

South West Gaffers

Promoting Gaff Rig Sailing in
Devon and Cornwall

South West Branch of the



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SW Web site:
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OGA Web Site: www.oga.org.uk

The Dog Watch

For the Sea Dogs of Devon and Cornwall

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Welcome

Our next event is the Fitting Out Lunch and Talk by the owners of the Looe Lugger, Our Daddy. Steve Styles and Tim Sunderland bought her a little while ago and will tell us her fascinating tale. This all in the scenic setting of the Royal Western Y.C. Plymouth on Saturday 27th April.

But this is a busy time as the sailing season will soon be with us. If you haven't already, now is the time to book for a number of the seasons events.

Brixham Heritage Regatta opens our sailing events calendar with a flourish with the powerful Brixham Trawlers and many other boats including some junk rigged vessels, all on show. Booking now would greatly help the organisers in planning the event.

Also bookings for Falmouth Classics are coming in fast. So book now. Our Helford OGA South West Gaffers Rally follows straight after and bookings for it will soon be needed. See page 4 for more information.

Then it will be time to get ready for our Festival of Sail at Plymouth in Queen Anne's Battery Marina. David, our secretary has negotiated a 20% discount on berthing charges but we must have a minimum of 20 boats to get this and hopefully many more. So an early expression of interest to him would be very welcome. Last year's event went very well apart from a glitch with the berthing so we hope this year's venue will answer all those concerns as well refining other areas with "our policy of continuing improvement".

There are probably some who won't be in a position to get their boats to a particular event but wish to go and maybe crew for a willing skipper. Rob Brown, our new committee member, has offered to help facilitate this so do contact him via the secretary who will pass on the mail until we can get him a mail address.

So it remains for me to wish you all an enjoyable and safe sailing season with fair winds and plentiful warm sunshine.

Ed.

The Next Event

Fitting Out Lunch and Talk

27th April, 12.30 for 1 at Royal Western Y.C.

Thoughts on the annual London meeting of the OGA

For as long as most people can remember, the National OGA Committee and Annual General meetings have been held in London on the second weekend of the boat show. This year, after subjecting us all to the torment of a slow terminal decline, the boat show organisers finally admitted that the show was no longer viable. The OGA meetings still went ahead at a hotel in Docklands although someone did suggest that the only thing of benefit from the venue was that it was close to a railway station! Our President, Paul Jolley, had already tabled a proposal that the meetings should move to other places around the country that combined a good maritime heritage with efficient transport links and, with the support of the local Area. He suggested Bristol for the 2020 event. It was agreed that this should be explored and after more good work by Paul, the Bristol Channel Area and Colin Stroud, the new OGA Secretary, it has been agreed that the meetings will, indeed, take place there next January.

We hope that you will think about attending and perhaps of make a weekend of it by taking part in the AGM and then seeing some of the sights on the Bristol waterfront, including of course, the *SS Great Britain*.

The Trailer Section ?

The national meetings will no doubt be reported in full in the Gaffers Log and I won't bore you with all the details here. On of the topics that most interested me, though, was the discussion about the future of the Trailer Section. There had been a suggestion that the Section should be disbanded but others thought it was still a vital part of the OGA. Discussions about the future leadership and organisation of the Trailer Section may continue but, in the meantime, each Area has agreed to think more about how to run events that are suitable for small boats. Our feeling was that we already do this reasonably well in the SW Area with our Plymouth and Dittisham events, but we realised that we needed try harder to publicise these to the small boat sailors outside the Area.

Bits and pieces

On a more light-hearted note, it was good to see that Paul Jolley won a prize in the photographic competition for his "Gaffer's Breakfast" picture and that Vic Love won

the coveted Gaffers Globe award for his exploits in his Golant Gaffer, "Edna".

Those of you that attended our last Area AGM will recall the plea we made there for new people to join our committee to bring in new blood and to take on a variety of tasks. We were very pleased that we managed the "press-gang" a couple of people at the informal evening get-together in Plymouth in January and, as a result, *Rob Brown* has joined the committee and *Chris Danby* has taken on the role of Independent Examiner of Accounts. We are very pleased to welcome them both aboard.

The new Area committee met for the first time last week. In summary, I can tell you that our finances are in good shape and that our membership numbers are still strong although David Patuck is still chasing up a few late renewals. Our programme of events for the year has now been finalised but we are still working on some of the details. We hope very much that you will be able to support the move of our Plymouth Festival of Sail to QAB and to mid-week slot.

Whilst we can't guarantee the same weather we had for this event last year, we think we can look forward to a good time both on and off the water. The formal invitations for this event should go out in early May but, in the meantime, it would be very useful if you could let me know if you are planning to attend. There is also a Gaffers race planned as part of the Dartmouth Regatta later in the year. Paul Jolley is currently working hard to see if he can organise an area where visiting gaffers can have dedicated berthing in the river.

Our next event is the Fitting-out Lunch that will be at RWYC on 27th April. I will soon be sending out the formal invitations for this event and I look forward to seeing you there. Our speakers are the owners and skippers of the Looe Lugger "Our Daddy" and I am sure they have some good yarns to tell.

David Bewick, Secretary

Recent Events

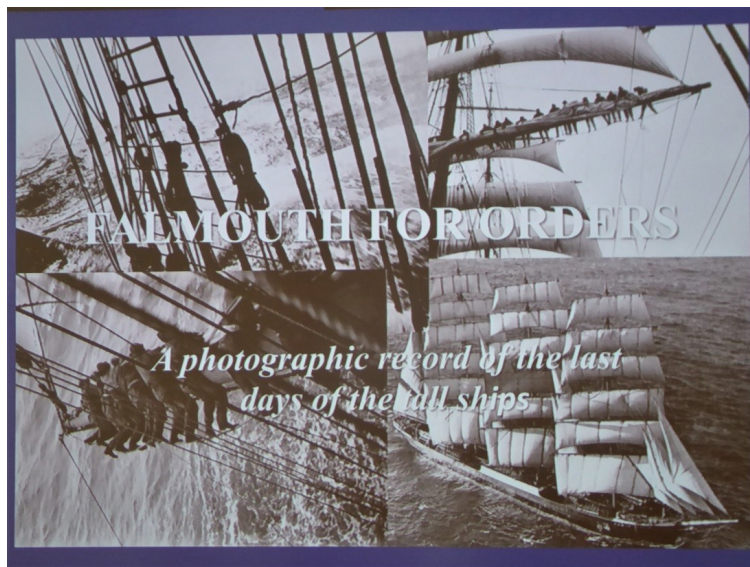
9th February Lunch followed by Talk by Jan Pentreath

Don Garman

The cosy Castaways wine Bar at Mylor Bridge was filled by 30 happy but cold members for an excellent lunch provided by the friendly staff.

Lunch was then followed by a short walk to the well appointed Mylor Yacht Club which has a well fitted out meeting room perfect for the occasion.

Jan Pentreath, has a reputation with South West Gaffers for giving well illustrated and interesting talks and did not disappoint. The talk, entitled "Falmouth for Orders - the Last of the Tall Ships" was illustrated with great images enhanced by the large screen in MYC. Many of the vessels featured had visited Falmouth, obtained orders from the Lloyds Station on the Lizard or had foundered on the treacherous coastline. Jan has a vast collection of maritime photographs and spends time ensuring they are enhanced and worthy of sharing with others. Jan explored how designs changed from the



Falmouth for Orders

Paul also presented Vic Love with the Gaffers Globe awarded by the OGA at the AGM in London for sailing *Edna* his Roger Dongray designed 19' Golant Cutter from Plymouth to the Mediterranean. Vic unfortunately, was unable to attend the AGM to receive his well earned



Jan Pentreath

bulky fighting ships of Trafalgar to the sleek tea clippers many of which were eventually to carry wool from Australia and later to the beamier general cargo vessels several of which brought nitrates back from Chile. He also looked at how some of the ships, despite changing technology, were saved and some are still familiar to us as foreign sail training vessels.

Our president, Paul Jolley thanked Jan for another great talk and presented him with a donation to the Cornwall Wildlife Trust of which he is President.



A happy Vic

award. He has accomplished his epic journey largely by day sailing and intends to explore further this year.

Many thanks to Mylor Yacht Club for hosting South West Gaffers yet again.

Photos: John Gallagher

Forthcoming Events in Cornwall

The English Braids Falmouth Classics 14 – 16th June

Don Garman

The largest annual Classic and Heritage sailing event in the UK attracts many beautiful gaff and lug rigged vessels as well as Bermudan Classics.

South West Gaffers and Solent OGA members are always well represented. The event blends racing and parades with on shore receptions and the Tilley Maritime Village and takes place at the same time as the Falmouth International Shanty Festival. This year sixty-four groups will attend. South west products will feature at receptions in overall prizes.

Treens Brewery are supporting the Haven Reception whilst the Cornish Distillery Company will be providing genuine Cornish distilled rum for the welcome reception and Dartmouth Gin Distillery will be providing prizes.

An increased French contingent is expected, a tall ship is likely to be in the port and the Royal Navy will, Brexit arrangements permitting, lead the parade of sail and power.

Boats under 20' can enter the small boat parade without an entry fee unless they wish to race.

Enter now to ensure your berthing preference and to take advantage of the Early Bird fees.

Visit: www.falmouthclassics.org.uk

Don't forget

The Helford Rally 17—19th June

The next South West Gaffers event in Cornwall will be the Helford Rally from 17 -19 June which will follow straight after The English Braids Falmouth Classics.

This is always a popular friendly event **so please book early**. This is greatly appreciated to help planning.

Contact: Don Garman at
cornwall@southwestgaffers.org.uk



Racing in Carrick roads.

photo: Asher Mann



*Parade of Sail 2017, Navy leading heritage lifeboats out
photo; Alistair Randall*



The Helford Rally —Some of the fleet on the start line.

Photo: Chris Rear

What's on at the Yards

Treluggan Boatyard—Annual Boat Jumble 12th May

This is always held on the second Saturday of May. It starts at 10 am and you can bring along your surplus boaty bits to sell and rummage through what's on offer from others and from the yard.



Photo: Treluggan Boatyard website

Free sellers pitch. Free entry. Free parking

Will and Sara Stirling bought the yard two years ago in December and improvement work has continued apace. The whole yard has been rewired with ample sockets available to all boats as is water. Uncover workshop / storage has been increased and the previously jiggly long lane in has had major repairs with ongoing pothole repairs.



Penpol Boatyard

Wanderer 11

A 2018 Classics' participant Wanderer 11 has been ashore at Penpol Boatyard where owner Dave Caddy has been undertaking some major work with shipwright Andy Cornish. Wanderer 11 was formerly Sprite CK 489 built in 1901 at Rowhedge, on the River Colne, Essex and dredged for oysters in Tollesbury Fleet. We hope to see her afloat and in the 2019 Classics.

Penpol Boatyard

The yard team were busy before Christmas building an extension. More classic craft can now be accommodated undercover than ever before and classic vessels such as Amokoura, a 2018 Classics participant, was being moved into the extension as the roof was being completed.



Restoration of Wanderer 11



New storage shed nearing completion photos: Ashley Butler

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