

SWG Secretary's Report for AGM Jan 2022.

The early part of the year saw 2 Zoom talks By Mike and Susie Phillips and Vic Love. Albeit the live audience for both was fairly low, Tom Tit's journey has been watched 107 times on the SW Gaffers youtube channel which highlights the value of the Zoom / youtube combination. As a result we decided to cancel our Zoom subscription and will limit talks to 40 minutes. We also had a talk at Fowey on the Troy Story by Marcus Lewis, a Fowey boatbuilder who, between 2003 and 2022, managed to get 6 new Troys built. During Lockdown in 2020 he started work on, and then relaunched, Barbara. The renovation won a classic boat award 2022. <https://awards.classicboat.co.uk/restoration-of-the-year-under-40ft/>. We also held a fitting out lunch accompanied by a talk By Colin Bower on painting lighthouses.

Once the sailing season commenced we saw 10 Gaffers at the Brixham Heritage Regatta and a large number of Gaffers at the Falmouth Classics. In spite of some very strong conditions on the Saturday; which were described as challenging and causing some races being cancelled, the event was described as a fantastic classics. The Helford Rally followed and saw a variety of visits, dingy races and barbecues on top of the main racing event. It was Don Garman's last sailing event as SW Gaffer's Cornwall representative and was awarded the accolade of "the best ever".

The Plymouth event saw 14 boats entering and a strong representation appeared at the Fowey Classics. The season continued with DITSUM (the River Dart Rally) and then the Gaffer event at the Dartmouth Regatta. The final congregation of the year was the Brixham Heritage Rally, after which some Gaffers started lifting out at season's end.

A significant boon this year has been the What'sApp uptake on both our at sea and on shore sites. This has been accompanied by feed to the SW Gaffers Instagram which has given us a much wider impact on social media. The WhatsApp account is strongly recommended as a medium for bringing members together. On a separate initiative, Mark Turner, working with Julian Cable, has recommended a method of using the boat register as a means of linking members without breaching GDPR rules. This would benefit all areas and is to be encouraged.

Our final issue to report is the paucity of volunteers to undertake committee roles. Part of the problem is our demographic which brings too many aged members into the organisation and a lack of the younger element who may have the enthusiasm even if not necessarily the time. The result is that our President's role is currently unfilled.

Looking Forward

2023 provisional dates in the SW area so far are:

- a. RBC 60 Plymouth Event 10/12 May.
- b. Brixham Heritage Regatta 27/28 May.
- c. Falmouth Classics 16/18 June followed by the Helford Rally 19/20 June
- d. SW Gaffers Plymouth Classics Festival 26/27 June.
- e. Fowey Classics – TBC July.
- f. Dittisham Rally 11/13 Aug.
- g. Dartmouth Royal Regatta and Gaffers races 26/27 Aug
- h. Brixham Heritage Rally 16 Sep.

Tim Price - Secretary.