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Dog Watch

For all the Sea Dogs of Devon and Cornwall

Issue 46

December 2021



Editorial

For about 8 years or so, John Gallagher has steered Dogwatch from a paper newsletter with a few pages to a 10-12 or more page on-line newsletter. I add my thanks for a very full and clear handover of responsibilities and many thanks for the teacakes!

I've done a bit of editing of publicity and other material, including a website or two, so I hope that you are satisfied with the result. Any and all feedback is welcomed. More importantly, please send articles on any subject with a relationship to the gaff rig. Photos should be separate and at least 2000 x 1000 pixels (ish) and about 1Mbyte (ish). Please send material to: editor@southwestgaffers.org.uk; I do have photo processing software.

In this December issue, I've added a bit of Bah Humbug to proceedings (above), however, there are articles from the President and Secretary. Reports from South West Gaffers who were at Brixham and Dartmouth are on pp 4 to 6. The President who attended the Crossfields of Arnside Conference 2021 sends his report on pp 8. A party of South West Gaffers visited Charlestown 20 October which is reported on pp 9.

The final page (pp 11) is the all-important SW Gaffers calendar of events; please just print this page and note in your diary!

And it's Bah Humbug from the Editor! And Merry Christmas from the rest of the Committee!

Nick Fox
Dogwatch Editor

Next Events

Wed 8 Dec 20:00 Zoom Talk by Mike Phillips
Thu 20 Jan 19:30 Supper at Turtley Corn Mill
Sat 12 Feb Talk Fowey boats at Gallants S.C.

From the Poop Deck

Presidential Pondering

Paul Jolley

First of all, a big thank you to Michael Forwood who held the fort as President last year, it gave me time to have a breather and gather my thoughts on our operations and future. I would also like to thank those who attended the AGM and unanimously elected me to act as your President for the year. I would also like to welcome Nick Fox who has not only joined your committee but taken over the editorship of Dog Watch which is a vital role in keeping us all up to date with events and stories from our area.

Looking back to the last year it was really great to get out on the water and meet old and new friends and old and new boats. Whilst there were still some restrictions, most events were well attended and there was some good sailing and, of course, some socialising although in reduced numbers and in keeping with the Government advice applicable at the time.

The forthcoming seasons list of events run by SWG and supported by us is very full. Some of the festivals are playing catch up following cancellations over the last couple of years. We of course will be running our SWG events at Helford, Plymouth and Dittisham as well as supporting other regattas and festivals in our area. Let us all hope for fair weather and not too many restrictions on socialising and enjoying ourselves.

2023 sees the OGA's 60th anniversary with a round Britain sailing challenge ending up with a rally on the East Coast. We have had Plymouth designated as "a party port" so will be hosting the fleet as they pass through our area. One of the things I would like us to do is to use the OGA60 to gain the most publicity we can and really put SWG on the Southwest sailing scene, more about that in the next Dog Watch.

Finally with the support of Bristol Channel area we successfully moved the OGA AGM out of London, so please support the Northeast area who are organising the next AGM and a bumper Geordie weekend in Newcastle in January.

Hon Secretary's Piece

Tim Price

You will see in the forecast of events that the dates for what will now be known as the SW Gaffer Plymouth Rally are 4-6 Jul. With the return of sailing events, the calendar is very busy and trying to avoid a conflict has not been easy. The close concurrence with the Mousehole Sea Salt and Sails is unavoidable if there is to be enough separation between the Helford Rally and Fowey Classics.

I mentioned in my Secretary's report on the year that we would welcome feed on the OGA Facebook site and also the Gaff Rig Boats Worldwide. If those who use Facebook could upload pictures or comments, it would maintain a social media presence and potentially attract individuals who may enjoy what the OGA has to offer. Additionally, if those of you who are also members of sailing associations or clubs could provide them with a forecast of sailing events, we may see further interest across all disciplines.

In order to enhance the online feed, we are looking for a volunteer who enjoys posting on social media to become our online editor; an entirely separate role from the Dogwatch editor but one that mirrors the OGA as a whole. I would welcome any expressions of interest.

Flags and clothing – Show That You Belong

Paul Jolley



OGA Logo

<http://www.rivieraembroidery.com>.

Further details can be found in The Gaffers Log or on the OGA website.

Our own Southwest Gaffers clothing range is available

from Logos and Monograms of Brixham

lmobltd@gmail.com . The most popular items are polo shirts, fleeces and rugby tops embroidered with our Southwest Gaffer Log. Tee shirts with a printed logo are also available. Boat names can be added to embroidered items at no extra cost.



OGA Flag



S W Gaffers Logo

WhatsApp Group

Paul Jolley.



For the forthcoming season why not put yourself on the "Southwest Gaffers at Sea" WhatsApp Group. Founded following the very successful use of the app during the OGA South by Southwest 'Cruise in Company' a

few years ago, this is a great way to keep in touch when afloat. As soon as you leave your mooring let other members know you are sailing and your plans; there is always a chance to hail another boat or meet for a sundowner at the end of a day's cruising.

The app has proved useful for boats keeping in touch and especially useful when members have experienced gear failure when a local member can often help with local contacts. It should be stressed however that the app is only for use at sea and is not intended to be a regular means of communication amongst members – the clue is in the name "at Sea"!

If you would like to join the group just text a message with your name and boat to Paul at 07711 532886.

Recent Events

The Dartmouth Regatta

Sun 22 Aug - Sun 29 Aug

Mike Garlick

Dartmouth Regatta runs in total for over a week and includes all forms of water activity including dinghy racing, pulling, swimming, rafting, and steam power and displays by dogs, the RNLI, the RN and others.

The parade of sail was specifically a Mayflower Parade to replace the cancelled Mayflower 400 event planned for last year.

Gaffers' Races 28 & 29 August 2021

The 2021 Races



Little Tern at Brixham (Photo Mike Garlick)



Cynthia (Photo Mike Garlick)

Yacht racing took place in Start Bay with a four day series preceded by a passage race from Brixham, with classes for all types including classics and cruisers on separate courses.

We had a two-day series on the final Saturday and Sunday on a self-timed gate start and finish on a separate course from the rest of the fleet.



Minx from Mischief (Photo Mike Garlick)

Gaffers Race (cont)

Six boats entered; Peter Lucas's now well known and very fast "Cynthia", "Little Tern", a locally built Peter Nash cutter owned and sailed by Dave Dickens, Cornish Crabbers 22 and 26, "Mischief" and "Vagrant Gypsy", Ourselves and Jayne Rawlins, Paul and Penny Jolley's "Minx" Morecambe Bay Prawner, and finally the notoriously difficult to beat Kite class "Mary Hay" of Gil Hayward. A very diverse fleet, all sailing as one class

Cynthia once again led the way pursued by Mary Hay. Mischief made good use of her kite in the light downwind conditions and ALMOST caught the Kite and Mary Hay, until a zephyr arrived and the gap widened.

Little Tern retired and the finishing order was otherwise as the day before. Once again a very satisfactory sail in different conditions with a course that was achievable. On corrected time Mary Hay pipped Cynthia in both races and took first prize, and also the

Saturday gave us a gorgeous NE F3 increasing to F4, so a beat to the first mark, the Eastern Blackstone against the tide. On rounding it, one was asked what was the penalty for hitting the mark!

The fleet settled in to the order Cynthia, Mary Hay, Mischief, Little Tern, Vagrant Gypsy and Minx and remained so until the finish. A great sail.

Sunday dawned quieter with a flukey wind in the north somewhere, mostly about F2, with almost a flat calm on the second leg which then recovered into a useful sailing breeze.

SWG prize of the Kingswear Trophy for the first SWG boat.



Mischief nearly catches Mary Hay (Photo Mike Garlick)



Vagrant Gypsy (Photo Mike Garlick)

The Dartmouth Regatta is a big event with a great atmosphere in a beautiful location, but the major emphasis is on the faster classes and it does not link in well with other local events for visiting gaffers. It is probably telling that five of the six entrants this year were local boats, with Minx from Brixham.

DARTMOUTH MAYFLOWER 400 RIVER PARADE

Paul Jolley

Delayed by a year the Parade of Sail took place on the final weekend of Dartmouth Sailing Week at the end of August. Over 70 boats including some steam launches took part creating a colourful spectacle being led down the harbour by the appropriately named Pilgrim of Brixham with many crews wearing fancy dress for the occasion.

The OGA was well represented with Dave Dickens in Little Tern in the leading classics group, Fragrant Gypsy in the RDYC group and in the club group Minx representing the OGA.

The crew of Minx stood out with Penny as the deck hand and Paul as skipper wearing the traditional Nobby skipper's bowler hat (the original hard hat).



Penny Jolley (Photo Paul Jolley)



Paul Jolley (Photo Penny Jolley)



Vagrant Gypsy (Photo Paul Jolley)

BRIXHAM HERITAGE RALLY 2021

Penny Jolley

Twelve boats came together on 24th/25th September in Brixham for our now traditional end of season get together. OGA boats came from the Tamar and the Yealm (White Cloud and Ellen) as well as the Dart (Mischieff and Little Tern) to join local boats Minx, Charlie Bravo and Vigilance. The complement further included junks Chopsticks (Plymouth) and Fly (a local boat) and classic yachts Sundance and from Exmouth Amaryllis and Falanda. The latter was a special treat for all the crews as it was sailed by Katie McCabe, who had just completed her solo circumnavigation of Britain; she is the youngest person to have done this at just 14 years of age. Huge congratulations to her on such an achievement.

Friday's stiff breeze gave all boats a good passage and alongside in time for a cuppa and a beer in the sunshine on the Town Pontoon before repairing to Brixham Yacht Club for our evening meal.



Brixham Trawler 'Vigilance, Cruise Ship 'The Arcadia' and the Morecambe Bay Prawner'Minx (Photo James Hamilton)

Boats left the harbour on Saturday at midday in time for the Parade of Sail; whilst conditions were still slightly misty the wind picked up from the north east and we had some fine sailing in Torbay for a couple of hours. Brixham Heritage Regatta chairman, Chris Coote, started the Rally from the safety boat, also carrying a photographer who took some excellent shots which will be on the website. Boats were led off by Vigilance, whilst Pilgrim put in a guest appearance before heading off with passengers for a day sail to the Dart.

The sun came out and inevitably the wind dropped right off; Rally control suggested that

following our excellent 'sail in company' that we now engage in a 'motor in company'.

And this we did, a gentle chug round the bay, maybe the last tee-shirt trip of the season out on the boat, whilst we shared cake across boats and cheerful banter.

All tied up again on the pontoon by 5 o'clock, more socialising – mostly on Minx who had to eject a number of people as the water started flowing into her cockpit! It was suggested that champagne corks stuffed in the drainage holes would be the solution! Then round for an excellent evening at BYC; good food, good company and plenty of lamp swinging. Heritage mugs were distributed, including to the chef and bar staff with our thanks for looking after us so well.



SWOGA members socialising (Photo Penny Jolley)

The weather forecast for Sunday afternoon and Monday was poor, so all boats had left the Town Pontoon by 0815 on Sunday morning and headed for the to safety of their home ports and, in several cases, a final crane out.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Brixham in 2022 for the Heritage Regatta (28th/29th May) and the Rally (24th September).

Visit by South West Gaffers members to Charlestown on 20th October 2021
Don Garman

Originally planned for 2020, thirty members of South West Gaffers joined local historian, Lyndon Allen, on a sunny October Saturday to hear the history of the Georgian harbour developed by local solicitor Charles Rashleigh.

Rashleigh had interests in the nearby tin and copper mines and wanted a safe harbour to

each other whilst a wide section of pavement was the site of the weighbridge for carts. Another widened area, with troughs (now used as planters) was the feed station for the horses. The cobbled area in front of the Rashleigh Arms was made from the ballast carried by empty ships arriving to load and formed the floors for storing copper and tin ore.

The population of 3000 was housed in the small cottages cheek by jowl with the places of work. There was a foundry, blacksmiths, wheelwrights and a rope walk. It would have been noisy, dusty and smokey as the largest clay dryer in the world was nearby. The dried clay was transported a short distance underground to the waiting ships.

Despite being a World Heritage Site much of the area has unfortunately been demolished for housing. Many of the homes housed seaman, including ship's captains and famous for their exploits. At one time, the harbour master and the estate manager were Noel Coward's uncle and aunt. Changes in ownership took place in when Charles Rashleigh was declared bankrupt. A firm of lawyers and bankers became the owners in 1825 until the Crowder family sold up in 1986. When most of the tenanted properties were sold, the community destroyed. The export of clay ended and in 2012, the fisherman were banned from using the harbour. A further change of ownership of the harbour took place recently and many of the tall ships seem to have left.

export the ore and import timber and coal. Polmear Cove was used by some vessels that beached to unload, but in south easterly gales they were at the mercy of the elements and several foundered. Rashleigh employed Smeaton to develop the harbour in 1891 and an intriguing water supply was provided to maintain a floating harbour. This involved constructing a leat and reservoirs which ran for several miles from Luxulyan which required regular maintenance. The leat also powered several waterwheels. Today the system no longer works and sea water is pumped into the harbour to maintain the level. The harbour is poorly maintained and the tidal gate needs replacing.

The wide road down to the harbour enabled clay carts drawn by six horses to pass



History of Charlestown Harbour from Lyndon Allen (Photo Penny Jolley)



Members at the Rashleigh Arms (Photo Penny Jolley)

Lyndon's knowledge and stories were fascinating and enjoyed by all. The morning and afternoon groups joined together for an excellent pub lunch in the Rashleigh Arms.

From our members

Crossfields of Arnside Conference 2021

Paul Jolley.

I had the privilege of being invited to speak about Minx at this year's Crossfield Conference at Arnside which is at the innermost navigational point of Morecambe Bay. As you can imagine it was a bit like being put in front of a firing squad to talk about a GRP hulled boat after a day centred on the renovation and maintenance of the existing Prawners, some of which are over 100 years old.

Arnside is where Crossfields built most of the Morecambe Bay Prawners (known as Nobbies); Minx is one of the GRP hulls produced in about 1989 in an attempt to keep the class alive. I seem to have become the archivist for the GRP hulls produced by Eric Berqvist on the Dee. This is mainly due to a retired archivist (sailing the Royalist) from Lancaster Museum showing an interest and boarding Minx the day that Penny and I brought her alongside in Brixham for the first time.

We arrived in Cumbria with glorious sunshine and had a picnic on the pier followed by drinks at the Arnside Sailing club with many old and new friends from the OGA and boating community.

On the next day the conference was held at The Arnside Educational Institute and chaired by Eric Crossfield whose great grandfather built most of the early Prawners. There were a number of presentations during the day and our National President spoke about the benefits of belonging to the OGA and the work that it does to promote traditional rigs.

My presentation on Minx also included promoting Southwest Gaffers and the events in our area. In the evening sweet little Morecambe Bay shrimps were followed by an excellent local fish pie supper provided by Arnside Sailing Club which rounded off a most enjoyable and informative day.

On the final day we visited Windermere Jetty Boat Museum and had a guided tour by one of the shipwrights experienced in restoration projects.

The highlight being the restored "Coch-y-bonddha" built for Arthur Ransome by Crossfields

at Arnside which played the part of "Swallow" in the most recent film of Swallows and Amazons. An outcome of the conference is that together with Kevin Goulding (OGA President NW) and the Nobby Owners Association we are in the process of completing a data base of all the known GRP Nobbies; fortuitously we have just located the original mould that has recently changed hands. We will work together with the aim of getting all the Eric Berqvist hulls on the OGA boat register and the Nobby Owners Association data base. And, good news, one of them is currently being fitted out as a working fishing boat on the Fylde estuary which is, of course, why the Nobbies were originally designed. A bright future in prospect for Morecambe Bay Prawners.



Paul and Penny & others with Arthur Ransome's Dinghy (Photo Ann Ingrams)

Small Boat Section

Building a Gaff Rig Cutter from Scratch Nick Fox

As the new editor with a small boat, I am in a good position to ensure that the 30% or so who I've been told own a small boat, have a good voice in the South West.

Clearly, I need the small boat stories to go in this slot, please send them in to me at editor@southwestgaffers.org.uk.



Redwing, an Ebihen 16 (photo Nigel Williams)

Over the next few issues, I will tell the story of building the Ebihen 16 (above), a ply lapstrake gaff rigged cutter, during the lockdown. I started with a trailer-load of 9mm and 15mm marine ply, all cut to size (very accurately) and completed Redwing some 15 months later.



Just Some of the Plywood! (Photo Nick Fox)

Way back in October 2019, I wanted another project after we had sold our Sadler 34 (Note to

self: don't mention the rig). The Boss & I decided on a heavy day sailer designed by Francois Vivier. A deciding factor was buying all the plywood ready cut to size from Jordan Boats. Whilst collecting the cut ply, we discussed the story about a strange virus recently found in China...

I rented an ideal barn nearby to build the boat and started with a building table made from 2 full sheets of 18mm ply. On it, I built the backbone and centreboard box (from 14 pieces of ply in 6 layers) glued together with epoxy. The table was also used to scarf joint the 18 plywood planks for the hull.

By month 4, the backbone, bulkheads and frames were assembled the right way up on the building frame ready to be turned over for a 1st time for planking.



Backbone, Bulkheads and Frames (Photo Nick Fox)

All the right-angle cuts from the CNC router needed to be shaped and the planks bevelled for the "gain" to ensure the planks fitted at the stem. Two weeks later, I had a fully planked hull.



Completed Hull (Photo Nick Fox)

The full story: <https://yottienick.wordpress.com/>
Next time: I fill, I sand, I paint! (Repeatedly)

Programme of Events

South West Gaffers 2021 - 2022

Date	Time	Event	Contact
Wed 8 Dec	20:00	Zoom Talk by Mike Phillips –From Risør to St Tropez with Tom Tit	Tim Price secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk
2022			
Thu 20 Jan	19:30	Get together at Turtley Corn Mill, Avonwick, TQ10 9ES	David Bewick@southwestgaffers.org.uk
Sat 12 Feb	12:30	Lunch and presentation at Fowey Gallants on "The Troy Story - Barbara and her sisters"	Don Garmon dj.garman@btinternet.com
Mid Mar	tba	Zoom Talk by David Patuck "On becoming a Gaffer"	David Patuck treasurer@southwestgaffers.org.uk
Sat 2 Apr	tba	Fitting out Lunch; venue tba	Rob Brown events@southwestgaffers.org.uk
Sat 28/29 May	-	* Brixham Heritage Regatta	http://www.brixhamheritageregatta.uk/
Fri 17-19 Jun		* Falmouth Classics	https://www.falmouthclassics.org.uk/
Mon 20/21 Jun		Helford Rally	Don Garmon dj.garman@btinternet.com
TBA		Dittisham Rally	Gil Hayward
Fri 1-3 Jul		* Sea Salts & Sails	http://www.seasalts.co.uk/
Mon 4-6 Jul		SW Gaffer Plymouth Rally	Rob Brown events@southwestgaffers.org.uk
Sun 10 - 16 Jul		* Paimpol Classics	https://www.classic-channel-regatta.eu/
Thu 14-17 Jul		* Douarnenez Festival Temps Fetes	https://www.tempsfete.com/
Tue 26-29 Jul		* Fowey Classics	https://www.foweyclassics.com/
Sat 27/28 Aug		* Dartmouth Gaffers Race	http://www.dartmouthsailingweek.com/
Sep TBA		* Sutton Harbour Classic Rally	tba
Sat 24 Sep		* Brixham Heritage Rally (subject to tides and the arrival of the Exe Challenge)	http://www.brixhamheritageregatta.uk/
		* events not organised by South West Gaffers but fully supported by us.	