

East Coast Area Report 2023 for ACM Liverpool January 13th 2024

This year was very busy on the East Coast with the planning of the OGA 60th Jubilee Party celebrations taking a huge amount of time and effort from all concerned. A separate Jubilee Party Committee was formed to facilitate the organisation and we acknowledge the work of the committee and all our sponsors, supporters, and volunteers on the ground who made the event possible and of course the participants who made the event such a success.

A good number of East Coast members attended the National AGM at Portsmouth which featured a very interesting and enjoyable social programme in addition to the actual AGM. East coast members acquitted themselves very well in the National Awards with Poppy Curtis winning the Alan Hidden Trophy, Gus Curtis the President's Commendation, Ellie Rule, Steve & Beverley Daley-Yates winning Gaffers Tales Awards, while in the photography competition Tony Pickering won second prize, with Josh Masters, Paul Masters and Rob Hart all being highly commended.

February brought a social gathering to Woodbridge, where Claudia Myatt gave a fascinating talk about her Antarctic & Southern Ocean Adventures, then in April we had the ever-popular Burnham Dinner thanks as always to the efforts of Elaine & Trevor Rawlinson.

The last weekend of April the Ramsgate gathering sent off the Round Britain fleet, which included 5 East Coast boats and thanks must go to Robert & Jan Holden for organising such a successful event.

In May & June the small boat fleet was treated to windy Tollesbury and Swallows & Amazons events.

The OGA Jubilee Party weekend must have broken all East Coast OGA records for wind and rain at a single event but despite this and from the feedback we have received all attendees had a good time.

A special thanks must be due to Claudia Myatt & Sue Pennison for adding extra art and rope workshops to entertain those stranded ashore and to Haven Ports Yacht Club for opening and manning the Lightship bar all day on the wet and windy Saturday.

The 2023 Summer Cruise followed on from the Jubilee Party and headed south after a perfect evening at Stone Point with a very windy and rough beat, up The Wallet to West Mersea before heading to Chatham. A special mention must be made to the group of our younger members who stepped up and formed a subcommittee to organise the cruise, relieving Clare Thomas and the main committee of this responsibility. They have volunteered to organise the 2024 event; we are very proud to see the younger generation taking over with such enthusiasm.

As a follow up to the Jubilee celebrations our committee met to review the event, look at lessons learned and areas where we could identify room for improvement in future large events. Inevitably we did find some aspects which could have been improved (in addition to the weather) but overall, the conclusion was that feedback received had been very positive.

The OGA sailing events were rounded off for the season by the Slaughden rally and for some a trip to the Netherlands for the annual small boat event at Reeuwijk.

The East Coast AGM held at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club on the 4th of November saw a major change of the East Coast Committee with President Robert Hill 9 years, Area Secretary Lorna Hill 9 years, Treasurer Clare Thomas 16 years and Pete Thomas (a committee member of more than 20 years and former EC President) all standing down.

The AGM elected the following Officers - Area President Paul Masters, Area Secretary & Vice President Pete Elliston (PTK), Area Treasurer Yvonne Graham. We also welcomed to the EC Committee Nick Philips who did such a fantastic job with various printed publications for the OGA 60

events. Nick joins new committee member Sarah Adie and Beverly Daley Yates EC Editor who make up the Communications and Online Team. This team have already started a revamp of the EC Area web pages.

Looking ahead to 2024 the EC Committee were planning a quieter year, but a full and varied programme with some new events and ideas is being finalised see the following link.

https://www.oga.org.uk/areas/east_coast/east_coast_events.html

New events include an Aquatic First Aid Course on 20th January (delivered at cost) and a special invite (FOC) to all 2023 East Coast new members (40) to our final winter talk – Tugs & Pilots on the 24th February. This talk and all our events are open to all OGA Members.

We are particularly looking forward to hosting the postponed Teamac Gaffling 4.1 Championships on the River Deben 25th – 27th May. There will also be a small boat event at the Deben Rally the same weekend.

The EC Committee are actively working at how we can engage and communicate better with all EC members and especially our new members.

All the areas and the members are the beating heart and life blood of the Association, and it is vital we deliver better, more relevant, and targeted communication in all its forms to all our members.

As an area we are looking to actively support the Young Gaffer (under 35) initiative being headed up by Georgina Tall (Solent) and have provided a grant for 6 of the EC Young Gaffers to attend the National AGM in Liverpool.

The Young Gaffers are the future of the association, and we should be focusing our energy and resources on ensuring they are encouraged to join and take an active role in the Association both at an Area and National level.

EC Area President Paul Masters and EC Area Secretary & Vice President Peter Elliston

January 2024