



EASTCOASTER

The Newsletter of the East Coast Old Gaffers Association

May 2022 Issue 131

Forestay

The uncertainties of COVID seem to be behind us, but there is always a chance of another variety appearing and throwing everything into chaos again... None the less here on the East Coast we are trying to get things back to normal. There are issues with inflation, such as getting caterers to commit to the price of a meal, so there are still some TBCs on events, but be assured that the events themselves will be going ahead, with entry fees very similar to those of previous years.

The Tollsbury small boat race and rally is in mid May, the same weekend as last year. Get your entries in on the website!

A new event for this year is the Deben Rally, taking advantage of the extended bank holiday at the start of June. It builds on a previous Deben rally, and will include a celebration of Clytie's 100th Birthday party at the Woodbridge Boatyard. You will find details in this newsletter.

Greenwich Yacht Club have invited us to their Gaffer's Race on 18th June. If you fancy racing on the Thames, where yacht racing began in the UK, then this is an event not to be missed. Unless of course you have an open boat, since this is the same weekend as our long running Swallows and Amazons race at Walton.

The East Coast Race and Summer Cruise are scheduled for July, so please register as soon as the entry forms go up on the website. This summer cruise will be a bit special...

Finally we have a piece on *Laura June*, a Falmouth working boat now based on the East Coast that has travelled widely. Oh, and she is for sale.

Soprry that this issue is quite short, but I have been sent no event reports since February!

Alison Cable



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Tollesbury v OGA 14-15-May

Ian Clarke

We'd like to invite small boat owners to the Tollesbury SC vs Old Gaffers race. Last year we were roundly beaten, all of us coming a distant 2nd (or in my case 14th) to a young lady from the sailing club in a converted to gaff for the event dinghy, and it was her first time in that boat. Hopefully we can do better this year!

This is the first sailing event of the year for us, the weekend of 14th & 15th May. The tide is quite early, with a high water about 11:40. We need to be launched by 10:15, and depending on wind direction can sail up to a hour after HW. We will assemble for a briefing on Saturday at the club at 9:15 and then get on the water ASAP. Overnight stays are possible with a limited space for camper vans, and the club bar will be open Friday and Saturday night.

Breakfasts are available at the nearby café, and a takeaway will be arranged for Saturday evening.

Car parking is at the Sailing Club, not the marina, which operates a strict berth holders only car parking policy with cameras to record registration number plates, and they issue punitive fines for anybody coming into their area. If you wish to bring a "mother ship" please contact Tollesbury Marina for a berth.

Please fill out the forms on line via [this link](#), and pay by card when submitting the form.

If the weather holds good, a Sunday cruise in company & a picnic on a beach nearby is planned.

Any queries/issues, please telephone the organiser Ian Clark on 07930 697174 or email binnacledesign@hotmail.

Entry forms are on the website.

Hope to see you there.

Deben Rally, 2-5th June

Pete Elliston

This rally is planned for both large and small boats, with camping available at the Waldringfield boat yard. This is also where the small boats can be launched, and their trailers stored. Small boats return here each evening, while yachts move to different parts of the river each night.

Thurs 2nd HHW 14.18/ LWH 20.13

Small boats and campervans arrive at Waldringfield boat yard (Mark Barton's) on their trailers after 13:00. Earlier arrival is not possible. Boats to be launched for a possible

trip down river to The Rocks, where boats can be beached while their crews go for a paddle. Return to "Mark's Yard" for overnight camping and a BBQ for meet up and yarns, Pub also available as meeting place and watering hole.

Yachts arrive and come to Waldringfield. Owners should contact Mark Barton who will pass on numbers to the Moorings Master who will assign bouys. Crews welcome to join the BBQ.

Fri 3rd HWH 14.52/ LWH 08.14 & 20.47

Small boats sail or motor-sail down river towards The Ferry which requires punching flood. Moor or land at Felixstowe Ferry for lunch. (The Fish & Chips there are famously good) . Return up river with last of flood or just punch back the other way this time with the wind to "Mark's Yard" with Pub and campsite for food (not group organised)

Yachts (or sailing tenders) join in the trip to the Ferry. They return to the Rocks where they anchor and have a communal beer on the beach in the evening.

Sat 4th HWH 15.38/ LWH 21.47

Small boats go up-river this time with the tide and try to get as far as possible under the two bridges so masts need to be removed! Return to the Woodbridge Boat Yard (ex-Everson's) to "**Partie with Clytie**" for her 100th birthday celebrations and join in with all the folks on the quay there. Food will probably be available. Look around the yard and see the new Dinghy that has been built there this year. Dinghies return to "Mark's Yard" for the evening when tide allows.

Yachts sail up to Woodbridge to attend *Clytie's* party – there could be spare moorings or a pontoon at the boat yard, contact Matt there. Sailing tenders join in the trip up river beyond Woodbridge. Return to the Rocks for the evening.

Sun 5th HWH 16.07/ LWH 09.25

There are 3 suggestions:

Creek Crawl near "Home"- Martlesham & Methersgate

Have a "Round Island Race" between Martlesham and Woodbridge

Trip down to Ramsholt for Lunch (sorry, against the tide again but that is river work) returning for HW to Haul out, Hitch up and Home!

Yachts head home, or sailing tenders might join in with the dinghy fleet depending on timescales.

All times in BST, Contact Pete The Knife on either ptk.elliston@btinternet.com or 07930 500067 or Jo Masters on Jomastersclytie@gmail.com

Entry forms from Clare Thomas via website etc...

Greenwich Yacht Club Open Gaffer's Race

Stefan Oloffs

Entries are open for the all-day Greenwich Yacht Club Open Gaffers Race on Saturday, 18th June 2022. Entry is free of charge, and the entry period ends on 17th June. This challenging race on the Tidal Thames takes competitors from North Greenwich, just south of Canary Wharf, past the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge into Fiddler's Reach and back to Greenwich Yacht Club, followed by dinner in our splendid GYC clubhouse on Saturday night.



Competing sailboats can moor free one night before and one night after the race on our clubhouse pontoon with shore access; or on our club's fore and aft moorings with a trot boat service. Mooring spaces are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. There are toilet and shower facilities; a London Underground station is a 10-minute walk from the club.

Saturday, 18th June 2022

LW North Woolwich: 1131

HW North Woolwich: 1725

Briefing on the pontoon: 0600

Start: 0730

To enter the race, email cruiser@greenwichyachtclub.co.uk



Swallows and Amazons weekend

June 18th-19th

The longest running small boat event on the East Coast will soon be upon us! It will be held on 18-19th June, with parking up for camper vans and space for tents on site at the Walton and Frinton Yacht Club as usual. One of the days will see the launch of the East Coast's second Gaffling 4.1 *Essling of Mistle*, which is being finished as I write this. Built in Mistle by Peter Elliston and Rik Graham and with several other members contributing she will be the second in our East Coast fleet and will enable us to have a Gaffling class at this event.

Following the race there will be a meal in WFYC. Menu and prices tbc, so keep a watch on the website.

East Coast Race

July 23rd

This promises to be another great East Coast Race, with the same format as the last few years. Boats will gather at Stone on Friday evening for a social evening ashore at the Sailing Club, before the race and prize giving on Saturday.

In previous years food has been available on both evenings, as well as breakfast on Saturday morning, with the club running a launch service out to the moorings and anchorage. I have every expectation that the same will be available this year, as well as a few barrels of beer...

OGA Summer Cruise

July 24th-31st

Clare Thomas

Our Summer Cruise will start immediately after the East Coast Race at Stone. We will keep the cruise fairly flexible again, but the outline plan is as follows: on Sunday 24th July the fleet will sail to Brightlingsea, rafting up on the pontoons. We'll hold the Safari Supper – visiting different boats for starters/mains/desserts – it's a great way to meet everyone! On Monday we'll plan to sail North to the Walton Backwaters, then to Wrabness or Pin Mill on Tuesday. We may fit in a fun race or two, and definitely Gafferteering! Depending on the size of the fleet and the weather, we will then either head for Southwold, or take a long sail all the way up to Lowestoft.

Once at Lowestoft we have been warmly invited to join in the celebrations for the Lowestoft smack *Excelsior's* centenary, which promises to be a great event from Friday through to Sunday. The *Excelsior* Sailing Trust are expecting fifteen or more large

smacks, including Brixham trawler 'Boy Leslie', Shetland herring boat 'Swan' and our local big smack 'Pioneer'. 15 berths have been reserved for OGA boats at the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club, and we will have the use of the club too.

Saturday 30th July sees the grand Smack Race for the large smacks which will be an amazing spectacle to watch, and there will also be a class for OGA boats. Ashore there will be a maritime fair with bar and music for the whole weekend, with a dedicated bus service around town and to the Lowestoft Maritime Museum.

This should be a memorable Summer Cruise.

Pre-planning for 2023

With this summer's sailing just getting underway it seems strange to be promoting next year's events, but the early start for the RBC60 means that our first rally next year will be in Ramsgate to see the fleet on its way. This will be held at the last weekend in April, so getting the "big boats" in the water ready for the season may be more urgent than in most years.

We already have 11 boats signed up to start their circumnavigation at Ramsgate, only 1 week after registration opened, and it would really help the organiser Robert Holden if he knew how many boats were thinking of coming along to the event. The [registration page](#) for the RBC60 does have a tick box to say you want to come along to Ramsgate, and it is fine to use it to indicate you intend to go to this and/or the OGA60 party at Ipswich/Suffolk Yacht Harbour. You will be asked for £15, and this covers the cost of the RBC60 flag (which will be posted to you before the RBC60 starts). Standard entry forms for both events will be available closer to the time when you will be able to book meals and order shirts etc.

Expression of interest forms will soon go up on the website for people who wish to attend OGA60 party in August without a boat. This again is to help the organisers with planning. You will appreciate that an event of this scale does not happen without a lot of people, so if you want to get involved and help out at either Ramsgate or Ipswich/Suffolk Yacht Harbour please get in touch with Lorna Hill, the East Coast Secretary, or me, and we will pass your offers on to the right people to put you to work!



A short history of *Laura June*

Lloyd Walker

We first saw *Laura June* advertised in the Gaffers Log and thought she might be what we were looking for. I wanted something traditional and was interested in working boats like Nobby's and Smacks but Joy convinced me that these were not really suitable for us to sail short handed and maintain. I decided that the GRP hull of a Falmouth Workboat would be a saving on the maintenance side of things and so we arranged for a test sail. This was a little bit more difficult than one might imagine because she was lying in St Peter Port Guernsey. We flew to Guernsey and went out on her for a short sail and I was hooked.



Next we had to organise bringing her back to the mainland UK. As she had been out of the EU for more than 3 years VAT had to be paid at the first port of call in the EU but HMRC were helpful and allowed me to pay a few days before we departed Guernsey.

I managed to get someone to come with me who actually new what they were doing as I was quite new to this sort of sailing having previously owned a Memory 19 which we only used between Ramsgate and Woodbridge.

Laura June had originally been *Helen Elizabeth* from Falmouth and had a much more open cockpit and less accommodation but when the previous owner took her to Guernsey he had some local shipwright/ carpenter make a new longer cabin and also raise the side decks to improve the accommodation. The name of her comes from the mother and mother in law of the owners, following on the same theme as Helen Elizabeth. My Mother was Win and so was Joy's so we stuck to *Laura June*.

Once we got *Laura June* back to England we started to get to know her better and one of the first things I did was to fit a boom gallows.

We kept her at Benfleet YC in Essex for a while but in the 1st season the mast almost broke as the glue was failing and our season was cut short. We took her to Burnham On Crouch and spent about 18 months re rigging her with a new hollow mast and bowsprit that can be steered. Whilst we were out of commission we had the underwater peeled and epoxied and the topsides sprayed. During this time I spent hundreds of hours stripping and painting and varnishing and some woodwork.

Once launched again we kept her at North Fambridge for a while, where there were two other Falmouth Workboats, *Janner* and *Roxanne*.

Whilst Joy was still working our cruises were limited to under 2 weeks and therefore we didn't get beyond Poole. We visited Bembridge on the IOW and Newtown Estuary on separate occasions and then Poole Harbour.

Once Joy retired we went further afield and have taken *Laura June* back to Falmouth and visited the grandson of her builder, Sam Heard, at Mylor Creek. We have cruised the Normandy Coast and taken her to Honfleur and Caen returning via Cornwall and Devon in order to do the Enterprise National champs at Exmouth whilst staying aboard *Laura June*.

We have also visited the Channel Islands and made it as far as Saint Quay Portrieux in Brittany. Last season because of the virus it seemed everyone was going to the South West so I decided to head to the North East. We made it up to Whitby which we like so much we stayed for at least 10 days and spent our days walking on the North York Moors which are accessible by train from Whitby. On our way back we stopped at Wells Next the Sea for a week and had some very enjoyable days out in North Norfolk.

This year I had a landmark birthday and Joy has convinced me that I am a bit long in the tooth to sail and maintain her and so we have decided to move on. We still have *Blue Hawk* our 19' 1939 gaff cutter which we keep at Walton Backwaters so we will still be on the water but more local to the East Coast rivers.

£42,500

Heard 28 gaff cutter. Built 1988. Length on deck 28'6". Beam 9'10". GRP hull peeled, stripped and reepoxied below the waterline with West system by Rice and Cole of Burnham on Crouch. Topsides sprayed over original gel coat. Replacement hollow mast and spars from Noble. Pivoting bowsprit. Replacement sails from James Lawrence of Brightlingsea. New Beta engine. Four sheet winches. Electric windlass.

5 berths in 2 cabins. Separate heads compartment. Oven, grill and two burner hob. Fridge. Headroom 1.95m.

Meticulously maintained, an ideal traditional sail cruising vessel.

Henrietta

£28,500

Henrietta is a GRP smack yacht built by John Tyrell in 1993. 1gm10 engine. Complete set of electronic instruments including AIS. Taylors Cooker, "Faversham" stove. Jabdsco heads, fitted winter cover. Based Milford Haven, but built on the East Coast, so should be of interest to people here.

If you missed out on *Diamond*, (for sale last year) then have a look at *Henrietta*!



Backstay

It is getting harder for me to keep up with events on the East Coast. *Robinetta* is nominally still there, but at the time of writing this she is in Arbroath, so on the East Coast of Scotland! Anyone who feels able to take over as editor of Eastcoaster would be welcome, and I will help all I can with the handover.

You will notice the lack of a report from the last of the winter's sessions at the Boat Builder's Futtocks. I could not attend, and I could not find anyone who did, so have no way to write about it. If you went I would love to hear from you, as the next issue needs copy too. I will also miss the Tollesbury Rally (for the first time ever), so implore someone to let me know how it goes! In fact I will not be at any of the events featured in this issue, so **please** send in articles about events you attend, with pictures if possible. Duplicates can go on the website, so do not assume someone else will write the report and not bother!

I will try to get the next issue out with a August date on it, to contain information about our late season events. If you can get your contributions to me by July 24th that would be wonderful, although I expect that an East Coast Race report will have to wait for the November issue. Please send them to alison.margaret.cable@gmail.com, or by post to Alison Cable, Kenmuir, Rosneath, G84 0PX.

Finally, if anyone knows of a gaffer (or otherwise) - person not the boat - who would like to join Robert Holden on a gentle sail to the Solent in June, you could give him a call on 07973 468961. Or contact him by email robertjan.holden@btinternet.com.

Alison Cable, Eastcoaster editor