of us. The use of the large yellow marks loaned by the yacht club made finding the course easier, although with those two ‘Lucas boys’ most of us had pathfinders anyway! Thanks to BYC also for the ribs, safety boats and volunteers.

Have a look at the Brixham Heritage Regatta Facebook page and website for the photographs, taken by members of Paignton Photographic club and by Peter Hunt, a local photographer who is dedicated to the Heritage boats. You will see all the pictures have very helpfully been posted by category, as well as groups such as ‘people’ and ‘prize-giving’.

Our excellent Sunday evening carvery was followed by prize-giving; Regatta officials Chris Coote and Richard Spreckley computed results in their inimitable manner! For full results please visit the Regatta website but a heads up here to prize winning OGA members:

Class 4. Alfred Wallace Trophy: 1st: **Theta**, John Crellin, 2nd: **Mischief**, Mike Garlick, 3rd: **Ariana**, Mike Forward.

Class 3. 1st: **Marie Louise**, Mike Lucas.

Class 2. Working boats. 2nd: **Minx**, P & P Jolley

Class 1. Torbay Royal Regatta 1911 Cup. 1st: **Cynthia**, Peter Lucas.

Ibex Trophy (fastest lap). **Cynthia**, Peter Lucas.

Winning Trawler. King George V Cup. **Vigilance**

Mischief won the Dartmouth passage race and the French boat **Le Grand Lejon**, the trophy for the 1st lugger.

This year saw the best entry from SW Gaffers who really boosted the atmosphere with their expertise and engagement. Thanks to all OGA members who took part.

The Concours d’Elegance was won by **Escape**, narrowly ahead of **Cynthia**. Bob Pierce, a traditional wooden boat builder of some repute from New Zealand reviewed all the boats, both on the Heritage pontoon and then visiting those moored off by rib. Bob then ‘jumped ship’ onto **Blossom**, a junk rigged boat, as his true intention in coming to Brixham was to attend the Junk Rig Association AGM. It was extremely kind of him to take time out to judge our Concours.



John Crellin receiving the Alfred Wallace Trophy photo: Penny

Thanks go too to all the volunteers and the hard work by the berthing party was an enormous help; the behind the scenes staff at the Yacht Club, the ‘front of house’ team in their peacock polo shirts. I did overhear very pleasing remarks “*This is the warmest welcome I’ve ever had in a yacht club*” “*The formalities undertaken in such a way as to be invisible*”, and “*Everyone went out of their way to ensure that we had the best time – and we did!*”

English Braids Falmouth Classics

16th—19th June

Don Garman

Wall to wall blue skies and high temperatures were not the order of the day this year but throughout the three days good sailing winds were experienced for racing and the Sunday parade of Sail and Power. The number of entries totalled 190 and maintained the entry level of 2018. The event is likely to remain the largest Classic sailing event in the UK.

Entries came from France, particularly Brittany, Bristol Channel, West Wales, Essex, the Thames, Solent and other parts of the south west.



Cheery reception by Treens Brewery; Pint and a Pasty

photo: Max Willcock

Over 100 boats were berthed, moored or anchored in the Haven, Port Pendennis Marina and at the Greenbank Hotel.

Forty-three of the entered vessels were built before 1940 with many on the National Historic ships register. The oldest boat participating was the Lowestoft Lugger *Gleaner* built in Porthleven for the Lowestoft drift fishery in 1878. In 1898 she was sold to Norway and much later was due to be destroyed in Hamburg. An enthusiastic young Penryn shipwright rescued the vessel and packed up all the pieces into a container and proceeded to put her back together. Racing with the other big luggers she jointly won her class with *Our Boys* a Looe Lugger built in 1904.

Bonita, built by Crosfields of Arne in 1888, was the oldest boat in the event built for racing. Owned by the same family since 1937 she has never been rebuilt only maintained. *Bonita* had been sailed west from Faversham in Kent to participate. The longest journey



The Start Line

photo: Doug Jackson

accomplished to participate was by *Alberta CK 318*, a Colchester oyster smack which sailed from the River Blackwater in Essex. She was built by Aldous of Brightlingsea in 1885. *Alberta* was chosen as the best presented yacht during the parade and won a bottle of champagne. She was also second overall in her class.

Skellig, based on a 1940s lobster boat represented Falmouth's twin town Douarnenez. Distinctive in shape and with her blue, black and white paintwork and crewed by those who built her and skippered by Herve Prat. The crew of the Portsall life boat, *Yvon Salaun*, built in 1958 in Fecamp Normandy and standing out in her green and orange livery, were popular with both participants and the public and made good friends with the Falmouth lifeboat crew.

One hundred and twenty-seven boats were entered to race and 100 boats participated in at least one of the three races and in any one race there were at least 87 boats racing in one of 13 classes. Well over 40% of the race entries were from gaff and lug rigged vessels

There was an increased Royal Navy presence with *HMS Middleton* a Hunt Class mine counter measures vessel and P2000 Patrol vessels *HMS Trumpeter* and *HMS Biter* in port. The two patrol vessels led the parade of sail and power on Sunday. *HMS Middleton* welcomed community groups as well as Classic's organisers aboard for tours of the ship. The commanding officer Lt Commander Irving presented the day prizes at the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club on Saturday and presented the Past Commodore Bob Collings with the ships

The public were once again allowed to get close to the participating boats during the early part of Saturday morning and late afternoon. *Snark*, the recently built Thames barge, *Hardiesse*, the Falmouth sail training ship, and *Yvon Saluan* welcomed interested visitors on board.

Exhibitors in the Tilley Maritime Village were busy and experienced a heavy footfall. Teamac, a partner sponsor, was handing out pots of varnish to participants and some members of the public.

Early on Sunday morning the weather reports were studied by organisers and a RIB went out to Blackrock to assess conditions. The south westerly winds gusting up to force 6 were bound to establish an uncomfortable swell beyond Blackrock. So, it was decided to use the inshore course. Flags were hoisted to indicate the course, skippers were informed on the Haven and radio messages were relayed. The parade was a spectacle with many smaller vessels reefed, whilst the pilot cutters sailed under full sail. Following the Royal Navy Patrol vessels and the RNLI and French vintage lifeboats and the Cornwall Fire and Rescue Rib was the 1895 Cowes tender *Constance* now based on the Helford. She was followed by the large gaffers and Bermudan rigged vessels. The Classic motor boats came last and *Merita*, the 1936 Mevagissey built motor yacht was chosen as the best presented motor boat. She was commissioned by a Naval Lieutenant living in St Just in Roseland. This was her first return to her home waters in 80 years.

Guests aboard *MV Moyana* included the High Sheriff, the new Chair of Cornwall Council, the Mayor and Mayoress of Falmouth and sponsors and Sailing Club Commodores who were provided with a splendid sight.

Numbers for the small boat parade were reduced owing to the weather but *ILB Eve Pank* and tender *Constance* provided the turning marks for some very interesting craft. A commentary on Custom House Quay ensured observers were well informed. The National Maritime Museum's fleet included the gentleman's launch *Jonik*, *Miss Healey* a racing boat built by Donald Healey the car manufacturer, a beautifully renovated Royal Naval Sailing Association Dinghy and *Bligh's Tribute* which rowed and sailed around the course. A 1930s Whaler, *Swan*, built in Malta, renovated by Falmouth Marine School, rowed the course with crew appropriately attired -she won the best dressed crew award.

Participants crowded into the National Maritime Museum at 15.00 on Sunday for the final prizegiving. Prizes were presented by Justin Jones English Braids UK and European Sales Manager.



Top— *Alberta*, Colchester oyster smack.

photo: Lucy Parfett

Middle: *Barnabus* built 1880 in the Parade of Sail

photo: Max Willcock

Bottom : *Curlew*, Falmouth Quay Punt replica

photo: Max Willcock

Overall winners not only took away trophies and glassware but also bottles of Dartmouth English Gin .

Recent Events

Gaffers in the Helford 17 -19 June

DonGarman

A fleet of gaff rigged vessels gathered in the Helford from 17 – 19 June for a South West Gaffers Rally. Most had previously participated in the Falmouth Classics. Eleven joined the four local boats for a barbecue, racing and a dinner. *Bonita*, built by Crosfields of Arne in Cumbria in 1888 as a racing boat, had voyaged west from Faversham in Kent whilst the home sailing grounds of the Norfolk Smuggler *Sea Filley* and the Crabber 26 *Lowenna* are the Solent.

The Helford welcomed the fleet with fine weather and those visiting enjoyed a pleasant sail from Falmouth. Several boats anchored off the Victorian Tremayne Quay on Monday evening whilst others used tenders from the moorings. Over 30 enjoyed a barbecue in the idyllic surroundings.

A cloudy Tuesday morning promised light easterly winds, however, a good breeze enabled all fifteen boats to get away from the start line off Durgan at 11.30. The easterly swung at times to the North North East and for the first beat the fleet were all in close proximity. The Kite Class *Mary Hay* from the Dart rounded the Nare closely followed by the Golant built *Mary Ritchie* and then the Heard 28 *Susan J*, both Helford boats. After the Pilchard mark *Mary Hay* continued to lead the fleet but *Susan J*



The race !

photo: Don Garman

was able to overtake *Mary Ritchie*. On completion of the second lap five boats retired but ten completed the three-lap course. *Mary Hay* took line honours with *Susan J* in second but gradually gaining ground with her balloon jib was *Mary Ritchie*.

Asley Butler of Butler and Co Traditional Boats, Penpol presented the prizes in Port Navas Yacht Club. *Mary Ritchie* on handicap was first in Class 1 and *Mary Hay* in Class 2. Following prize giving 45 skippers, crew and helpers sat down to an excellent meal provided by Chef Mike Maguire.

Results:

Class 1

Mary Ritchie

Susan J

Theta

Roxanne

Cariad

Bonita

Lowenna

Retirements: *Sea Filley*, *Devon Maid*, *Aeolus*

Class 2

Mary Hay

Mischief

Julia Neal

Retirements: *Annabelle*, *Aberare*



Bonita sailed all the way from the East Coast to join the Rally

Photo: OGA boat register

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 7 th	Brixham Heritage Rally *	Contact: brixhamheritageregatta.uk
October <i>tbc</i>	Visit to a Cornish Brewery and Lunch	Contact: Don Garmin, cornwall@southwestgaffers.org.uk
November 9th	Laying Up Lunch and AGM	Royal Western Y.C., Plymouth Contact: David Bewick secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk

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