

Bristol Channel Area Report to the January 2021 ACM

2020

We will concentrate here on what we did manage to achieve in 2020 despite the difficult circumstances we all experienced.

In January we joined forces with the South West area and hosted the Old Gaffers Association AGM weekend in Bristol Harbour. It was, I believe, a very successful event enjoyed by all who attended.

Our activities in Cardiff Bay took place when restrictions allowed with weekly sailing every Thursday evening.

Our annual race took place in September this year and was held in an appropriately relaxed Gaffer style.

One programmed 'cruise in company' in the Channel took place in July during which the Commodores Challenge (a course around a defined set of Bristol Channel marks) was competed for.

In addition to the programmed activities that took place there was much sailing that took place in between with pleasant days out reported from many parts of the channel as well as from one of our members currently moored in Portugal.

Communication across the area has been particularly strong this year. We are fortunate indeed to have a very talented editor of our bi-annual publication 'Severn Tidings'. It is published on the Bristol Channel page of the website. Please do take a look. I always enjoy reading other areas publications and hope you enjoy ours as much.

The weekly and now monthly zoom calls have been very successful and, in many ways, has brought our fairly widespread membership closer together.

The WhatsApp group started by the Cardiff based gaffers has continued to be a great source of information and has grown its 'membership'. And finally, the level of one-to-one communication has increased during the year. Its always good to talk!

We held our AGM via zoom in October and were able to complete all necessary formalities as well as reporting activities undertaken, to announce prize-winners of competitions and the events to look forward to in 2021.

The OGA Gold database indicated that, as of October 13th, the Bristol Channel area has 55 paid up individual and family memberships and 70 named members.

The Bristol Channel Area accounts balance is £525 in 2020 (£515 in 2019)

2021

We have published a full list of events on the OGA website.

It includes:

- Spring and Autumn series of self-timed laps on a Thursday evening in Cardiff Bay.
- 6 opportunities to 'sail in company' in the Bristol channel.
- Our annual race in June.
- Voyages to, or events in, Milford Haven, Portishead, Cardiff Bay and Bristol Harbour.

Many of our events are appropriate for small, trailerable boats. Please see the website for details.

In addition to these we understand that Seafair Haven, which was due to take place in 2020, has been re-scheduled for June 2021. This will provide us the opportunity to run at least one activity aimed at introducing young sailors to the joys of sailing a traditional vessel. This is able to happen as a result of the backing available from the OGA Youth Fund. In this case it will take place on one of the Tall Ships (Wales) Trust vessels that would be at the event.

The Bristol Channel events schedule will be supported as always by a full programme of social events being formulated currently.

2021 will be an even better year. We are determined!