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Dog Watch

For all Sea Dogs in the South West

Issue 40

Sep 22

Editorial

This edition of Dog Watch is very busy with reports from most of the events in which SW OGA members have been taking part. They include Brixham Heritage Regatta, Falmouth & Fowey Classics, Helford Rally, Plymouth Rally and the River Dart Rally. In addition, the initial plans for the OGA 60 anniversary events in 2023 are published.

David Patuck describes his sailing in 2021, following a refit to his Heard 28, to the SW events and Guernsey.

Mark Turner encourages SW OGA members to use the Social Media outlets of WhatsApp and Instagram to improve our profile.

The Events page now includes some in 2023.

I have significant personal and family issues that need considerable attention, to the extent that my wife and I have been sailing just the once this year with little prospect of another outing in the foreseeable future. I have, therefore, decided that I will discontinue being the Editor of this Newsletter. I have undertaken to continue with this job until a replacement is found. I will certainly complete the December issue and hopefully a replacement can be in place for the March 2023 issue. A full handover will be given and I should be available at the end of an eMail for assistance.

Many thanks for all your contributions and I am sorry that I couldn't continue with this job.

With My Very Best wishes

Nick

Next Events

Sat 24 Sep Brixham Heritage Rally
Sat 29 Oct Talk at Mylor Yacht Club
Fri 2 Dec Laying-up Lunch and AGM at Fowey Gallants

From The Poop Deck

Presidential Ponderings

Paul Jolley

We have had some great opportunities for sailing so far this season and earlier in the year our shore-based events were well attended. A good Zoom audience went on line for Vic Love's tales of Edna's adventures in the Mediterranean. This edition contains reports from most of our major sailing events, including ones not necessarily organised by the OGA. A good number of OGA boats mustered at Brixham and then Falmouth before going to our Helford Rally earlier in the season and then in July we had a successful annual rally at Plymouth. Fowey as always was attended by some of our members who enjoyed some light airs racing and the social side of this event.

Last weekend it was a pleasure to be at our River Dart Rally especially as there were members from other areas who joined us for some great sailing in an enchanting setting. Always good to see small boats and trailer sailors out on the water with the added bonus of camping available to us on the Ham.

At the end of August there is the Dartmouth Gaffers Race as part of Dartmouth Sailing Week which some local members usually attend and the final event in our area is the Brixham Heritage Rally near the end of September. We wind up the season with our Area laying up lunch and AGM; our first winter event will be at the end of October, probably at Mylor.

As our secretary mentions in his piece, we have in the region of 201 members many of whom we do not meet at events. We will shortly be conducting a survey to find out what members want from South West Gaffers and would welcome constructive comments and ideas on how we could better serve our members. We also do need some people to come forward to help with running things.

Our committee is shrinking with one member carrying out two roles, a new editor for The Dog Watch is needed as are volunteers for the Cornwall representative and Archivist. Please do complete the questionnaire when you receive it and consider joining our committee to influence what we do – we need some fresh blood!

On the positive side all our events are well attended and we are regarded as a very active and progressive area within the wider OGA, let us try and keep it that way. This is particularly important next year when we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the OGA and of course South West Gaffers 50th birthday. We will be hosting the OGA60 Round Britain Challenge at Plymouth 10th- 12th May

2023 and will need helpers and ideas for hosting our visiting boats.

Paul Jolley,

Area President.

Secretarial Scantlings

Tim Price

Well, haven't we been having some fabulous weather for sailing; albeit that the gardeners amongst us have been praying for at least a smattering of rain. The rest of my family are up in the southeast and sweltering in the heat and humidity – I won't say I told them so!

The Committee has been expressing its concern for some time that, albeit we have 201 members, we only ever seem to see about 40 of you. This of course raises the question "are we providing you with the activities that you wish to get involved with?".



We are also blessed in the southwest with some fabulous venues for events and some wonderful people prepared to organise them. Having just returned from the Fowey Classics where we had relatively light winds this year; as opposed to the southerlies from Storm Evert of last year, the result was some balmy racing on 2 days and a parade of sail (see full report). Yet again it was a delightful event and our grateful thanks are due to Karen Toms and both sailing clubs in Fowey.

Over the next few weeks we will put together a questionnaire to try and resolve that uncertainty. We would be very grateful if you would give us your views when asked.

Both the What's App sites have been well populated with pictures and tales of activities on the water and on shore. It is great to see what members are up to so please keep them coming.

In the last edition I asked for volunteers to take over the role of archivist from Elspeth Macfarlane and also the role of Cornwall representative from Don Garman. To date we have had no responses for either role. The archivist can set themselves their own tasks at their own pace so there is no overriding pressure – it would be a great shame to see Elspeth's work wither over time. Don Garman has always provided us with a spring and autumn outing / talk as well as the Helford Rally. The result has been a vibrant and engaged membership which we need to nurture.

Social Media

Social media

Mark Turner

A quick recap on our WhatsApp groups and Instagram feed.

How to join these groups is on [Page 21](#).

The two WhatsApp groups are working well, the 'At Sea' group for exactly that - discussing sailing trips & events before, during and after, including sharing photos. The 'On Shore' is for general discussion and questions that other members may have an answer for, and land based photos too.

It's really useful if users ensure that they have filled in their first and second names in the WhatsApp settings page otherwise any message you post just appears with an anonymous mobile number, or at best just a first name. If you can add your boat name too, all the better.

On an iPhone: WhatsApp: Settings: first row: Enter Name, profile photo if desired , About: boat name

If you post photos to either group, please also check in WhatsApp Settings that photo resolution is set to highest. That allows me to use your photo on our instagram feed if appropriate otherwise the photo appears too grainy. Who/what/where information is useful to make a short text story for Instagram.

On an iPhone: WhatsApp: Settings: Storage and Data: Media Upload Quality: Best Quality.

Our Instagram following continues to grow and by the time Dog Watch goes to print I expect us to have a following of over 300 interested individuals and businesses from all over the World. We're certainly on the global map as an OGA region!

For those of you interested to explore Instagram yourself, please note it's as much about words as pictures. To ensure your photo is seen it's important it's found, that is done by using # 'hashtags' appropriate to your post. These are key words and terms that are searched for by instagram users for images they want to see.

Without them your photo will only be seen by people already following you or if you've added a location for the photo (always a good idea but be vague if it's your workshop!) by anyone searching for that location. I always use very specific hashtags like *#gafrigged* *#woodenboat* *#oldgaffer* *#smallboat* *#traditionalsailing* and the like to increase photo visibility. Anyone who has elected to follow these hashtags within Instagram will see the photo. Without them a nice photo of a small, wooden, gaff rigged traditional boat will go largely unnoticed. It's a bit like fishing - your hook won't be noticed unless it's baited correctly.

Similarly use these hash tags to explore Instagram for other interesting feeds to follow and to dilute the default suggested subjects that are often irrelevant. On that subject if you're been suggested stuff you don't want to see, click the three dots top right and you'll have an option to cull future suggestions. Persevere and those scantily clad girls will be gone!. A heads up: as instagram is owned by Facebook it is similarly invasive and to a degree bases suggestions on your browser history. Teach it what you like not what it thinks you want to see!

If you're following our instagram feed you can see who we follow and who follows us - just click on our profile avatar and then 'followers' and 'following' Some there might be interesting for you to follow personally too. I'll always follow South West Gaffer members but I need to know it's you, if it's not obvious (just a boat name for your feed for instance) send a direct message (paper aeroplane symbol) and I'll add you to our followed list.

If I can help with you with a WhatsApp or Instagram issue do drop me a line, I'm on the WhatsApp groups and at socialmedia@southwestgaffers.org.uk where you can send photos if you aren't on WhatsApp.

Thanks to all who have contributed so far, we're raising our profile to a younger audience.

Recent Events

Brixham Royal Torbay Heritage Sailing Regatta 28 -29 May 2022

[Penny Jolley](#)

The inaugural Regatta took place over 100 years ago under the auspices of King George V, whose Perpetual Challenge Cup is awarded annually to the fastest trawler.



Periwinkle (Photo Stuart Chapman and Chris Arkell)

Thirty boats entered in the Regatta this year, returning towards pre-Covid levels, which is a tribute to the hard work of the Committee, its team of stalwart helpers, Brixham Yacht Club and Torbay Harbour Authority.

Boats and crews were welcomed by our newly appointed Regatta Bosun, Graeme Hagar, to assist mooring in the sunshine.

Boats came from all over the South West and as far as the Isle of Wight. An informal start to the proceedings for boats from the west was the self-timed passage race from Dartmouth, (won by Mike Garlick in "Mischief"). Many boats arrived by Friday evening

and started a weekend of serious socialising at the Yacht Club. We welcomed 10 OGA boats: "Ariana" with Mike Forward, "Capraia" with Patrick Vyvyan Robinson, "Charlie Bravo" with Ralph Bell, "Cynthia" with Peter Lucas, "Little Tern" with Dave and Lin Dickens, "Minx" with Paul and Penny Jolley, "Mischief" with Mike and Sue Garlick, "Periwinkle" with John Gallagher, "Squiggles" with Tony Laurillard and "Susan J" with David and Julie Patuck.

Saturday gave us perfect pontoon socialising weather; ice creams and cold pints were much in evidence. Registration and distribution of goodies bags on board the Brixham Trawler "Pilgrim" was accompanied by our excellent local sea shanty side "Missin' Tackle", who kindly gave their services in exchange for a pint, and followed by the traditional fish pie supper at Brixham Yacht Club. We are very grateful for the generous donation of 30 Kgs of hake by the Brixham Trawler Agents – a great contribution towards our costs.

We all packed on board the Brixham Trawler "Vigilance" for the skippers'



Little Tern (Photo Stuart Chapman and Chris Arkell)

briefing on Sunday morning. Sunday was a little more overcast, thus affording more wind; a steady Force 3 from the east gave a spectacular Parade of Sail with all sails up.



L to R: Lexia (junk), Pilgrim, Susan J, Minnow (junk), Capraia (Photo Stuart Chapman and Chris Arkell)

The Aero championship in Paignton limited sailing to the north and east of Torbay. We started with a reach to the start off Battery Point, towards the windward mark near the Ore Stone, fetching towards Berry Head and then running back towards the start/finish line. The wind strength died away and together with the idiosyncrasies of the tidal system in Torbay reduced an anticipated 2 laps to 1 for most of us.

Images of the event were taken by members of Paignton Photographic club and James Hamilton, a free lance journalist, see <http://www.brixhamheritageregatta.uk/Gallery%202022%20OtW.htm> for more.

Our excellent Sunday evening curry was followed by prize-giving; Regatta Commodore Richard Spreckley computed the results and presented the trophies and prizes, including a bottle of gin for every first, another generous donation by Brixham Gin. The full results are here: <http://www.brixhamheritageregatta.uk/Brixham%20Heritage%20Regatta%20Results.htm>

The prize winning OGA members are:

Class 4a (Small working boats): 1st: "Minx", Paul & Penny Jolley

Class 4b Alfred Wallace Trophy (Gaff rigged Cruisers & Yachts) : 1st: "Capraia" Patrick

Vyvyan Robinson, 2nd: "Mischief", Mike Garlick, 3rd: "Susan J", David & Julie Patuck

Class 2. (Large Yachts): 1st: "Cynthia" Peter Lucas, 3rd "Little Tern", Dave & Lin DICKENS

Class 1. Torbay Royal Regatta

1911 Cup. 1st: "Cynthia", Peter Lucas.

Ibex Trophy (fastest lap). "Cynthia", Peter Lucas. Winning Trawler. King George V Perpetual Challenge Cup. "Vigilance"

The very beautiful "Cynthia" deservedly won the Concours d'Elegance judged by OGA President Patrick Vyvan Robinson; thanks to Patrick for



Squiggle built by her owner, Tony Laurillard during lockdown (Photo Photo Stuart Chapman and Chris Arkell)

taking time out to judge our Concours.

2022 was the best entry from SW Gaffers who really boosted the atmosphere with their expertise and engagement. Thanks to all OGA members who took part.

Next Event is Brixham Heritage Rally on Sat 24 Sep, a 1400 sail in company in the beautiful setting of Torbay- full details on the Brixham Heritage Regatta website. and in 2023 the Heritage Regatta is on 27-28 May and the Rally on 16 Sep.

Falmouth Classics

17 – 19 June

Don Garman

Gentle breezes on Thursday enabled vessels from the south west and further afield to arrive in

Falmouth for the Atkins Ferrie Wealth Management's Falmouth Classics. The event, in its thirty fifth year, received 175 entries. There was a very good showing of South West Gaffer members whose boats contributed over half of K Class (Gaffers 24–30ft).

By Thursday evening the port was filled with luggers, pilot

cutters, a topsail schooner, gaff and Bermudan cruisers with the addition of a surprise visit from the brigantine "La Malouine" who took time off from her itinerary to join in some of the events. Skippers and crews enjoyed a reception in Falmouth Haven where Dynamite Valley



Orthops, the 1958 Moody built Robert Clark design racing on Saturday (Photo Nigel Sharp)



Crossing the finishing line in the idyllic conditions experienced on Friday (Photo Nigel Sharp)

Brewery and North Coast Wines provided liquid refreshments and 400 Choaks pasties were consumed. Aboard the Falmouth training ship "Hardiesse", the local shanty group Rum and Shrub entertained.

With 103 entered to race, Friday provided an idyllic day for racing in the Carrick Roads and Falmouth Bay.

On their return, vessels were greeted by music from the Hardiesse Harmonies. A reception in the Art gallery and Council Chamber provided an opportunity for locals and visitors alike to be appreciate the excellent exhibition of Polperro art. Refreshments were provided by Fal River Distillery and Six Liqueurs.

The organisers, in collaboration with Falmouth Haven staff, had been keeping an eye on the weather and on Saturday morning the pilot cutters and luggers were asked anchor off Trefusis after racing or return to their own moorings. Several smaller vessels also chose to vacate the Haven pontoons whilst others increased their mooring lines in preparation for the deteriorating conditions. As winds from the north increased to 40 knots, and waves broke over the pontoons



Photo (Jan Pentreath)

the actions taken were very appropriate. The Teamac race took place. but for only four classes.

With increasing wind, the Race Committee, rightly, decided to abandon. Unfortunately, two boats one on starboard the other on port collided with damage sustained by both but with no crew injuries. The afternoon public opening of the pontoon and the rowing and sculling competition were both cancelled and exhibitors in the Classics Maritime Village closed shop early before gazebos and displays were damaged. Many participants attended the prize giving for the daily races at the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club in the evening and 150 stayed for supper and enjoyed the jazz provided by "Jumping Out".

Organisers anticipated that the parade of sail and power might be considerably reduced, however around 100 boats participated and with vessels dating from 1881 to 2020 providing a splendid pageant of maritime history. The parade was led by the two Falmouth RNLi lifeboats followed by the 1930s topsail schooner Annie of Charlestown and the 1907 West Country trading ketch Irene now being used by the local charity Sea Sanctuary.

Overall prizes for racing and the parades took place in the National Maritime Museum Cornwall. Rob Coote of Atkins Ferrie Wealth Management presented glassware and trophies, whilst sponsor representatives from North Coast Wines, and Heather and Lay presented the champagne awards for the parades and Musto presented their prizes. Best Placed South West Gaffer members were "Cynthia" (Peter Lucas) – second in M Class, "Mary Ritchie" (Pauline Garman) – third in K Class and "Capraia" (OGA President) - fourth in K Class.

Despite the event being the most challenging for several years, organisers have been thanked for providing "yet another fantastic Classic event" by participants.

South West Gaffers Helford Rally –

“The best ever”!

20 – 23 June

[Don Garman](#)

Twenty-two vessels entered the rally which took place from 20 – 23 June, however not all made it to the Helford but there was still a fleet of fourteen, most extending their stay in Cornwall following Falmouth Classics, who joined the five local boats.



Sailing to Gweek (Photo Don Garman)

The sun shone as the boats arrived and the northerly wind dropped which ensured a pleasant evening on Pedn Billy Beach, courtesy of the Bligh family, for a barbecue for thirty-eight. Pauline Garman's salads and desserts were much enjoyed, particularly the ever-popular trifle.

Tuesday morning and the 1910 Falmouth built “Cynthia” slipped onto a mooring just in time to join the rest of the group in a voyage up river to Gweek Classic Boatyard.

A clear blue sky and a gentle breeze ensured the river was looking at its best with ancient woodland on either side dropping down to the waters edge. The fleet of tenders and shallow draught vessels under sail were accompanied by Don Garman's Plymouth Pilot. The Boathouse Café at Gweek proved popular and some made good use of the shop in the village as well as having a look at the vessels in the boatyard.

Tide waits for no one, so Don was to be seen encouraging the return to boats. On the downriver journey a halt was made at Tremayne Quay. Engines were raised or removed and eight tenders participated in a very competitive rowing competition towards Groyne Point. The first inflatable to finish was Mick from “Norwegian Girl” and Tony Laurillard just managed to keep the bow of his pram dinghy ahead of the Aber “Gelveyneke”.



Tender race on the upper Helford (Photo Don Garman)



Barbecue on Pedn Billy Beach (Photo Don Garman)

2022 was not be Mary Ritchie's year having won the David Cade Memorial Tankard several years in succession. Participants then sat down to an excellent dinner in the Clubhouse.

The return to boats witnessed a wonderful sunset on the longest day.

A DIY picnic on Pedn Billy Beach, again in the sun was enjoyed by several.

The Wednesday race started promisingly but the wind died requiring shortening of the courses for the two classes. Fortunately, there were not too many retirements. Prize giving took place at Helford River Sailing Club where Club Commodore Chris Hosken presented the glassware and trophies.

Class I was won by "Thetis" – David Bewick- John Scarlett Memorial Plate and class 2 by "Cynthia" – Peter Lucas.



Tenders on their way to Gweek (Photo Don Garman)

Plymouth Rally 2022

Mon 4 - Wed 6 Jul

Paul Jolley

Our annual rally was held over 4th – 6th July based at Queen Anne's Battery and the annual race was held on Tuesday 5th.

a local sea shanty set.

Yet again holding the event in Plymouth proved popular both in terms of the social side, and not forgetting of course that The Sound usually provides sheltered waters for sailing.



The fleet rounds the first mark at Plymouth 2022 (Photo Mike Guernsey)

Boats assembled on the 4th with boats rafting up in the usual tried and tested OGA manner which moderately frustrated the Berthing Master who tried to organise us!

Fourteen boats took part in the event which started off with an excellent pontoon party followed by a meal at the harbour-side Waypoint which came up to its usual excellent standard.

Unusually due to a gentle (2-3) NW breeze, the race fleet was started downwind and stayed pretty much together down the first leg. However, the bit of tide and the fickle wind at the windward mark was more challenging for some than others and the "usual suspects" soon emerged in the front pack. The results can be seen in the SWG news section on the OGA website.

Following the race, a lively prize giving was held at The Stable where members enjoyed a pizza buffet followed by entertainment provided by The Tavy Tars,



Paul Jolley presents first prize to Peter Lucas with Cynthia of course leading the fleet (Photo Rob Brown)

Fowey Classics Tue 26 - 29 Jul

David Patuck

The Fowey visitor's pontoon filled up very quickly prior to the Fowey Classics. There was a good showing from SW OGA members.

The Thu evening event was an excellent talk by a Henry Stenner, who had restored, a Mevagsissey Tosher given from an engineering rather than sailing background. It was fascinating to see how his grasp of sailing a traditional gaffer increased and continues to do so, throughout the restoration.



Friday was the big day and the weather remained remarkable fair and warm with a hint of some breeze to come. Most of the boats paraded up and down the river in front of the town until about 13:00, until the start was much less fraught with, possibly, more attention being paid to the main local and enduring additional Race Direction that the founder of Fowey Classics instituted, to the effect that "any protestor is automatically disqualified"!

Gaffers at Fowey Classics (Photo David Patuck)

Registration was at the Royal Fowey YC run by Karen Toms; a convivial beer, and enjoyable dinner was optional. The race briefing was at the Fowey Golants SC at 12:00 on Tue 26 Jul, luckily for some, was the following morning.

The start of first race was with a gentle but steady wind to start but was rather fraught for some.

Thursday was a "free day", many boats sailed in company to Lantis Bay, just west of Udder's Rock, for a beach picnic, in, almost, idyllic conditions. Those who stayed aboard their anchored yachts, missed a large quantity of excellent pasta and rice salads, from the night before, but escaped a rather wet landing!

FOWEY CLASSICS RACING 27/07/2022

CLASS	1	DATE 27/07/2022					
NAME	OWNER	RATING	START	FINISH	Elapsed	Corrected	Place
Cynthia	Peter Lucas	1.0397	14:00:00	15:05:46	01:05:46	01:08:24	1
Ayesha	Richard Bond	1.0825	14:00:00	15:46:29	01:36:29	01:09:39	2
Our Boys	Phil Cogdell	1.0667	14:00:00	15:39:38	01:39:38	01:46:19	3

CLASS	1	DATE 27/07/2022					
NAME	OWNER	RATING	START	FINISH	Elapsed	Corrected	Place
Roxanne	Martin Elliott	0.968	14:00:00	15:11:47	01:11:47	01:09:29	1
Susan J	David Patuck	0.963	14:00:00	15:22:11	01:22:11	01:19:09	2
Perriwinkle	John Gallagher & Geoff Gould	0.888					DNC
Picotee II	Tim Price	0.919					DNC
Aeolus	Steve Lorraine	0.946					DNC

CLASS	3	DATE 27/07/2022					
NAME	OWNER	RATING	START	FINISH	Elapsed	Corrected	Place
Wonder	Ian Barker	0.871	14:05:00	15:01:57	00:56:57	00:49:36	1
Dayspring	Ian Uglow	0.944	14:05:00	15:25:57	01:20:37	01:16:25	2

CLASS	4	DATE 27/07/2022					
NAME	OWNER	RATING	START	FINISH	Elapsed	Corrected	Place
Sybil	Cornelius	1.096	14:00:00	15:13:31	01:13:31	01:20:34	1

Obsession	Mike Waller	1.04	14:00:00	16:23:36	01:00:02	01:02:26	1
Mata Hari	Paul Cahill	0.7963	14:00:00	16:16:16	01:46:15	01:24:35	2

CLASS	5	DATE 27/07/2022					
NAME	OWNER	RATING	START	FINISH	Elapsed	Corrected	Place
Sandpiper	Graham Jones						DNC

CLASS	6	DATE 27/07/2022					
NAME	OWNER	RATING	START	FINISH	Elapsed	Corrected	Place
Gelvynek	Jeremy McCabe	0.782	14:05:00	14:43:57	00:38:57	00:30:28	1

It looked as if three laps as far as Cannis Rock would be possible but, in the event, the breeze faltered and the course was shortened to one or two laps dependent on size.

We weaved through the beautiful racing Troys and assembled for the Prize Giving.

In the meantime, Martin and Jan of "Roxanne" were awarded the "ansome Transom" for the best overall boat and "Our Boys" dog, Poppy, for the best boat dog. "Mata Hari" another Helford classic, earned a well deserved award for the most improved boat and, of course, the Gribbin Cup to "Gelvyenek", the best under 18 foot! All this was followed by an amazing "Tapas" buffet, more beer and the prizes for the Troy's.

Fowey Classics was a wonderfully relaxed and pleasant event and Karen's organisation seems to be just right!



Parade of Sail (Photo Helen McCabe)

River Dart Rally 2022 (incorporating 'Ditsum Regatta')

Carolyn & Gil Hayward

There has been a 'Gaffer Race' at Ditsum Regatta organised by Dittisham Sailing Club for many years but South West Gaffers have been involved since 2014, when they incorporated it into their 'River Dart Rally' focusing on The Small Boats/Trailer Section. It has been held every year since 2014 (with the exception of 2020).



Mallard' followed by 'Thetis' joining the Parade of Sail (Photo Carolyn Hayward)

It was therefore important to try and re-establish this event in 2022. We promoted it in February but entries were very slow and with only a few weeks to go, it looked as if we would have 5 boats and 8 participants! In the end, we had 15 boats with 30 participants. For the first time, boats in the 19/21' range predominated with 3 due to come by sea from the River Yealm, Saltash and Salcombe. The smallest boat was a Limpet 10 and the largest a Cornish Crabber 26 with an all-girl crew. There were 3 last minute 'no shows' for various reasons including engine failure in Salcombe and contact with covid.

Francois Vivier had 3 boats entered (2 Morbic 12s and a Jewell Yawl). Andrew Wolstenholme had one of his new OGA Gaffling 4.1 Dinghies and a Kite 21- the Norfolk Gypsy ended up stuck in Salcombe).

Dart Sailability joined in the Race and led the Parade of Sail with "Kanata - No. 16", their Drascombe Longboat which has been adapted for wheelchair use with wheel steering. The Longboat has proved a popular choice for many Sailability clubs. Its safety and stability are ideal for group activities. The flexible sail plan is a huge advantage.

Dart Sailability is an organisation which enables anybody with any disability to enjoy sailing, boating and associated activities. Based at Dartside Quay at Galmpton across the river from Dittisham, the charity is run and managed by volunteers. They are part of the Royal Yachting Association's national Sailability scheme and also a training centre and centre of excellence.

Organising outdoor events in the UK is stressful but with a week to go we were assured of good weather. The only issue was the strength of wind, which turned out to be sufficient for the diverse fleet on both days.

In addition to the 'Gaffer Race' DSC also run a Pursuit Race at the same time for their members, both races raising money for the RNLI. As the wind was predicted to be light both races were held in the 'Dittisham Lake' as sending gaffers up river was likely to leave them becalmed. A

triangular course was set using one of the DSC rescue boats as the committee boat for the start/finish and using 'Flat Owers' as one of the marks. This kept the 2 fleets well apart and the Gaffers did not have to wend their way through the moored yachts off Dittisham. "Mary Hay" had a good start and was so intent on making the windward mark did not notice they were aiming for the wrong buoy. Having reached it first, they then found that they were half way down the fleet by the time they had corrected their error. At the end of the first lap, they had regained the overall lead and went on to win on corrected time by 11 seconds over "Dart", the Gaffling 4.1 – so a 1st & 2nd for Andrew Wolstenholme this year! "Andouillette", a Morbic 12 was 3rd overall. Last year Francois Vivier claimed 1st & 2nd with 'Aberrare' and 'Andouillette'.

The 'Gaffer Race' is described as a fun race as many competitors only race a few times a year and whilst some are competitive, the organisers don't expect there to be protests or damage to boats by people insisting on their rights. This year's race provided an opportunity for everyone to enjoy sailing on the beautiful River Dart in the sunshine.

The public attending Ditsum Regatta enjoy the gaffers' 'Parade of Sail'. This year there was only a 15 minute window to complete the parade between rowing races and following the RNLI Display. For once, all the gaffers appeared on time and in the right order for the excellent commentary provided by Bill Dormer from the commentary box on the end of the pier.

"Memo" a Limpet 10 and the smallest boat at the Rally during the Parade of Sail

Whilst people come for the sailing, eating and drinking are important features of the weekend. Friday evening starts with a 'Drinks Reception' in our garden overlooking the river. The Saturday evening Prize Giving in the Clubroom at Dittisham Sailing Club was followed by a wonderful 'Crew Supper' provided by Penny Jolley, the Area President's wife. On Sunday morning, before the cruise in company up the River Dart, the Red Lion (Brigitte & Penny) served 30 cooked breakfasts!

Dittisham Parish Council allow participants in the Rally to park campervans overnight in the 'Ham Carpark' and to pitch their tents on 'The Ham'. Dittisham Sailing Club run the Gaffer Race and allow everyone to use the club's facilities. This makes the camping a very



Crew Supper in DSC Club Room (Photo Carolyn Hayward)

civilised experience. Ditsum Regatta Committee regard the Parade of Sail as adding to the ambiance of the village regatta.

When everyone leaves at the end of the weekend with a smile on their faces, the effort of organising an outdoor event all seems worthwhile. In 2023 'Ditsum Regatta' will be held on Saturday 12th August so put the date in your diary now!



Ditsum Regatta Gaffer Race 2022 (Photo Carolyn Hayward)

RB60 Plymouth Stopover

Wed 10th 11th and 12th May 2023

Rob Brown

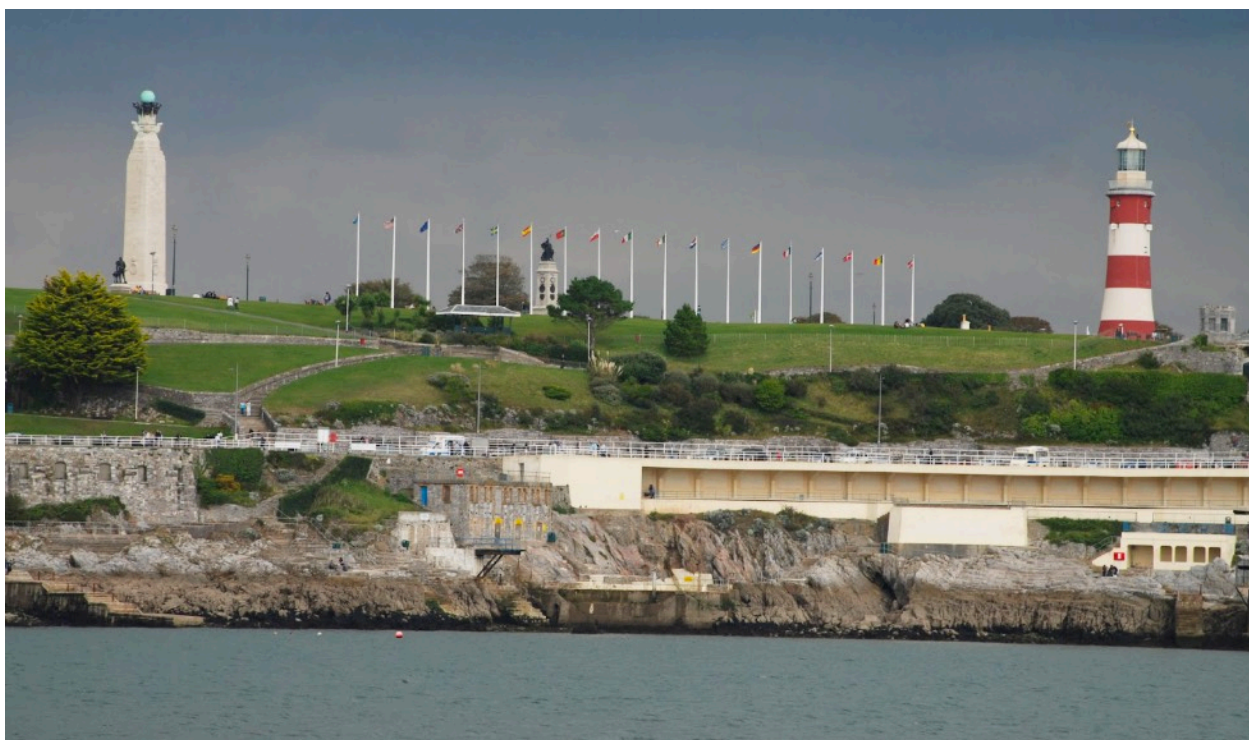
The sub committee (Rob Brown/Mike Forward/David Bewick/John Gallagher) have been forging ahead with plans to make the visit by gaffers from other regions to Plymouth an event to remember.

In outline the planned events are as follows:

10th May - Arrival and Reception followed by supper

11th May - Rest Day with Plymouth Gin Tour in the late afternoon followed by dinner and entertainment

12th May Depart with Parade of Sail under the Hoe and leave via the Bridge.



Plymouth Waterfront (Photo Google Stock Image)

SWG members not taking part in the whole Round Britain Event are invited to the Venue with boats (Either Sutton Harbour or QAB) and to join in the subsidised events (costs of the various events are being calculated at present however we have been promised a significant subsidy from Head Office).

An entry form for the SWG members attending Plymouth only will be available in the New Year. If you are taking part in RB60 you will not need to sign up separately for the Plymouth Event.

SWG boats are welcome to join and follow the fleet as far as Fowey where we are planning a meet with supper at Fowey Gallants.

Volunteers are needed to help with the organisation of events and to be on hand as part of the SWG welcome. Please contact Rob at events@southwestgaffers.org.uk or tel:07776 176 103 if you are willing to take part.

(This will a regular page in Dog Watch. Ed)

From our Members

"Susan J" in the "New Normal" of 2021

[David Patuck](#)



Susan J, a Heard 28 (Photo David Patuck)

In anticipation of a 70th birthday and further lockdowns, our boat "Susan J", a Heard 28, was lifted ashore in October 2020 at Mere Yachts in Flushing. The overdue replacement of her standing rigging was needed with numerous other modifications that were carried out by David Carne and his team at Riggers UK. The rig is now considerably simplified and the weight aloft is reduced, the extreme forces at the end of the bowsprit are moderated and the changes have reduced the severity of head injury and hopefully reduced her rolling at anchor!

During both lockdowns, I had researched the most effective way of keeping the batteries charged. We completed the electrical archaeology and refurbishment. "Susan J", now has a DC to DC charger charging the AGM house batteries. Much of the un-tinned copper cable has been replaced with tinned cable in flexible conduit to a rack of bus bars under the chart table. Fuses are

now on all the main cables close to the batteries.

The original solar panel on the coach roof was removed and the new panel was secured with Velcro and is now twice as powerful.

Julie repainted the deck and scraped back and varnished the adjacent mouldings.

In May 2021, we were launched with our, all new, standing rigging and many new halyards into a cold windy Penryn River.

The next morning, well reefed, we set off for our mooring on the Helford, however, we still have limited VHF communication and AIS, despite everything having been replaced.

After a few day sails, we joined the Falmouth Classics and Helford Rally, albeit with shoreside restrictions but excellent sailing.

On route to Plymouth SW OGA annual race, from a stopover at Fowey, we were running, all set, up the Hamoaze, trying to second guess the Torpoint ferries, and continued under the bridges to enter the Lynher to anchor in the Dandy Hole, with two other boats. We dinghied up to St Germans, for supper with Julie's school



Some Mast Modifications (Photo David Patuck)

friend. Returning, away from a spectacular sunset, "Susan J" appeared closer to the cliff but all seemed well, until the tide and wind changed! That night, we raised the anchor, four times to reset it and dragged each time. By the morning, with a rising north easterly, we moved to a more secure berth alongside at the Mayflower marina.

An oyster shell with a hole was straddling the tip of the CQR anchor. Lesson learnt – always inspect the hook before resetting!

The SW OGA Plymouth event went very well. A relatively short race, with light changing winds made for an interesting start and on the final leg, ample time for crew to admire the school of dolphins, kindly arranged for the event by Rob! The cruise in company to the Yealm was enjoyed by many but the strong tide and the crowded pontoon meant "Susan J" decided to retreat to Cawsand.



David and Julie (Photo Fiona Patuck)

The Fowey Classics was a well organised, fun and informal event, supremely flexible, to accommodate storm "Ellen", where we still managed to have two races, a parade of sail and a fantastic treasure hunt by inflatable, learning a lot about the interesting town to boot.

By August, our daughter felt safe enough to join us for ten days from Dartmouth for a possible trip to the Channel Islands. A rapid downwind sail to Salcombe, involved an early start. Once there, we were put on a mooring well above the Bag, and were joined by Patrick in "Capria". We walked to the

again before refuelling on our way down river for a pleasant, if rather grey, sail around to Dartmouth. The imminent northeasterlies, which were to continue throughout our trip, precluded Alderney and left just St Peter's Port as our port of Covid clearance. The wind was sufficient for damp motor sailing and, after numerous dolphins and phosphorescence, dawn saw the wind pick up and we arrived off the NE coast around lunchtime.

We managed to see our first mark, Platte Fougere, just before a prolonged heavy rain shower obscured the Little Russell completely, not ideal on our first passage to the Channel Islands! We were put on a convenient walk ashore pontoon that led to a big marquee, where we were Covid screened, and we were free to explore the island and the rest of the Bailiwick. We had a pleasant Sunday ashore, visiting the Guernsey Museum and listening to a concert in Cande Gardens, completed our laundry and stocked up at the convenient M&S Food Hall, there were disappointingly few, if any, local food outlets, open or closed.



Susan J Under Sail (Photo David Patuck)

Overbecks, but the house and museum were closed but the NT gardens are delightful. We then walked out to Bolt Head and back. Avoiding the crowds ashore, we ate aboard

Rested and victualled, we left for the relatively short passage to Sark, seeing the channel we had come through much more clearly. We anchored at Grande Greve under a massive cliff leading up to La Coupe to Little Sark. A little roly but otherwise peaceful, we spent the next day exploring Sark on foot, swimming and climbing a lot of stairs!

We then moved back to Guernsey, in the hope that the bays to the south were more sheltered from the NE wind and swell. We had the anchorage at Petit Port, in Moulin Huet Bay, largely to ourselves after the day trippers had gone, it was still quite roly, but swimming ashore and access, via more stairs, enabled us to spend several days exploring. We then had a short sail to Herm and anchored south of Rosiere Steps for one night, exploring the whole Island on foot, before enjoying breakfast at the White House Hotel and sailing back to St Peter Port, for more laundry, victualling and a Sunday bus journey around the whole Island on our last day.



Common Dolphin Mid-channel (Photo Fiona Patuck)

pleasant broad reach took us along the south coast and past Les Hanois light house, off the SW tip. From there we hardened up to a close reach and took our departure from Guernsey and into the sunset.

"Susan J", carried on with two reefs and no jib, at 4 knots and, well before dawn, we had sighted Prawle Point and the Eddystone. By 08:30 we were tucked up in the Mayflower, ready for an end of cruise breakfast at Jolly Jack's, before Fiona caught the train back to Bristol and the skipper did some routine maintenance, while Julie visited her ancestors at Forde Park.

A few more day sails, some varnishing in calm weather at the mooring, another few days at Fowey, from where we walked to Par sands via Gribben Head and meeting our first grandchild, Alfie, brought us to the end the season.

We were more confident in "Susan J"'s new rigging and simplifications and had built up a smaller list of minor

modifications for the coming winter layup, including a strop to stop the jib halyard twisting, a third lazy jack, plastic sheaves in the mainsheet blocks, overhaul of the Taylor paraffin stove, consideration of an electric windlass and another VHF aerial!



Sunset le Grand Greve Sark (Photo Julie Patuck)

Bank holiday Monday, had us all prepared to cross back but it was grey with a stronger wind but fair for Plymouth. Leaving at about 1 pm we cleared over the sill and, as we rounded St Martin's light at the SE corner of Guernsey, the sun came out and a very

OGA Clothing

Flags and Clothing – Show That You Belong

[Paul Jolley](#)

Be proud and fly the flag! It is important that we are seen in order to gain more members and raise our profile in the various harbours



and clubs that we visit. OGA house flags, burgees and a range of OGA branded clothing are available from Riviera Embroidery Designs



<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. T shirts with a printed logo are also available. Boat names can be added to embroidered items at no extra cost.

Social Media

Social media

Mark Turner

WhatsApp

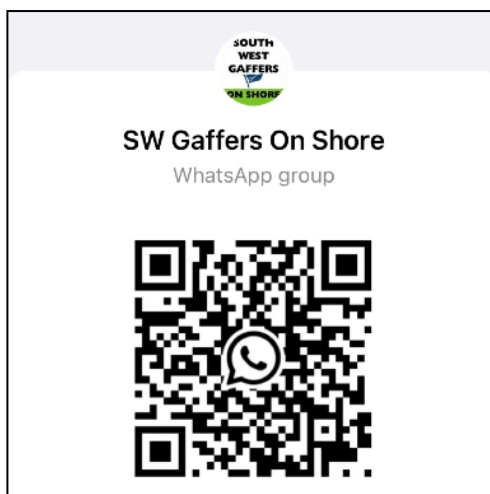


If you have a smart phone please do join our two WhatsApp groups. We ask that posts are relevant, respectful and that you consent that we can repost nice photos you post onto our Instagram feed to promote our activities to our global following.

'On Shore' is for general chat, advice and social stuff, photos, forwarding interesting links and official comms alongside emails.

'At Sea' is for comms and photos whilst on the water.

If you use WhatsApp you can join the groups by scanning the QR codes with your phone camera. Please ensure you have added your full name within the WhatsApp settings page so we know who you are if you have a boat please also add the boat's name.



or
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/BCzlsI4Owfu3qXYuoFwH12>



or
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DI6zrCimIQgCunzd2FfcqK>

Instagram



Follow our official Instagram feed by searching 'southwestgaffers' and following us.
<https://www.instagram.com/southwestgaffers/>

Search our own 'following' feed for other feeds that are of interest including the official OGA site, other OGA local groups, boat builders, sailmakers and other relevant sites.

There is an OGA Facebook page, search 'old gaffers association'.

If you have any queries about joining our feeds please contact our Social Media Officer Mark Turner at
socialmedia@southwestgaffers.org.uk

Programme of Events

South West Gaffers

2022			
Date	Time	Event	Contact
Fri 17-19 Jun		* Falmouth Classics	www.falmouthclassics.org.uk
Mon 20-23 Jun		Helford Rally This event usually includes a BBQ, race and supper at Port Navas.	dj.garman@btinternet.com
Fri 1-3 Jul		* Sea Salts & Sails	www.seasalts.co.uk
Mon 4-6 Jul		SW Gaffer Plymouth Rally, based at QAB. This event includes the South West Annual Race, supper	events@southwestgaffers.org.uk
Thu 14-17 Jul		* Douarnenez Festival Temps Fetes	www.tempsfete.com
Tue 26-29 Jul		* Fowey Classics	www.foweyclassics.com
Fri 5-7 Aug		River Dart Rally (including Dittisham Regatta)	gilbert.hayward@btinternet.com
Fri 12-14 Aug		* Paimpol Classics	www.classic-channel-regatta.eu
Sat 27-28 Aug		* Dartmouth Gaffers Race	www.dartmouthsailingweek.com
Sat 24 Sep		* Brixham Heritage Rally	www.brixhamheritageregatta.uk
Sat 29 Oct	12:30 for 13:00	Trafalgar Talk - "The Leeward Quarter" at Mylor yacht Club; Speaker Jan Pentreath	dj.garman@btinternet.com
Fri 2 Dec	tba	Laying up Lunch and AGM Fowey Gallants	events@southwestgaffers.org.uk
2023			
Thu 27-29 Apr		* OGA 60 RBC, Ramsgate	https://www.oga.org.uk/oga60/
Wed 10-12 May		RB 60 Events in Plymouth	
Fri 16-18 Jun		* Falmouth Classics	
Sat 27-28 May		* Brixham Heritage Regatta	http://brixhamheritageregatta.
Wed 2-6 Aug		* OGA 60 RBC finish and OGA 60 main party, Ipswich	https://www.oga.org.uk/oga60/
Sat 12 Aug		* Ditsum Regatta	
Tue 15-18 Aug		* Falmouth Tall Ships Race	https://www.falmouth.co.uk/
Sat 16 Sep		* Brixham Heritage Rally	http://brixhamheritageregatta.
		* Events not organised by South West Gaffers but fully supported by us.	