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**Issue 41**

**December 22**

## Editorial

Is it me? Or has the build-up to Christmas started much earlier? This edition published well before the "Bah-Humbug" season has reports on the final two events of the season from the Dartmouth Regatta Gaffer Races and the Brixham Heritage Rally. We have an update on the Plymouth part of RBC '60. Mark Turner tells us of his "work" visit to The Center for Wooden Boats in Seattle. We have notes from two new members to the SW OGA plus mention of four others who joined too late for this edition. I include a Tribute to Cathy Danby sent to me by John Gallagher. We have another reminder and an update on our Social media activity. The final page is the Events for 2023.

I started being editor with high hopes of lots of sailing in the lapstrake gaff that I built. However, I now have two single-parent children, one by choice and the other through bereavement and they both need considerable parental support. We took our boat out only twice this year and next year's sailing looks non-existent so we'll probably sell up. (Watch the Boat Register.) Twice, I had to put this newsletter to bed in my kid's house while I was helping them out! Timing was never my strong point!

I cannot truly provide the commitment needed to do this job. I'm sorry that I cannot give the time to the OGA, however, if you do have some time available 4 times per year, please contact Tim our secretary, whose details are in the panel opposite.

*Nick the Fox*

## Next Events

Fri 2 Dec Laying up Lunch and AGM Fowey Gallants

Feb 23 Winter Meeting Fowey Gallants

April 23 Fitting Out Lunch Fowey Gallants

# From The Poop Deck

## Presidential Ponderings

### Paul Jolley

Having served on the area committee for South West Gaffers for eight years and been your President for the best part of five years, it is time for me to move on. We now need some fresh blood to join the committee and for a new President to take over the tiller. Being your President has been rewarding, getting involved with the management of the area and being on the national Association Committee. With the support of two secretaries, past and present, members of the committee and others, we have moved forward with increased membership and greater attendance at area events than in the past.

Many of you recall our annual race and rally dwindling down to six boats, moving the event to Plymouth has proved successful with over twenty boats attending for the first time.

Our Helford Rally for small boats has always proved well attended and numbers attending seem to be recovering from the effect of Lockdown if last year's event is anything to go by.

The Helford Rally is always a popular event, and we must thank Don Garman and Pauline for arranging this very popular event over the last few years, which will remain a feature of our calendar although Don is standing down as the organiser.

The area was instrumental in getting the annual national AGM out of London to make it more accessible and inclusive. With the assistance of Bristol Channel area, we held the first AGM for many years outside London at Bristol and achieved the best attendance ever.

Plymouth has been designated as one of the Party Ports for the OGA60 Round Britain Challenge. John Gallagher and his team are working hard organising this to ensure that it will be a memorable event highlighting South West Gaffers and Plymouth as an historic port.

During 2023 South West Gaffers will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary which will be celebrated at our next Plymouth Rally. Your committee would welcome any suggestions to make the next rally a memorable fiftieth birthday party.

I would like to thank all the members for supporting me over the past few years as President. However, it would be good if more members would come forward to assist with the running of the area. Your area committee is dwindling over time and badly needs some new volunteers. Please do consider joining your committee, which as well as being social and satisfying, enables you to influence the way the area is run and contribute to national policy.

**Paul Jolley,**

**Past President.**

## **Secretarial Scantlings**

### **Tim Price**

Most of the current issues facing the SW Gaffers will be discussed at the AGM which coincides with the release of this issue of Dogwatch and therefore I do not intend to cover them here. They will be reported on in the AGM minutes after the event.

This past quarter has continued to be as busy as always with some very benign sailing conditions. Although both the Dartmouth Regatta and Brixham Heritage Rally are not OGA events they always attract a number of Gaffers and the Dartmouth Gaffer event is set up specifically to accommodate Gaffers. I am therefore very grateful to Penny Jolley and also Gil and Carolyn Hayward for all their hard work in running the events.

I am also very Grateful to Don Garman for arranging the excellent lunch and talk at Mylor on the Leeward Column. This was Don's last event as Cornwall representative and he must be thanked for all his work over the years to provide interesting, stimulating and gastronomic events.

I should also reiterate my thanks to Mark Turner for pretty much singlehandedly managing to promote SW Gaffers and the OGA on the global stage. In addition, the What'sApp sites have become a really useful mechanism for bringing people together and passing useful information, tips and techniques.

Finally I must also reiterate my thanks to Nick Fox for his time editing your Dogwatch. This will be his last edition and will be a hard act to follow.

### **Tim Price**

### **Area Secretary**

# Recent Events

## Dartmouth Regatta Gaffer Races 27 - 28 August 2022

### [Gil Hayward](#)

There was a time when Dartmouth Regatta featured in the diary of all Gaffer sailors with trophies to match. "Kelpie", "Dorothy", "Muriel" were sights to behold. Sadly, they no longer take part. At least one of them is currently for sale.

However, traditional gaffers are still very ably represented by Peter Lucas in "Cynthia". Peter's acquisition and subsequent major refit (which took 6 years) was featured in the July 2019 issue of 'Classic Boat' and shows the effort which has gone into giving this classic (she was built in Falmouth in 1910) a new lease of life. As mentioned in the article "Cynthia" is now a familiar site



Crew of "Mary Hay" (Photo Jack Davies)

at all South West Gaffer events, often just at the start, as she powers away and her transom disappears into the far distance.

It was also good to see some new boats this year. Mark Turner's Yealm Crabber, "Flirt" led the Cornish Crabbers home. Different Shrimpers turned out on each day. "Little Tern", now owned by Dave Dickens is a lovely looking traditional gaffer, beautifully built by Peter Nash.

For some years, Gaffer Events at Dartmouth Regatta have only attracted a handful of entrants whilst the main event has 90+ entries. The Gaffer Series has been reduced to 2 days over the weekend and a course to keep the boats away from the main fleet. The course is set the day before depending on the predicted weather conditions. There is

a 15 minute window for a self-timed start. The declaration submitted confirms the rounding time of the various marks on the course and the finish. The course boat "Bravo" keeps a watchful eye.

The course for Saturday's race stated "Please note that light winds are forecast and the course may be shortened at Mark 3 Castle Ledge...." This did not bode well and so it was a pleasant surprise that a gentle north easterly breeze allowed the fleet to cross the

start line of Blackstone Point Transit using the Castle Ledge buoy as the outer distance mark. The windward mark was the East Blackstone rock and once this was rounded the course was downwind with a favourable tide. The leading boats "Cynthia" and "Mary Hay" completed the course in 1 hour 8 minutes and 1 hour 20 minutes respectively. However, the rest of the fleet found it more difficult to make East Blackstone with a dying breeze and "Flirt" and "Mischief" (a Crabber 22) took 1 hour 51 minutes and 2 hours 33 minutes respectively to finish. The remaining boats sadly had to retire. On application of the handicap "Mary Hay" beat "Cynthia" by just under 3 minutes.

Sunday promised a moderate easterly breeze and there was the usual wind v tide swell at

the entrance to the River Dart. A longer course had been set and the White Sail cruiser fleet, which shared the same course had started 15 minutes earlier.

"Dilly" a new Shrimper 21 led the fleet over the start line pursued by "Mary Hay" and "Cynthia". The beat up to East Blackstone rock proved a challenge for many of the gaffers and surprisingly "Mary Hay" managed to keep "Cynthia" astern round the course until the final leeward mark off Stoke Fleming when she took the lead and finished just under three and a half minutes ahead. Both boats had overhauled the back marker of the White Sail fleet. Handicaps are always controversial but no one could deny "Mary Hay" had a good



"Flirt" off Dartmouth (Photo Jack Davies)

their 2 eldest grandsons, Jack (17) & Adam (14) crewing for them. They both enjoyed it and wanted to know the date for next year!

The Cornish Crabbers fleet comprising a Shrimper 21 ("Dilly"), a Crabber 22 ("Mischief") and a Crabber 26 ("Vagrant Gypsy") would have preferred less windward work but all managed to finish between about one and two hours after "Cynthia". This probably proves that no handicap system will ever work with such a diverse gaffer fleet.

However, Dartmouth Regatta has a long tradition, is quite a spectacle and it's great to be part of it. A good excuse for a couple of days' sailing in company in a glorious location. The 2023 Dartmouth Regatta "Gaffer Event" is on 26 & 27 August.

"Cynthia" in Dartmouth Regatta (Photo Carolyn Hayward)

result in the prevailing conditions on Sunday. Gil and Carolyn were delighted as they had

## Brixham Heritage Rally 2022

23 Sep 2022

### Penny Jolley

Twelve boats came together from 23rd to 25th September in Brixham for our now traditional end of season get together. Gaff Rig Association boats came from Dartmouth ("Little Tern" and "Cynthia"), Dittisham ("Mischief") and Brixham ("Minx") to complement local boats and classic yachts from Exmouth and points west – "Amnesia", "Escape", "Fly", "Isobel", "Joker", "Lexia", "Maid of Shannon", "Mary Flora" and "Tamarind". Friday gave them all a good passage and then a fair evening on the pontoon, followed by a lively get together at Brixham Yacht Club, exchanging tales of summer sailing and remembering the warmth of that summer's heat and the return of cross Channel passages.



Minx (Photo Penny Jolley)

A gusty day on Saturday for the Rally with a steady northerly wind accompanied at first by some spectacular clouds followed by beautiful late afternoon sunshine giving the photographers some superb shots (on the Brixham Heritage Regatta Website). The Rally Officer, Richard Spreckley, set an excellent course reaching out towards Berry Head, then towards the Orestone when the wind

obligingly picked up a bit of westerly, followed by a lovely broad reach down towards Churstone. The informality of the event was soon usurped by the inevitability of boats enjoying the challenge of being out on the water together; just two classes, the four larger yachts (over 40') and then the remainder of the fleet started 10 minutes later. Some skippers had neglected to listen in to the skippers' briefing on Channel 8 and headed off on what is the 'usual' course; their realisation and subsequent manoeuvres puzzled the rest of the fleet, especially as one of them was "Cynthia" who we usually rely on to lead us round the course!



Cynthia (Photo Penny Jolley)

"Cynthia" somehow managed to get out into the lead, with "Isobel" and "Mischief" chasing her, closely followed by "Minx" and "Lexia". It was a particular joy to see "Mary Flora" back participating with her new foresail and not undertaking duty as committee boat as so often with club racing.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the event such a success: the Regatta committee, the BYC staff and chef, and the BHR bosun out on the RIB as safety boat.

Just in case you've already got your 2023 diaries do put in the date of the Heritage Regatta, 27th and 28th May – and Rally 16th September.

## SW OGA Gathering in Cornwall October 2022

### Don Garman

On the 29th October, twenty-seven members of South West Gaffers enjoyed a sociable lunch at Castaways Bistro, Mylor before transferring to the excellent presentational facilities provided by Mylor Yacht Club. Almost a week after Trafalgar Day, Jan Pentreath was to give a very well researched talk entitled "Trafalgar – The Leeward Column".

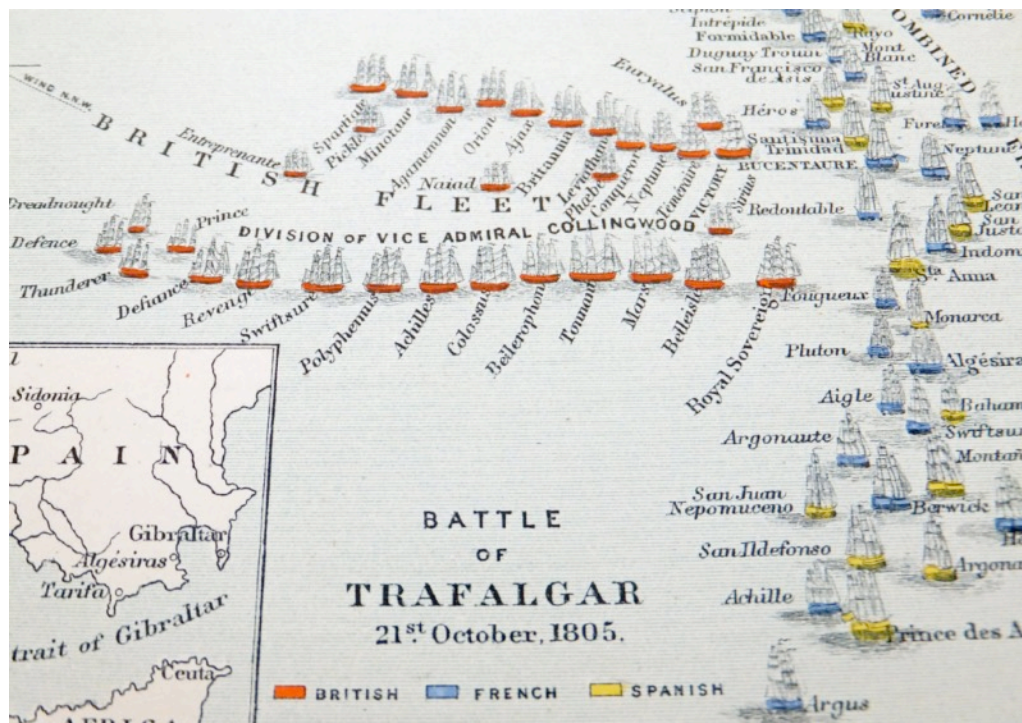
The French and Spanish fleets were holed up in Cadiz and under pressure from Napoleon to escape the blockade and head south. Pressed by the British and the impact of a squall, they were unfortunately too close inshore and thus headed north. Outgunned (the French and Spanish fleet was 33 vessels compared to the British with 27), Nelson decided not to employ the traditional tactic of sailing parallel but to split the opposing fleet by forming two columns to approach at 90 degrees. The strategy avoided much of the enemy's fire and reduced the hand to hand fighting. The objective on both sides was not to sink ships but to take them as prizes.

had been posted elsewhere by the time of the battle. Pellew liked to enlist Cornish crew and at the time of Trafalgar, this 80 gun third rate ship, had 52 Cornish and 59 Devonian crew. The Tonnant was successful in gaining the surrender of three vessels but owing to the storm which followed the battle she was unable to get any of the prizes to port. Damaged herself she was towed towards Gibraltar, but was thought lost when the tow broke. The resourceful crew repaired the rudder and established a jury rig which enabled her to make Gibraltar.

One of the crew on board was a Mousehole man, one of Jan's grandfathers, who received some prize money from being on board the Tonnant. The family connection provided the impetus to research the battle, the leeward column and HMS Tonnant's involvement. He has yet to discover whether his relation rose from able seaman to bosun as his nickname of the "Fighting Bosun" suggests.

After 9 years as the Cornish representative for South West Gaffers, following an arm twisting at the Cowes 50th anniversary gathering, I am retiring, this was my last event. In addition to the Helford rallies we have had a variety of talks and visits in

Cornwall. I would like to thank members who have given their support to all of the events and trust they were enjoyable, informative and interesting. Pauline and I look forward to being participants in the future.



Nelson, in Victory, led the windward column, whilst Admiral Collingwood led the leeward column. One of the ships in this group was the HMS Tonnant, a former prize ship, which had been captured from the French at the Battle of the Nile in 1792. Her Captain for some years had been Edward Pellew who was educated at Truro Grammar School, but he

# RBC 60 Plymouth Stopover

## RBC 60 The Plymouth Event

[John Gallagher](#), Mike Forwood and David Bewick

**(RBC Organising Group, Liaison Jonathan Bryce )**

The Round Britain Circumnavigation (RBC) starts on 27th April at Ramsgate. The fleet will sail to the first 'Party Port' Cowes for the 6 - 7th May. The next will be in Plymouth for Wednesday 10 – 11th May with the fleet moving off on 12th to Milford Haven for 20 – 21st May. Then it's away to Dublin, Oban, Portsay, Arbroath, Blyth and finishing on 3 – 6th August on the river Orwell at Ipswich and Levington for a grand four day long Jubilee celebration party.

Our task is to look after the fleet as it gets to the South West and host them in style when it reaches Plymouth. We plan to give them an interesting and entertaining time and make their visit a memorable event.

We have managed to secure free berthing in Sutton Harbour which is in an historic part of what was left of "Old Plymouth". The harbour has a lock entry but entering at free flow, between 1.5 to 2 hours either side of high water is recommended. Berthing will be in the pool at the Custom House end of the harbour. We will arrange for a rib to help guide the boats. Nearby is the club house of the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club ( RPYC ) which we have arranged to act as a base for registration of boats. It's a cosy club run by volunteers with a bar downstairs and a fine lounge upstairs.

We hope a goodly number of South West boats will join the event and ask that all boats be dressed overall to make a show. We plan to have media coverage of the event.

On the first evening we have arranged for a tour followed by a meal in the National Marine Aquarium with tables set out in front of the main aquarium. This is the largest in the country. It is run by the Ocean Conservation Trust and is involved in marine conservation work involving a variety of

conservation and marine pollution research projects.

The Plymouth Tourist Board has been most helpful with guidance on the wide variety of walks, boat trips and places for crews to visit. We have already booked tours of the famed Plymouth Gin Distillery and plan visits to Plymouth's Museum, "The Box" which houses some lively and fascinating displays including a large collection of figure heads. We are in the process of formulating a fuller programme of information and entertainment for all the crews.

On the second evening we have arranged for a meal and entertainment by the locally renowned Calstock Rubber Band. This will be upstairs at the Pier Masters House, previously the emigration office for migrants mostly fleeing poverty to start new lives in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South East Asia or South America.

The fleet will set sail, weather permitting, on Friday morning. We hope a flotilla of South West Gaffer boats will accompany them.

*(There will be opportunities to be crew on some or all of the SW OGA participating boats, please wait for further details. - Editor)*

# From our Members

## The Center for Wooden Boats, Seattle WA

### Mark Turner

I visit Seattle on the west coast of America once in a while for work but on a 24 hour turnaround rarely have time to enjoy the city, which as with Vancouver just over the border in Canada is usually wet with rain anyway. The city's famous wooden boat museum was quite so close, about a mile North of downtown Seattle at the southern end of Lake Union, co-located with the seaplane terminal for some plane spotting and the Museum of History and Industry.



The Boat Museum (Photo Mark Turner)

Founded in 1976 by Dick Wagner who had been renting his growing collection of small wooden boats from his houseboat, the centre is a 'living' museum, very much set up to use exhibits not just admire them. Education was the main motivation and a hands on experience. I guess similar to the new museum on Windermere where boats gather weed not dust, dare I say it a very different approach to the National Maritime Museum in Falmouth where historic retired exhibits gaze longingly at the water outside. The centre has expanded accommodation over the years, the

original house boat remains as an office and function room, there are also other floating workshops and a new shore based building which houses a large workshop, offices, lecture space and shop alongside many interesting wooden boats, all rowed or masted. A model boating pond sees regular small scale sailing, a fleet of full-size Wayfarer type dinghies are used for teaching sailing and a collection of rowing boats can be booked in advance on line for free sessions out on the lake - avoiding landing or departing de Havilland Beaver float planes! Most exhibits are floating and obviously used regularly, bright work is generally dull work and maintenance is always being carried out which is interesting to watch and discuss. When I was there the fleet of pram Mirror type rowing boats were being overhauled for the summer and the work could be viewed from a visitor gallery overhead or literally alongside in the floating boat shed on the lake.

It's a very mellow place, not large and not busy either on the weekday I was there and staffed with enthusiastic volunteers happy to stop work, chat and compare notes.

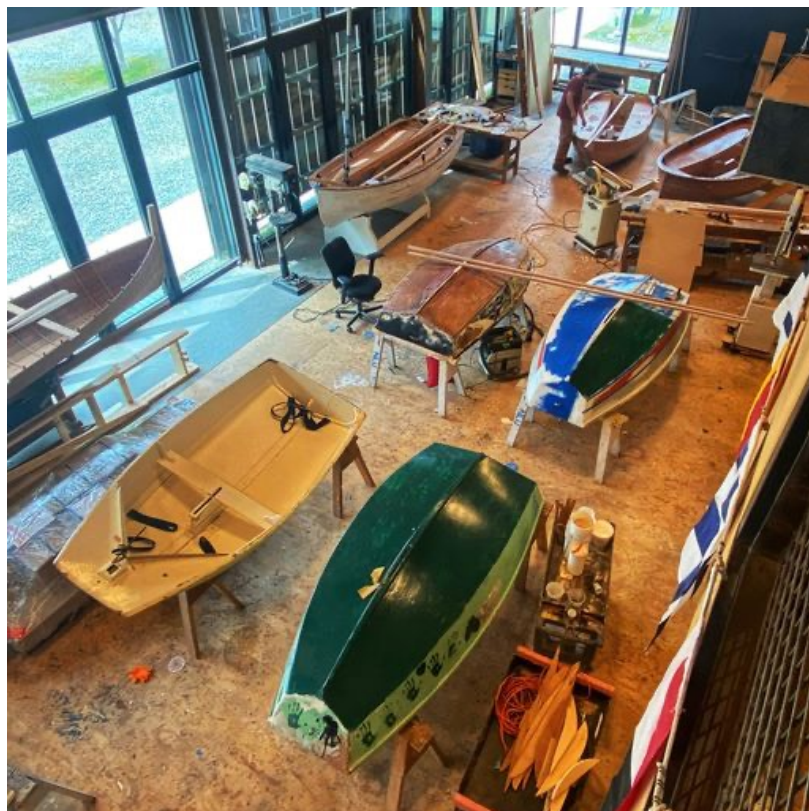


Wooden Boats for Hire (Photo Mark Turner)

It's interesting how North American designs and detailing are subtly different to European designs, perhaps due to an earlier exploitation of plywood than in the UK - a lot less clinker! Pronounced sheer lines, pointy ends and sometimes arguably ugly basic detailing that is functional but lacks constructional aesthetics with which we are so spoiled in the UK.

The timber framed architecture of the structures complements the floating collection and I had no problem spending the best part of a morning wandering around taking photographs of buildings and boats alike. Lunch next door at the industrial museum next door was followed by the free use of the rowing skiff I'd booked before my visit. An ideal platform to enjoy the sunshine and dodging seaplanes on the lake for an hour in the afternoon. An altogether enjoyable day out.

The centre has a dynamic programme of events - lectures, land and water based courses for all ages and experience. Every year a regatta on the lake



Work in Progress (Photo Mark Turner)

I guess the float planes are then out numbered.



More Wooden Boats! (Photo Mark Turner)

in September celebrates wooden and non-wooden versions of classic designs with many visiting boats creating a vibrant spectacle on the lake.

It's refreshing to find a museum who aren't precious about their collection and are enthusiastic for all ages of visitors, realising that investing in the future with children, will as with planting an acorn, potentially grow a mighty future. Their instagram feed is busy and highlights their enthusiasm for embracing modern marketing of traditional craft. UK boat building colleges and marine museums could do well to study how successful this small centre is at promoting traditional boats.

Well worth a visit if you are ever that way and not far from Port Townsend which as the North American mecca for wooden boat lovers is next on my list!

<https://www.cwb.org>

Instagram: [centerforwoodenboats](https://www.instagram.com/centerforwoodenboats)

View more photos from my visit here:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dg1i86v1af64s3t/AADjgbxZbukUy6gKRyqdPMj\\_a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dg1i86v1af64s3t/AADjgbxZbukUy6gKRyqdPMj_a?dl=0)

# New Members in the South West

## Mark Cann Arro

Mark Cann has recently joined the SW OGA and owns "Arro". In 1997, he started building her as a stretched Falmouth working boat built using the Canadian folded method, using 5mm steel. Despite construction in a leaky shed in Porkellis, Mark is very proud to be able to say that she is Martin Heard approved. Throughout the build, he helped with advice and after being launched at Tregathreth he rigged her.



Arro (Photo Mark Cann)

The maiden voyage was to DZ2006 sailing in tandem with the Looe lugger, "Eileen" (my wife's boat). Further trips to Ireland and the Scillies have been enjoyed aboard. She has also been home for a couple of years while building our barge "Mystery 2".

Currently "Arro" is on a mooring off Flushing.

## Mick King

Mick is an ex-East Coast member having moved down to Torquay three and a half years ago and I've been motor-boating from the MDL Marina since then.

However the call of sail got me and he has bought Rob Brown's Memory 19, "Heron", which will be berthed at Torquay and I hope to take part in one or two events next year.

Previously on the East Coast I had "Ella Rose", a McMillan/Spirit with a gaff rig by

Mark Butler of Jimmy Lawrence Sails, a beautiful but slow boat so I then had Salterns upgrade an old Liverpool Boat Memory 19, "Baldrick", which was a lot faster!

I'm looking forward to sailing the bay and exploring The Dart next year.



Mick King on Heron (Photo Mick King)

The SW OGA also welcomes four other New Members: Paul Musgrove & Joel and Anouchka (Peacock), Andy Garratt and Philip Davies

## **A Tribute to Cathy Danby**

### **3 April 1952 to 2 September 2022.**

Cathy was born in Exmouth on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1952 the daughter of Geoff and Kathleen Barrett. She first met Chris in 1969 and on their first date he wined and dined her in the Costa Brava restaurant in Minehead. As it was so expensive Chris even kept the Bill. he says purely for sentimental reasons and it proudly hangs on the wall at home. It was for £3 8s 6d which included starters, mains, coffee and a bottle of Rosé wine. He claimed he did not know she was only 17!. As the wine was in an attractive earthenware bottle Cathy kept it and it still has pride of place on a windowsill at home. They married in 1971 at the Church in Watchet where her funeral was held. James their son was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1976 and due to his handicap Cathy became a full time carer, housewife and wonderful mother. Then on the day of their wedding anniversary on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1981 Cathy gave birth to their daughter Laura.



Cathy and Chris Danby (Photo Danby Family)

It was soon after James was born that Chris started his travels for The English Electric Company first South Korea, later China, and then most of Europe and finally spending many weeks in Paris as the Company had by then become French owned. Cathy enjoyed meeting colleagues from home and abroad that Chris worked with cooking amazing food.

On one occasion she entertained a group of Chinese colleagues Chris had worked with in China for what was their first ever four course meal with the full array of cutlery and English etiquette of eating. The translator had his work cut out that evening. She enjoyed every moment of these occasions and Chris loved to involve her as much as possible in his working life.

The family moved back to Watchet in 2003 to their current home and around this time purchased "Ester" an Oysterman 22 gaff cutter which Cathy turned her hand to immediately and they sailed together in her extensively in the Bristol Channel and then out of Plymouth where they moored *Ester* for the last twelve years. She loved the freedom of sailing, and particularly the wildlife (birds, dolphins, sun fish and even basking sharks). Most of all she loved the social life making many good friends and enjoying the odd glass of wine aboard as in the picture above. They came along to virtually all the SW

Gaffers events and meetings and always to Plymouth Classics.

This year Cathy celebrated two milestones in her life her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary. Cathy enjoyed the first in April with Laura and Chris and for their Anniversary they kept their long-held tradition which started on honeymoon, of eating a tub of handpicked white crab meat spooned up with crisps and washed down with Crème du Loir or possibly champagne.

With Cathy's wonderful smile, sense of humour and kind nature she was loved

by many and will be sorely missed.

*Provided by John Gallagher*

# OGA Merchandise

## 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](mailto: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 (even off a screen *Ed*). 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](mailto:socialmedia@southwestgaffers.org.uk)

## Social media update

### Mark Turner

#### Instagram



Our Instagram following continues to grow and in late November, we had over 400 followers from all over the world. Thanks to all who have contributed photos this year, it's been great to showcase our activities and we've had a number of new memberships taken out as a result.

As we switch to the winter fettling season, please keep your workshop/boatyard photos coming via the On Shore WhatsApp group. I like to make a couple of posts every week and I'm running short of other member's material.

#### WhatsApp groups.



These are working well but I'm surprised we have so few members involved - less than 30 in each group. An older demographic may be a factor, but elsewhere, WhatsApp groups are the norm for group

chats and fulfil a very useful role for grass roots communications and community.

We've had a few resignations from the groups of late, perhaps due to lack of interest in subject matter or perhaps due to interruption or distraction. Please don't leave the group, there are two easy options to silence messages.

Swipe left and select 'Archive' to literally archive the conversation to return to at your leisure or click the group header and then select 'Mute' to select how long you silence the feed. Both options work well if you're tiring of chatter irrelevant to your interest.

For some reason the On Shore group has less members than the At Sea group although the former is designed for general social chat and in my experience is extremely effective for seeking help and advice. For instance, within minutes of posting a request for help on a trailered boat purchase from the Isle of Mull, Malcolm Goram who I'd never met had volunteered to come along. We had a great time and a new friendship as made - exactly

what I wish to get out of membership of the OGA.

As a result of the long discussions, Malcolm and I had on our epic drive, I'm going to suggest that the OGA themselves endorse a nationwide WhatsApp group for small boat trailer sailers. Such a group by definition doesn't need to be regional and will go some way towards addressing the demise of the Trailer Section. If the group interests you, watch this space, it's a very easy thing to set up and for trailer sailers to compare notes and request info on planned destinations.

#### OGA website

I think as the OGA turns 60 we do need to consider what its purpose is and as well as championing ALL traditional sailing craft I believe fostering friendships with like minds both local and distant seems a very appropriate and important role.

As such, I've been discussing a tweak to the online OGA boat directory run by Julian Cable. It addresses my and others concerns for data privacy in the outdated year book and utilises the secure logged in member facility to search the database for a location for boats or members. Great for discovering which other OGA members use your river or harbour or for finding out who lives nearby. As with boat enquiries, communication will be by email relying on the receiver to respond thus safeguarding privacy. Such a feature will increase a sense of community within local groups but also allow visitors to another area to seek advice on moorings, slipways or indeed local feedback on a distant boat that is for sale.

I'll be proposing the change to the OGA's executive prior to the National AGM and I hope that you, a very disparate membership with common interests share my thoughts that we should foster community at all levels of sailing ability, budget and interest.

If you're stuck with any aspect of social media (other than Facebook which I don't use), please don't hesitate to contact me for assistance.

# Programme of Events

## South West Gaffers

2023

| Date        | EVENT                                       | SWG       | Location       |                                                                                          | Contact      |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Feb         | Winter supper/lunch meeting Talk?           | SWG       | FGSC           | <a href="mailto:events@southwestgaffers.org.uk">events@southwestgaffers.org.uk</a>       | Rob Brown    |
| April       | Fitting Out lunch - Talk?                   | SWG       | FGSC           | <a href="mailto:events@southwestgaffers.org.uk">events@southwestgaffers.org.uk</a>       | Rob Brown    |
| April 27-29 | RBC60 Ramsgate                              | EC + OGA  | Ramsgate       |                                                                                          |              |
| May 10-12   | RBC60 Plymouth stop over                    | SWG + OGA | Sutton Harbour | <a href="mailto:michaeljforwood1@gmail.com">michaeljforwood1@gmail.com</a>               | Mike Forwood |
| May 27 -28  | Brixham Heritage Rally                      |           | Brixham        | <a href="http://brixhamheritageregatta.uk/">http://brixhamheritageregatta.uk/</a>        | Penny Jolley |
| June 17 -19 | Falmouth Classics                           |           | Falmouth       | <a href="https://www.falmouthclassics.org.uk/">https://www.falmouthclassics.org.uk/</a>  |              |
| Jun 20      | Helford Rally                               | SWG       | Helford        | <a href="mailto:secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk">secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk</a> | Tim Price    |
| June 26-28  | Plymouth Rally and 50th Celebrations        | SWG       | QAB            | <a href="mailto:events@southwestgaffers.org.uk">events@southwestgaffers.org.uk</a>       | Rob Brown    |
| July        | Fowey Classics                              |           | Fowey          | <a href="mailto:foweyclassics@gmail.com">foweyclassics@gmail.com</a>                     | Karen Toms   |
| August 2-6  | RBC60 Finish Party Ipswich                  | EC + OGA  | Ipswich        |                                                                                          |              |
| Aug 11, 13  | River Dart Rally including 'Ditsum Regatta' | SWG       | SWG            | <a href="mailto:wearesailing@hotmail.com">wearesailing@hotmail.com</a>                   | Gil Hayward  |
| Aug 15- 18  | Falmouth Tall ships                         |           | Falmouth       |                                                                                          |              |
| Aug 26, 27  | Gaffer Races at Dartmouth Royal Regatta     | JRSC      | Dartmouth      | <a href="http://www.dartmouthsailingweek.com">www.dartmouthsailingweek.com</a>           |              |
| Sep 16      | Brixham Heritage Rally                      |           | Brixham        | <a href="http://brixhamheritageregatta.uk/">http://brixhamheritageregatta.uk/</a>        | Penny Jolley |