

South West Gaffers

Promoting Gaff Rig in Devon and
Cornwall

South West Branch of the



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SW Web site:
www.oga.org.uk/south-west

OGA Web Site: www.oga.org.uk

The Dog Watch

For the Sea Dogs of Devon and Cornwall

Issue 32

June 2018

Welcome

This is the shortest Dogwatch yet I believe. But we should of course all be out at sea sailing and gathering tales and yarns ready to fill the pages of our next Dogwatch.

I expect most will be heading towards Falmouth for the Classics. Getting there early is a bonus as it ensures you get into your allocated berth and get that juicy pasty in your hands as well as the welcome pint. And to add the atmosphere there, which is always great in any case, many will be relieved to hear that the Chain Locker has at last reopened !

Quite a number of members go on afterwards to our cosy South West Gaffers Helford River Rally. If you have forgotten to register for this with Don Garman you will have to go on bended knee to see if he can still accommodate you. It's certainly enjoyed by all who make it.

Please have a look at page 3 (..NO this is not the Sun newspaper!!) to find out more about our Festival of Sail at Plymouth. If you are hoping to come along then we need you to register as soon as possible.

Happy sailing but make sure you support our new SW Gaffers event at Plymouth !

The Next Event

Helford River Rally
25th—27th June

ROYAL TORBAY HERITAGE SAILING REGATTA , BRIXHAM 26th & 27th May 2018

Penny Jolley, Regatta Secretary.

A wonderful mix of boats arrived in Brixham to celebrate another terrific Regatta. This is the 22nd year of the Regatta in its current form, although 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. I understand from OGA members that a revival took place in the early '50s when boats including Provident came round from Salcombe to compete; I should be grateful if you can get in touch with me if you can throw further light on this.

Brixham does do festivals well and the Regatta runs alongside Brixfest weekend, with plenty of music and entertainment enjoyed by non-sailors. Other activities on the water included dragon boat racing, jet packing, paddle boarding and generally messing about in boats. Ferries full of visitors from Torquay and the Dart enriched the atmosphere.

Our Regatta boats moored up along the Town pontoon which was open to the public allowing maritime wannabees and keen photographers a great experience. Torbay Harbour Authority kindly extends 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 big thanks to them.

Once boats had gathered in the sunshine on Saturday, following a passage race from Dartmouth, sail in company from Exmouth and the Breton 'lougere, *'Le Grand Lejon* making a spectacular entrance, we gathered at Brixham Yacht Club for the traditional fish pie supper. Accompanied by The Last Watch, a superb shanty crew from Gunnislake, who kindly gave their services for free (go and see them in Falmouth!); big thanks to them too and of course, to Brixham Yacht Club for hosting the Regatta.

We welcomed five OGA boats: *Arriana* with Mike Forwood, *Guiding Start* with Paul Eedle, *Minx* with Paul Jolley, *Muriel* with Jonathan Heighway and *Theta* with John Crellin. Supper should have been followed by a firework display, sadly postponed due to the forecast of high winds, but the club continued to buzz until last orders.



Sunday had a few weather tricks up its sleeve – the Parade of Sail took place in reasonable, if slightly misty conditions, but as boats headed off towards the first mark down came a blanket of fog, reducing visibility to 20 yards on occasion. This combined with a complete lack of wind, resulting in loss of steerage, concerned the organisers who reluctantly had to cancel any further sailing. Arrangements were made for the larger boats equipped with GPS navigation systems to lead the smaller vessels safely back to harbour. *Minx* heard a voice in the fog "Is there anybody there?" and your President retrieved a 22' vessel, without engine and radio failure. Paul did feel he was resitting an RYA exam on sailing in thick fog by compass, whilst monitoring a tow!

Our safety boats ensured all boats were gathered in so thanks to them too for such sterling work. Meanwhile *The Western Lady* ferry continued to plough backwards and forwards across the bay, which created an extra hazard in the poor vis.

Our excellent Sunday evening buffet was followed by prize-giving; Regatta officials Chris Coote and Richard Spreckley computed results by reviewing the boats position and 'going' from the start to the first mark then

using a little work with the crystal ball I think! For full results please visit the Regatta website but a heads up here to prize winning OGA members: *Guiding Star* won the Dartmouth passage race and also the Toni Knights trophy for the 1st lugger. *Theta* won Class 4 and *Minx* came 2nd in Class 3. Thanks to all OGA members who took part.

The Concours d'Elegance was won by *Le Grand Lejon*. Peter Gregson of Devon Wooden Ships made a thoroughly professional job of reviewing all the boats in the morning and took the trouble to explain how he had come to his decision. The 'Ibex Cup' is awarded for the Concours; this trophy has just resurfaced after being 'lost' for 60 years; the Ibex was the most famous Brixham trawler, built in Upham's yard. She achieved great speeds and continued to win regattas over 33 years even after she had had her sails cut down. Thank you Peter for your time and effort.

Thanks go too to all the volunteers, 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 red polo shirts. I did overhear a very pleasing remark "*If anyone wants to know how to organise a regatta, they should come to Brixham!*" – thanks to all the boats and boats' crews who came and made it all work. We welcome you to the rally on 15th September, a rather more low key affair.

Next year's Regatta will be held on the late May bank holiday, 25th & 26th May 2019.

Festival of Sail , South West Gaffers Annual Rally, 6—9th July

This event is being held at Plymouth Yachthaven and we have pre-booked group berthing rafting up to reduce costs. This we found last year worked well.

Boats are expected to arrive on the Friday and in the evening the Clovelly Bay Inn has been booked for our dinner and briefing for the racing on the Saturday.

Racing will be in the the Sound and afterwards the Ocean room of the neighbouring Mountbatten Centre, which is adjacent to the bar, has been booked for dinner and prizegiving.

The *Calstock Rubber Band* or rather a smaller section of this locally renown lively band, known as the *Inner Tube* will entertain us later in the bar.

Racing on the Sunday will be to Saltash SC. which has kindly offered to host us. A pint and a pasty awaits all. Afterwards a pontoon party will precede our dinner at the Bridge Restaurant beside the marina.

Departure is on Monday morning and for those that wish, there is a follow on rally at Fowey Classics which starts on the Tuesday.

We used Yachthaven as our venue for the highly successful Sail Sou' by Sou' West and it proved an excellent venue. So do come along and help make this event an enjoyable and fun occasion. But we do need that you are coming as soon as possible !



Sou' by Sou' West boats rafted up at Yachthaven in summer 2017

South West Programme of Events 2018

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

Pleione

Pleione is a gaff cutter designed by John Leather and built in West Mersea by William Wyatt in 1960 of mahogany on steamed oak frames. A teak deck was laid and a new cabin and cockpit coaming, all in teak was added in 1992.

She is 26'LOD, 32' LOS, 8.5' Beam and 4' Draft. She weighs c.4.5tons. There is full standing headroom in the main saloon providing for 2 berths. One of the berths has been adapted to provide a permanent chart table. The fore-cabin provides twin berths and there is a separate head compartment between the saloon and the fore-peak. The cabin is essentially original and retains a warmth and charm, enhanced by traditional equipment – Taylors cooker and cabin heater and paraffin lamps.

Pleione has a full set of sails in good order and new spars were made by Robertsons of Woodbridge in 1998, refurbished in 2005 and coated with Coelan. Sails comprise mainsail, jib, three staysails, topsail and a ghoster.

She has a Yanmar 2GM 20 hp fitted in 1998 and this and the rest of the boat has been professionally serviced and maintained. There are two bronze winches, CQR and Bruce anchors, 30m chain, fenders, lines and warps. Also there is a liferaft last serviced in 2016.

Pleione is on the hard at Weir Quay Boatyard and is being sold through the Yard for Rupert Reid, one of our local members. She was a regular attendee of Plymouth Classics and other local events.

The asking price has been drastically reduced to offers around £5,900.



Please contact either by phone 01822 840474 or e-mail; info@weir-quay.com More information and pictures are available on the Weir Quay Boatyard website in the brokerage section

See; <http://www.weir-quay.com/news/traditional-gaff-cutter-classic-sale>

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.