

South West Gaffers

Promoting Gaff Rig in Devon and Cornwall

South West Branch of the



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OGA Web Site: www.oga.org.uk

The Dog Watch

For the Sea Dogs of Devon and Cornwall

Issue 34

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Welcome

A trip to Brixham for the Heritage Rally makes a great way to finish the sailing season. And you can read all about here. Then it's a last flurry of activity before the boat is taken out and the Winter maintenance has to be addressed.

Of course before you can really get down to sort all those problems out Christmas is upon you. But you will find that thoughtfully your bold committee has prepared a draft programme of our forthcoming events. So when you get that Christmas diary present you can mark in all those important dates so possibly providing a clash with those engagements you might be less than willing to attend.

Your committee has also thought about improving its connection with the members and you will see we have introduced news "From the Poop Deck" which we hope will go some way to doing this. You will note that there is a request for new blood to come onto the committee. When I joined, I found that they are a pally bunch and it does give you a chance to help things along, so do think about joining in.

Another change has been introduced which affects those who are not on e-mail and to whom we have to send Dogwatch and all other correspondence by post. We have already forewarned all these members that this will be the last Dogwatch which will be posted to them. Costs of colour photocopying and postage have become very considerable and we hope they might oblige by using electronic mail. At the end of next year we will also stop postage of routine mail for notifications of meetings etc.

So it remains to me, on behalf of the rest of your organising group, to wish you all a very happy Christmas and festive season and of course a New Year which gives us a great sailing season.

Ed.

The Next Event

Thursday 10th January

Miller and Carter Steakhouse, formerly The
China House, Plymouth

From the Poop Deck

We recently had a discussion amongst the committee, and thought that we have been missing a trick by not using this newsletter to give you regular updates on what we have been up to. So this is a first attempt to explain the workings and include some more “newsy” items.

One of the slightly odd things about the OGA is that it requires each Area to elect its President and committee members for the following year at its AGM, but it is then down to the new committee to elect its members into the key roles. We did this at our first meeting after the AGM and these are the lucky people:

Secretary: *David Bewick*

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: *David Patuck*

Editor: *John Gallagher*

Paul Jolley was, of course, elected as President at our AGM. We are all pleased that Gil Hayward is prepared to stay on the committee “without portfolio”, if only to keep the rest of us on the straight and narrow.

You will see elsewhere in this edition of Dog Watch, a piece by Paul Jolley asking for new people to join the committee. The committee is happy that whilst we have people who are prepared to do all the key roles now, we are concerned that we do not have a succession plan for when we may wish to stand down. Ideally, we would have other members on the committee who were “learning the ropes” before taking on a more formal role in the future.

Apart from the elections, the main business of our last committee meeting was to do with the programme for the coming year. The dates for our main sailing event have now been confirmed, so please put them into your diary. Our Festival of Sail will be centred at Queen Anne’s Battery (QAB) Marina in Plymouth next year (8th – 10th July) although we are still negotiating details regarding berthing costs. We are hoping to make it even bigger and better than it was this year. We can only wish for the same weather! Once it is confirmed, our programme is always available on the OGA website

David Bewick, Secretary

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

We noted the lack of a stampede or orderly queue of keen members desperate to get onto your area committee at the recent AGM. However, it would be still be great if we could get a couple of members to come

forward and join the committee. It is not an onerous task with three or four meetings a year. These tend to be setting up our programme and policy for the forthcoming season, finalising events that we organise, principally Plymouth Festival of Sail and Dittisham Rally, then reviewing the years activities. We normally meet at a cosy pub in an informal atmosphere over an evening meal at a convenient venue centrally chosen to suit members of the committee. Currently we use the Abbey Inn just off the A38 at Buckfastleigh.

We do have a successful OGA area with South West Gaffers, including a noticeably increased membership with a good attendance at events we both organise and support. The move of our annual OGA race from Dartmouth to Plymouth more than trebled the number of boats and members attending.

We do however, need fresh ideas and input to the committee. Activities and events tend to get stale over time, fresh and even outrageous ideas are occasionally needed to produce a programme that is attractive to members and increases membership.

Having been “press ganged” onto the committee a number of years ago I personally have found it both rewarding and sociable. It does also give you the opportunity to influence what is happening at both area and national level. So please to consider helping our area to flourish and grow by joining, what after all, is your committee. Do not hesitate to contact me or any committee members if you want to have an informal chat before deciding to volunteer.

There is one position in South West Gaffers for which we do need a volunteer and which is not a committee position and so does not require attendance at any meetings, including the AGM. We need an “Independent Examiner of Accounts” to replace David Lovelock who has carried out this duty diligently for many years. No formal qualifications are required. It merely entails a member who can independently cast their eyes over the accounts before the AGM. In a sense it is simply to ensure that the Area Committee are spending members money prudently and that the Treasurer’s report is an accurate state of our financial affairs.

Paul Jolley, President

Recent Events

Brixham Heritage Rally, September 15th

Penny Jolley, Brixham Heritage Regatta Secretary

Seventeen boats came together in Brixham for our now traditional end of season get together. OGA boats came from as far as Weir Quay, Tamar (*Periwinkle* with John Gallagher and Geoff), Salcombe (*Theta* with John Crellin and Judy), Dittisham (*Mischief* with Mike and Sue Garlick) and Dartmouth (*Syrinx* and Jeremy Croft) to complement local boats and classic yachts. Friday gave them all a good passage and a good run with the wind increasing for the later arrivals. Many of the crews foregathered on Friday evening at Brixham yacht club for drinks, supper and a comparison of summer sun tans! *Golden Vanity*, *Iris*, *Minx* and *Vigilance* welcomed all their friends back to Brixham.

It was a beautiful day for the Rally on the Saturday, Battle of Britain Day. A good breeze, light cloud cover and some sunshine gave us excellent conditions. All the boats were led out of the harbour by *Vigilance*, rounding the breakwater at 1400 for the sail in company, giving the public a marvellous show. Conditions were so good that a few boats stayed out after completing the 'formal' sail, just to enjoy being out on the water – with cuppas and cakes much in evidence.

Other boats that entered the rally were *Ros Ailither*, a gaff rigged fishing boat and lugger *Iris*, three junks: *Fly*, *Chopsticks* and *Hui Mar* (the latter two from Axmouth), *True Vine*, a local Northumberland Cobble and *Willow*, reincarnated from RNLI Boarding Boat 237 – nice to see a trailer sailor. Her owner, Simon Stretton, was extremely



Vigilance in light airs with all up photo: Mike Garlick



Vigilance with Theta and Minx in pursuit photo: Mike Garlick

impressed by the launching facilities and assistance from harbour staff during his visit. And even smaller, *Biggles*, a Finn, romped around with us – leaving many in her wake! And one complete stranger, *Magic*, who interloped her way in and out, I suspect from Torquay – any ideas?

Our thanks to Chris Coote, Heritage Regatta chairman, for managing the sailing and to Richard Spreckley, Heritage Regatta treasurer for organising the rescue boat. Thanks to everyone who made it such a success and Torbay Harbour Authority for allowing us free mooring.

We did miss our Exmouth colleagues accompanying us but they too were out on the water with the Exmouth Champagne Challenge race arriving during the course of the afternoon. With a dinghy championship also taking place Torbay was full of boats of all sizes; it was a sight to gladden the heart of any sailor.

Brixham Yacht Club hosted us for the evening, along with the Challenge crews – definitely a tight squeeze and hot seating! The staff coped superbly, and we enjoyed an excellent buffet and a free glass of vino, courtesy of the Heritage committee. The £5 raffle for the giant bottle of whisky raised over £250 for the Heritage Regatta funds, thanks to all who supported this. I am pleased to report that the Old Gaffers were the last to leave the bar at midnight!

Just in case you've already got your 2019 diaries do put in the date of the Heritage Regatta, 25th and 26th May and the Rally on 7th September – I'm already working on the free mooring and jollifications. And let me be the first to say 'Happy Christmas'!

p.s. A mention in despatches for Mike Forwood, who having just helped Marion in *East Breeze* from the Solent across to South Brittany was unable to bring *Arriana* up to the rally as intended, drove up by car from Plymouth to join in the party.

p.p.s. Look out for our new Brixham Heritage Regatta website which is now live www.brixhamheritageregatta.uk We also have a Facebook page.



Above: Ros Ailither , below True Vine– Northumberland Cobble

Above left; Fly above right Hui Mar, below ; Chopsticks



**All photos by
Mike Garlick**



Above: Minx , Below: Theta , Right: Willow -ex RNLI boarding boat
Below right Periwinkle advancing on Vigilance



Laying up Lunch and AGM, November 10th

David Bewick and John Gallagher

SW Gaffers' Laying-up lunch and AGM was held at the Royal Western Yacht Club in Plymouth and attracted a goodly group of 33 members and their guests who met for the lunch and enjoyed seeing old friends and acquaintances and one or two new faces as well.

After lunch, the "serious" business of the AGM took place. The Secretary reported on another busy year for SW Gaffers. We had run a programme of events that was similar to previous years but with one important change: the move of our Annual Race from Start Bay to Plymouth. This had worked out very well and had resulted in a three-fold increase in the number of attendees. We were blessed with hot sunny weather for this event and everyone seemed to have a good time. The Treasurer reported that our finances were in good shape with a healthy bank balance.

This year, there were a couple of changes to the Area Committee. Peter Crook and Elspeth Macfarlane had decided to stand down and Paul Jolley presented them with tokens of our thanks for their many years of service to the Area.



Elspeth has served on the committee for some many years and finally retired as Treasurer. Of course she was also our photographer for much of her time and was excellent in recording boats racing, events and

sailors relaxing. Her help at Plymouth Classics was greatly valued.

Peter had held virtually all posts on the committee up to President. But behind the scenes he has done an enormous amount of work from setting up digital records of members boats to establishing Dogwatch. His boat register also embraced all boats which entered Plymouth Classics and the register allowed him to produce illustrated handouts for our gaffer races as well



as the first information booklets for Plymouth Classics. Also he took last minute handicapping in his stride amongst other challenges.

Paul Jolley had been nominated to stand as President and was duly re-elected, as were the remainder of the old committee: i.e. David Bewick, Gil Hayward, John Gallagher and David Patuck. David Lovelock had indicated that he wished to stand down as the Examiner of Accounts. Mike Garlick gallantly offered to stand again as Trophy Officer and he was re-elected, unanimously.

The newly re-elected President, Paul Jolley asked for volunteers to join the committee and to take on the role of Examiner of Accounts, but none were forthcoming at the meeting.

David Bewick outlined the likely programme of events for 2019. The plan is to run the Annual Race as part of the Plymouth Festival of Sail again in 2019 although it might move to mid-week. We will also run a full Dittisham Rally again in 2019 and Don Garman is planning both sailing and land-side events in Cornwall.

***Draft* 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 ^h - 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 ^h	Fowey Classics *	Contact: foweyclassics.com
August 9 ^h –11 th	Dittisham Rally *	Contact: Gil Hayward gilbert.hayward@btinternet.com
September <i>tbc</i>	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