

SWG Secretary's Report for AGM Jan 2021.

Whilst most of our planned events fell foul of Covid-19, we can at least look back on a visit to the Rhoda Mary shipyard in Truro for a guided tour of Luke Powell's fantastic new 68' pilot cutter "Pellew" followed by lunch at the Heron in Malpas and an informal evening gathering in Plymouth that was held in the Duke of Cornwall Hotel. Once COVID took hold our President, Paul Jolley and his wife, Penny, compiled five quizzes, each with a slightly different nautical theme, to help us keep our grey matter active. The committee held a couple of meetings using Zoom and used it for talks to the wider Area membership. In these, Paul Jolley shared his passion for the second generation Morecambe Bay Prawners and Mike Garlick recounted some hair-raising tales from his days flying Sea Vixens off and back onto the deck of HMS Ark Royal.

As the year progressed, Paul set up a WhatsApp group called "SW Gaffers at Sea" with its stated objective "for SWG members to communicate while sailing". This seemed to be useful in facilitating informal get-togethers in several of our local ports which included Fowey and Falmouth. The only organised event for classic boats to take place in the south west this year was the Brixham Heritage Rally in mid-September. Due to the pandemic, this event was somewhat scaled back compared to normal years and was invitation-only. Several SW Gaffers' boats were included but the weather made life rather difficult for them. In the event, local OGA boat "Minx" was joined for the rally by several others in the form of "Mischief", "Roxanne" and "Theta". On the Friday night, the combination of strong NE winds and spring tides made life on the pontoons in Brixham harbour rather uncomfortable, with several broken lines and some boat damage. The planned sail in company was postponed until the Sunday because of the weather when the fleet had a fine sail in the sunshine in Torbay. Unfortunately, "Arriana" and "Periwinkle" had only been able to make it as far as Salcombe, but at least they were able to meet up with "Roxanne" and "Theta" as the latter pair made their way home.

For many years, Plymouth Classics was one of the "fixtures" in our calendar although it has not taken place for a couple of years, now. This year, with a change of ownership at Sutton Harbour, we were given a glimmer of hope that it might return. John Gallagher and Jonathan Brice were invited by the new owners to put on a trial event. At short notice, they were able to get together a couple of the local large boats, the Tamar barge "Lynher" and the Pilot Cutter "Olga" along with five smaller boats. Entertainment was provided by musicians on "Olga" and "Lynher" and there was a display of dance acrobatics in the rigging of "Lynher" from a Cornish circus performance school. Although this small tester event seemed to go well it remains to be seen whether it will lead to a return of Classics, proper. We will keep our fingers crossed.

Looking Forward

2021 provisional dates in the SW area so far are:

- a. Brixham Heritage Regatta 29/30 May.
- b. Falmouth Classics 11/13 June followed by the Helford rally 14/15 June
- c. SW Gaffers Plymouth Classics Festival 21/23rd June.
- d. Fowey Classics – 27/30 July.
- e. Dittisham Rally 14 Aug.
- f. Brixham Heritage Rally 25 Sep.