

EAST COAST AREA OGA SECRETARY'S REPORT 2020

My predecessor, Pete Elliston, used to sum up the year by quoting the number of 'Boat Days' the East Coast Area had enjoyed throughout the season. Well, on this occasion, I will not follow suit! What an unusual year, what more can be said.

I can report on a few events that the East Coast managed to hold. On 8th March we held our Annual Dinner and, with a break from tradition, this event was held at Walton & Frinton Yacht Club. A splendid meal was provided, with members enjoying a get together unknowing when such an event could be repeated. We are still waiting.

With the loosening of restrictions, we were able to hold two outdoor dinghy events, one at Slaughden Sailing Club and the other back at Walton & Frinton Yacht Club. These events were so successful, we plan to repeat them in 2021, the Walton event being our usual Swallows & Amazons event.

Our AGM was a Zoom affair, somewhat different to normal, but never the less, the AGM took place.

Our two OGA Dinghies are well underway. The 'Suffolk' dinghy is virtually complete, and thanks go to Pete Thomas for cracking on with the build at his home, when Covid restrictions put paid to EC members assisting him. The 'Essex' boat will resume construction when Covid rules permit. We plan to hold the official launch of these two dinghies at Swallows & Amazons in the summer.

Looking forward to 2021, it would seem that uncertainty will remain with us for some time yet. Prospects for much social activity over the winter months look dubious at present, but we are exploring the possibilities of at least some on line activities for members, perhaps a talk or talks presented on Zoom, for example. Another idea we hope to trial is a 'Virtual Pub Meeting' , again with the help of Zoom.

Plans for 2021 sailing events are taking shape, with a provisional date of 3rd July at Stone Sailing Club for the East Coast Race plus hopefully a small boat event on the 4th. The summer Cruise should run from 24th to 31st July next year. Planning the cruise normally involves committing well in advance to clubs & other hospitality venues where we hold social gatherings. To reduce the risk of attendant problems with this, we are considering a more flexible program this year, perhaps fixing start & finish points, with the intermediate stops being determined by circumstances & weather at the time, so perhaps more of a cruise in the true sense of the word.

Hopefully, 'normal service' will resume soon, one thing is for sure, it will be a great party then!

Lorna Hill
Secretary EC Area OGA