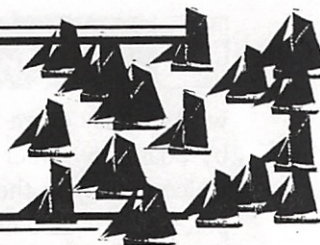




# EASTCOASTER

No 30 January 1998 -Sponsored by West Mersea Yacht Club



## **SOUTHWOLD SMACK & CLASSIC BOAT RALLY 17-19 JUNE**

Southwold Smack and Classic Boat Rally is already attracting a lot of interest. Over 30 boats have registered for the event which features racing, entertainment and tours of the famous Adnams Brewery. Lots of prizes are on offer from the Harbour Inn, Harbour Marine Services and Adnams Brewery. For instance, everyone who enters Thursday's Sole Bay Race gets a free case of ale- some no doubt will go round twice- as well as the usual position prizes. Southwold is always worth a visit, and recent harbour works have made the entry very much easier. There will be various craft on standby to guide you in and help you moor. On Friday we can catch the flood south to Maritime Ipswich and the East Coast Classics. Entry to this event is absolutely free, including the mooring for the rally, but do register before the end of May to ensure a berth. Details Adele Buckley 01502 724721.



## **CROUCH RALLY 23/25 MAY**

We shall be revisiting an old format this year when the Crouch Rally visits North Fambridge. The Flag Officers of North Fambridge Yacht Club are inviting OGA members to have supper with them in their Clubhouse on Saturday 23 May, as part of the Club's Centenary Celebrations.

On arrival at North Fambridge, pick up a vacant mooring or speak to the launch man who will be pleased to advise. Heavier moorings are to the south of the river, but any very large or heavy boats should anchor at either end of the moorings.

There will be a bar in the clubhouse (by courtesy of the Ferry Boat Inn) selling wine, beer & soft drinks from 1900 hrs, and supper is at 1930 hrs. Supper will consist of steak and mushroom pie, new potatoes and peas, followed by apple pie and cream, for the price of £7.00. The club is not very large and SUPPER WILL BE LIMITED TO FORTY, SO BOOK EARLY! Bookings will be taken on a strict first come, first served basis, (CONT PAGE 2)

NOT THE SHOTLEY  
CLASSIC BOAT FESTIVAL  
BUT THE...

## **EAST COAST CLASSICS 19-26 JUNE**

From the ashes of Shotley,  
there rises the phoenix of the  
new "East Coast Classics"!

The unique format of Shotley,  
where we sail from haven to an-  
chorage or watering hole is still  
there. Most of our regular events  
and races are retained.

Gone are the thrills and spills of the  
lock. Gone is the raucous bustle of  
the bands and the beer festival.

However, we can give you Ipswich  
Wet Dock, a party on Stone Point  
and the hospitality of Haven Ports  
Yacht Club. It will be a bit less  
sophisticated and more East Coast  
Old Gafferish, but it should be just  
as enjoyable.

The classic boatman and smackie  
can visit Southwold for the Smack  
and Classic Boat Rally (sponsored  
by Adnams, Harbour Marine  
Services etc.) on 17 June, and sail





## CROUCH RALLY

with priority given to people coming by boat. Any other members will be welcome to join the party after supper, and it is also hoped to have well known local shanty band in attendance.

On Sunday 24 May there will be a race for Gaffers, Classics and Dinghies, starting from North Fambridge at around mid-day. Briefing will be at NFYC Clubhouse at 10.30 hrs, when all details will be given out. Race entry fee £5.00. The race(s) will finish at Cliff Reach, River Roach. There we go ashore on Foulness Island for a Buffet Supper at the "George & Dragon", cost £6.00. Please do not go ashore before 1830 hrs, and do keep to the road as this is restricted government land. The pub is situated next to the church, and is just over a mile's walk from the river.

PLEASE NOTE- A launch service will operate at North Fambridge, but you will need a dinghy to get ashore at Foulness.

Please send the tear off strip to Denise & Trevor Rawlinson, with your cheque (payable to OGA). All meals must be paid for when booking, although we will refund NFYC meal bookings that can not be accommodated.



## EAST COAST CLASSICS

to Ipswich on 19 June for the MARITIME IPSWICH celebrations over the weekend. Like last year, there will be a tremendous display of tall ships, fireworks, entertainment and exhibitions. There we will be registering boats for the East Coast Classics, buying fabulous Sue Taylor designer T shirts and being goaded into doing silly things by our Vice President, such as spot the thousandth Morris Man or blindfold dinghy football.

On Monday we pull our fenders in and sail to the Walton Backwaters for a couple of nights. There will be partying ashore and afloat, as well as a bit of Swallows and Amazons and racing to the Deben Bar (it might be shut) and back. The rest of the week, until Friday we are guests of the Haven Ports Yacht Club at Levington (Suffolk Yacht Harbour), and have use of their Lightship, with catering and bar facilities. There will be a ferry service for craft at anchor, cost of which is included in the entry fee. A limited number of moorings are available in the marina, for which entrants pay the marina direct.

We have the use of the Haven Ports YC line (with flashing lights), from which we will lay on our local cruising & racing to Mistley etc... We finish the East Coast Classics at Levington on Friday evening (26 June). Entry fee will be £35, £15 for dinghies (payable to OGA).

The OGA are very grateful to Ipswich, Suffolk Yacht Harbour and Haven Ports YC for coming to our rescue. If it works, it could be the formula for 1999 and onwards, although next year we will aim to finish at Maritime Ipswich (19 June) as a grand finale.

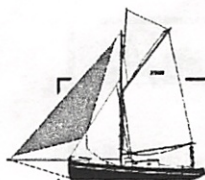
The Classic Boat Festival also attracted many non members in the past, who may not know we are still running a festival, having only seen the Shotley cancellation notices in the press. Please pass the word around. Also, we no longer have all the support we used to get from Shotley Marina, who apart from the prizes, did also pay for lot of the other resourcing costs which the OGA are now having to cover. (can be £1000 per day for a 100 boat event) So, if you can donate a prize or any small gift for a fun award it would be useful. If you have possible sponsorship leads, could you let me know. On the entertainment front, there will be plenty laid on at Ipswich, but during the week we'll have to make our own. Could you indicate on your entry form if you have entertainment/ musical skills /instruments on board. Sea shanties on the Lightship seem just the ticket!

Entry forms should have been circulated to you via the Maritime Ipswich mailshot. If you don't get one please telephone 01206 393537.

It is with some sadness we learn that Martin Eve is to give up Privateer, the celebrated Boston smack-yacht that he has sailed out of Tollesbury for many years indeed. details of Privateer will be included in a future issue of Gaffers Log.

**FOR SALE**  
**HOLLOW WOODEN MAST**  
**26FT LONG 6"X3" &**  
**RIGGING £50. ALSO PINE**  
**BOOM 10FT LONG**  
**01206 393537**





Many of you may not realise that the EC-OGA committee meetings are effectively held in public session in the Stour Sailing Club Bar. Basically I have to open up the bar and can not leave it unattended until the regular bar volunteer arrives. I was very touched the other week to be complimented by a bystander about the way our meeting was run, the lack of acrimonious argument and the amount of business that was done (and still leave time for a drink). We do actually go into the committee room if we want a fight or discuss a confidential matter, but perhaps I can be permitted to praise the efforts of my fellow committee members for their conduct!

The committee have had a difficult time this year, with Shotley pulling out especially. A new festival has had to be put in its place, yet they have still managed to keep improving the traditional events like the Crouch Rally and the East Coast Race to stop them from becoming stale. Coupled with associated events such as Southwold, Maritime Ipswich and Portsmouth, not to mention the work with Heritage Afloat and the decommissioned fishing boats, it's a pretty positive message coming out of the OGA these days.

If you can help in any way at any of the events, or have a line into any sponsorship or prizes, we'd love to hear from you.

Jon Wainwright EC Sec.

Portview, New Rd, Mistley,  
CO112AE tel 01206393537 EMail -  
JonWainwright@compuserve.com

## EAST COAST OLD GAFFERS RACE 18 JULY

**The East Coast Old Gaffers Race on the 18 July will again be supported by Fox's of Ipswich- look forward to your free beer and other goodies!**

At the AGM the format of the race was discussed at some length. The meeting voted to keep the experimental staggered start in 3 groups as per last year. The groups are based on boat speed, not class, so do remember to check your start time at registration. Also do note that the Line Honour type prizes are based on line position and not elapsed time.

Subject to weather, the course will be Knoll, Wallet Spitway, Jaywick Outfall, Colne Bar, Inner Bench, Bench Head and finish. Jaywick Outfall has been chosen for the benefit of those without GPS who should be able to locate it by smell. Other courses for inclement weather and open boats. Provisional starts are Group 1 0930, Group II 1000, Group III 1030, Open boats 1045. Entry fees as last year, £10 OGA members (£5.00 Open boats under 20ft) £15 non members & late entries. Forms available from EC Sec.



## MORE GOOD NEWS FOR FISHING BOATS!

Members will recall a report in Eastcoaster last year which referred to a new deal for decommissioned fishing boats, which was to a large extent brokered between Heritage Afloat ( particularly George Jago, the OGA rep), NHSC, MAFF and the National Fishing Heritage Centre at Grimsby. A recent press release on the pilot scheme gave details of 3 vessels saved from being scrapped.

*Sparticus*, a 1940's Brixham diesel trawler is to be kept at the NFHC for public display. *Britannia*, a 1904 Cornish Lugger is going back to Cornwall, where she will be restored by the Mounts Bay Luggers Association. *Lindy Lou*, another Cornish Lugger type, built in Looe in 1947, is being leased to a marine photographer.

*For anyone looking for a seaworthy vessel of character for conversion or alternative use, it is well worth getting in touch with Grimsby- Staurt Gills tel 01472 323345.*

to D & T Rawlinson 24 Russet Way BURNHAM ON CROUCH ESSEX CMO 8RB (with money!)

please enter my boat \_\_\_\_\_ for the Crouch Rally 23/25 May, entry fee £5.00

Please could I have \_\_\_meals @ £7.00at North Fambridge and \_\_\_buffet meals at Foulness @ £6.00

NAME

TEL

ADDRESS

CHEQUE EN-  
CLOSED





## EAST COAST WINS EUROPE WEEK 1999!

Eastcoasters will be delighted to learn that the OGA/ West Mersea Yacht Club bid to host 1999 Europe Week has been successful. For the first time since 1910 the event will be held in Great Britain, and despite competition from prestigious sailing centres elsewhere- Cowes, Torquay etc., a decision was made in favour of the East Coast. Our proximity to mainland Europe, the tremendous size and diversity of our classic yacht and smack fleet, together with the enthusiasm of West Mersea Yacht Club and their preparedness to make sure the facilities would be provided, must have all counted towards the decision.

The timing links in very well with other events in July. Boats assemble at West Mersea w/e 10/11 July, race in Europe Week Monday-Friday. On Saturday 17 July there will be centenary racing and our East Coast Old Gaffers Race. On Sunday there will be great cenenary celebrations at West Mersea Yacht Club, including a sail-past & parade of sail. On Monday 19th we start the OGA/ DCYR North Sea Classic Passage Race West Mersea -Roompot, then on to Hellevoetsluis for the "DC".

A special joint committee of WMYC, ECYU and OGA has been set up to oversee the events. This is going to be a very special occasion for the East Coast scene, unlikely to be repeated. There is still serious talk of J classes making a reappearance on the East Coast, and expect many spectacular entries from Scandinavia, Germany and Holland particularly.

Preliminary publicity material is expected to be available this Summer, in time for ECYU events in Stockholm. Entry forms will be issued in early 1999, possibly at Earl's Court.



*One stalwart still going strong is our Vice Pres in Avola. While the Crouch Mafia and guests were tucking in at the RB, Avola was storming down the Thames in the London Frobsite race, square sail and all. Small wonder the Cruising Association won the Brass Monkey with team members like that!*



## SNIPPETS

It's a treat to see so many more smacks being restored or rebuilt. "A.B.C." has been dug out of a watery grave at West Mersea in readiness for a coat of the full "Milgate" treatment. At St Oysth the famous "A.D.C." is having a major rebuild in the shed, whilst on the slip is "Varuna" having both counter and sailing gear restored. As a cub reporter, your EC correspondent remembers interviewing Mr Frost her skipper in the '60's when he worked her out of Tollesbury. A public notice was observed at the Harman's yard at St Oysth: "Work is for those who don't know how to sail". Andy Harman is actually working very hard on his latest project, fitting out and re-rigging a Scottish "Watson" type ketch "Cailach" for world cruising.

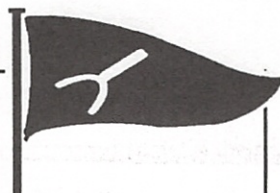
Further up the coast in Southwold, Eastcoaster was shown round the thriving traditional boat yard of Harbour Marine Services. Amongst several craft in the shed were the new Walberswick ferry under construction and the 1912 Broads OD ( Brown Boat) *Mallard* under restoration. Outside there was the yard owners' 1948 YW 5 Tonner *Maudelayne* starting restoration, and a 1912 Looe Lugger *Girl Cybil* being converted for charter work. MSA surveyors have apparently asked for the internal ballast to be replaced with an external ballast keel to comply with stability requirements. The fact that the boat has fished commercially for 70 years in all weathers in the Channel without foundering has obviously failed to impress. HMS have the bawley *Mayflower* on their books.

At Mistley Boatyard a number of traditional boats are fitting out. John Fairhall's Zeeschow "*Roker*" is rumoured to be planning a major inland cruise of European waterways, perhaps even circumnavigating Europe via that new link to the Danube! - but perhaps Snape first for 9th May to perform at the Maltings. A new boat to these waters is Evan Pringle's ex Irish fishing boat "*St Micheal*", in the process of being ketch rigged. The former 1917 Dutch barge "*Rens Mek Verksted*" is having a gaff rig installed too, sails by James Lawrence of Brightlingsea. Yet another boat, 1937 Morecambe Bay Prawner *Maryll* is getting gaff rig, and is sprouting a bowsprit for the first time in 50 years, whilst the owner hacks out a mast at St Oysth. The ferro bawley "*Fly of Halstow*" is ashore for a major refit for the first time in many years. The Deben Cherub "*Snark*" is to launch shortly now her owner has finished writing a book on Nelson's famous warship HMS *Amphian*, which was built at this very yard 200 years ago.



## MIDWINTER MEET 7 February 1998

Brenda Jago reports



Over 80 OGA members and friends sat down to eat at what seems to have become East Coast Area's Annual Dinner at the Royal Burnham Yacht Club.

Conspicuous by their absence were both the Area Secretary and the Area Vice President, who had to brave the elements in the Thames Frostbite Race, while we enjoyed a sumptuous meal in the warm and friendly atmosphere of the RBYC Dining Room. In the absence of the Commodore, the dinner was very ably hosted by Ray Austen, ex Flag Officer of the RBYC and Godfather of the Crouch Mafia. He made some suitably witty remarks about the above mentioned absentees in his welcoming speech. We were pleased to have the company of David Cade, President of the Old Gaffers Association, who replied on behalf of our members.

After dinner we had a most interesting talk entitled "The Most Beautiful Sailing Boats Ever", about the great North Atlantic fishing schooners, by Martin Van Mesdag. Martin has made a study of these vessels, especially those in the tiny town of Essex, where about two thirds out of a total of nearly 4000 of these schooners were built. He also had some slides to illustrate his talk and told us about the Essex Shipbuilding Museum where much of the boatbuilding history is housed and is on view. Martin found it rather amusing that we had amongst our diners OGA member Eric Husher who comes from the town next door and knows Essex well; also a Dutch guest who is currently building a steel schooner of an earlier design; and a lady from Lunenburg Nova Scotia, home of one of these famous schooners "Bluenose" - indeed a most enjoyable evening.

Martin waived any fee and asked instead if we would like to make a donation to the Essex Shipbuilding Museum. A collection was well supported by our members.



600 craft have entered the Festival of the Sea already - (excluding HMS Victory, HMS Warrior and the rest of the RN, who booked in early). The OGA

President David Cade says "For God's sake get your booking in now, there's only a hundred spaces left!" He also suggests you put "OGA" on your booking form (tel Francine on 01705 725000) for preferential treatment.

It will be an incredible event, with tall ships and classic craft from all over Europe attending. The naval dockyard itself is an attraction on any day, and the festival will feature all sorts of entertainment and quay side shows in addition. Heritage Afloat is organising a pavilion for our types of organisation and appropriate trade stands as well.

The event is also an opportunity for Eastcoasters to test their sailing skills with Solent members (and probably quite a few French as well) on 29 August at the Solent Old Gaffers Race,



### SAILMAKING EVENING

Once again OGA members were treated to a most informative evening at James Lawrence Sailmakers in Brightlingsea. Many examples of the sailmaker's art were on display, from trading vessel to dinghy. We were also given tuition on mending tears in sail cloth and patching. It was very useful to glean expert opinion on many matters of setting and trimming of sail, as well as construction. The OGA are very grateful to Mark Butler and his staff for giving up an evening to talk to us.

which will start at Cowes and finish in Portsmouth. We are also invited to the pre race social on the Friday night on the Island as well. Once at Portsmouth, there will be several boating events, including a classic boat race on Sunday and Parade of Sail on Monday. If you're worried about sailing round there, why not trail an open boat- there's sailing events for them too.

Shanty Jack was on form with many other guest singers at the Labour Hall in Maldon, in support of the Maldon Town Regatta and OGA Anniversary Rally on 26 September. One or two had a go on stage too, Dennis Bedford (*Moulin Vert*) was particularly impressive, the passion he gave to a rendition on muckspreading (as in manure) coming very much from the heart. Our thanks to Mike Emmett and the Town Regatta for their work.

**If you can't get to Portsmouth for the August Bank Holiday, why not try out Mersea Week? Details are enclosed with this Eastcoaster. You can choose how many events you enter, and there will be lots of prizes just for gaffers. WMYC are very gaffer friendly these days, not only with this event and the Old Gaffers Race, but also they now laying on a Classic Boat Race, which replaces the Osea Classics, on October 3rd.**