



Report for ACM Jan 2024

The North West Area includes the Lake District, the Isle of Man and the eastern Irish Sea Coast. The Lake District is important for small boats nationally, whilst the Irish Sea is a shared cruising area with the North Wales Area.

The Region has had a successful year. As a result of putting on more activity, having a greater presence in the area and sending out newsletters we have recruited more members. With 12 new memberships in 2023, we have increased membership by more than a third.

The following events were held during the year.

- a) North West AGM and a talk about Swallows and Amazon boats – March
- b) Arnside Classic Boat Regatta – June
- c) Ullswater OGA 60 Small Boats Rally - August
- d) South Windermere Old Gaffers Regatta – September
- e) Crossfield's Conference, Arnside - November

Separately from the OGA, a traditional boat festival was held at Peel on the Isle of Man and a tall ships event was held in Barrow-in-Furness, which has the potential to become a major traditional boat festival in the future.

The Ullswater and South Windermere events attracted boats from outside the North West. For example, 6 of the 13 boats at the Ullswater event were from outside the region. As a result of holding the Ullswater event there, we attracted two new members from Ullswater Yacht Club.

In 2024 we plan repeating the Ullswater event and adding a rally based at Windermere Jetties Museum. These events will be aimed at small boat owners nationally as well as North West members. We hope by putting on these events, we will recruit more members from the Lake District.

As well as small boat events, we would like to do more for members with larger sea going boats. A number of area members are involved in setting up a Morecambe Bay Prawner Trust Charity to buy, maintain and sail 'Spray', a 32 foot long Morecambe Bay Prawner built in 1896. The NOA Classic Boats Association are restoring 'Pride of Liverpool' and Arnside Sailing Club a Royal Mersey Rivers Class yacht 'Severn'. All three projects should provide opportunities for people who do not own their own boat to sail gaff rig boats in the sea.

We are hopeful of another successful year in 2024.