

OGA

EAST COAST GAFFERS

EASTCOASTER

Newsletter of the East Coast OGA



This issue includes reports from both the Area AGM and Association AGM held in Liverpool. East Coast Gaffers were awarded with several national trophies and were very successful in the Photography Competition.

Your new Committee, formed in November after the Area AGM introduces themselves at the end of this issue.

Mervyn Maggs has penned a review of a Maritime Museum and suggests we should do more to promote and support these establishments. If you have a favourite Museum, please send a review for us to publish and share!

We bring three more featured boats, including a Bermudan classic. Please nominate boats you'd like to see here in future.

Overleaf is a summary of dates for 2024. Look out for email notifications when booking opens. There are also reports from the first two Winter events. If you attend an event, please think about taking some photos and sending your Editor a few words to share. Thankyou to all Eastcoaster contributors, the Newsletter could not exist without you!

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2024 events

Plans for 2024 have now been published.
Put the dates in your diary now and keep an eye on the Events page of the website for full details & booking:
www.oga.org.uk/areas/east_coast/east_coast_events.html

Saturday, 9 March: ECOGA Annual Dinner Royal Burnham YC

25 – 27 May: Deben Rally & Cherub Centenary

A three-day event in collaboration with Woodbridge Boatyard on the River Deben, Waldringfield. The event incorporates the postponed Teamac Gaffling 4.1 Championships and Deben Cherub Centenary.

7 – 9 June: Swallows & Amazons

Our premier open boat event for everyone! Join us again at the Walton & Frinton Yacht Club to race around the Island and explore the Backwaters.

28 - 30 June: Southwold Rally

This event will incorporate Southwold Sailing Club's 75th anniversary.

Saturday, 27 July: East Coast Race

The East Coast Race returns to Stone Sailing Club on The Blackwater, offering great sailing in the river and approaches.

3 – 17 August: Netherlands Anniversary Tour

Several East Coast Gaffers have already signed up to join the Dutch OGA as they celebrate their 20th Anniversary. Starting in Hellevoetsluis the event will end in Enkhuizen. Find details and how to register interest here:
www.eastcoastgaffers.org.uk/nl20-invitation/

24 - 26 August, River Stour Rally

Sail up the Stour for a rally taking in Wrabness, Mistley Quay, possibly even Manningtree!

27 August - 1 September, East Coast Summer Cruise

Walton Backwaters and Rivers Stour, Orwell & Deben.

September: Broads Small Boat Rally

The Broads are great fun, particularly for small boats.

4 - 6 October: 20th Reeuwijk Raid

Trail your boat to the Netherlands for a weekend of sailing and socialising.

November: East Coast Area AGM

Royal Harwich Yacht Club



*Deben Cherubs Rally, 2023,
Woodbridge Boatyard*



NL10 Dutch Cruise, 2014



*OGA Cruise fleet at Stone Point, 2023
Photo: Beverley Yates*

Reports on our winter events

A voyage into history: Thomas Cavendish

Claudia Myatt reports on the first of our Winter Talks season at Robertsons Boatyard on the River Deben, December, 2023.

Thomas Cavendish: the navigator who wasn't averse to a bit of piracy too

The Sprat Shed at Robertsons Boatyard in Woodbridge is a perfect place for a social gathering – once Sprat dinghies were built there; now it's a cosy social space with rugs, sofas and a small galley. On 9 December, 2023 twenty or so Gaffers got together for the first event in a series of winter socials, a talk by maritime historian Cathy Shelbourne on 15th century local sailing hero and privateer Thomas Cavendish. Cathy is a professional speaker who spends several weeks a year as cruise ship lecturer; her talks are full of stories, anecdotes and fascinating research that brings sailing history to life. We discovered the importance of nutmeg and ruthlessness in bringing prosperity to Ipswich, and in spite of our 21st century problems we were all glad not to be living in a time when you would be rewarded by the Queen for burning and looting a foreign shore!

Aquatic First Aid followed by pizza!

Jodi Warren reports on the successful Aquatic First Aid course with photos taken by Paul Masters.

On Saturday, 20 January, 2024 the Long Shed in Woodbridge, Suffolk was the setting for a day-long course in aquatic first aid. Organised by the East Coast Gaffers, the course was led by Ralda Rogers of RCR Services.

15 Gaffers, three 5th Woodbridge Sea Scout leaders and the Waldringfield Boatyard Manager spent the day learning first aid, with a particular application for nautical situations. Many of the attendees had experienced first aid training before, but it's always good to have a refresher.

There were opportunities for hands-on CPR practice, putting a casualty in the recovery position (there is new guidance on this since most people had last done training), applying tourniquets and much more. My main takeaway was how much we need to update our onboard first aid kit!

It was an enjoyable and interactive day. All the participants earned a first aid certificate which is good for three years. In addition to the training, the highlight of the morning break was Jo Masters' homemade flapjacks. A big shout-out to Yvonne Mitchell for volunteering to be the first casualty of the day and for organising dinner afterwards at the Woodyard, Woodbridge.

The 5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts is an active group based on the waterfront at Woodbridge with around 400 Scouts. The age groups range from 4 year-old Squirrels through to Explorers at 18. The waiting list to join the group is currently sitting at 200.



East Coast Area AGM: 4 November, 2023

'A Changing of the Guard' by Sue Lewis

AGMs are funny things – most attendees are happy for the business, which is often largely a formality, to be dealt with as swiftly as possible, a bit of a round-up of the past year, a few trophies, and then let the social aspect begin. This year was different with massive changes to the executive of the Area Committee and a rather special Charity presentation.

The longest serving officers standing down were Clare and Pete Thomas. Treasurer Clare Thomas had held the post for 16 years so was surely ready to hand over her books and calculator. President Robert Hill and Secretary Lorna Hill have been in post for 9 years which, with the added responsibility the roles bring on the (National) Association Committee, is also a marathon and they too are taking a well-deserved break from the burdens of office. The meeting at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club was very quiet, almost as if no one could quite believe it would really happen. But happen it did – and new officers came forward and were voted in to replace them – and those outgoing could perhaps not quite hide their relief, or was it glee? With so many key figures moving on at once it is little surprise that this was not the time or the place to give them all a full vote of thanks (let's face it – who would organise it?) but the new President hinted that those retiring should make sure that they book their places at our Annual Dinner at Burnham in March. Get it in your diary everyone: 9th March 2024.

Robert and Lorna thanked the many volunteers from the committee and the wider membership who helped make OGA60 on the East Coast such a huge success (despite weather conditions which were arguably more shocking than anything the so-called 'Summer Cruise' has ever thrown at us). Clare presented the accounts with her customary quiet efficiency, pointing out that with income and outgoings for OGA60 alone topping the £30,000 mark (ending up in the black) this was the biggest year ever for the EC OGA bank account.

Trophies were awarded to two very deserving East Coast members. The Bateman's Tower Trophy went to Nick Phillips for his massive contribution to OGA60 – in addition to all his work on the East Coast celebrations for OGA60, Nick edited the 44 page Diamond Jubilee Events Guide that we all received, work which surely counts as 'Sky-High above and beyond...'. Beverley Daley Yates is this year's winner of the Francis B Cooke Seamanship Trophy for Logs or Blogs for her excellent work reviving the 'Sailing By' website to cover events of OGA60 and offering a fascinating collection of stories and images of sailing from days gone by.

The finale of the meeting was the presentation to the East Anglian Sailing Trust of the proceeds of the auction held at Levington during the OGA60 celebrations. £2,834 was the final amount raised and gratefully accepted by Chairman of EAST Alistair Renton and Treasurer Geoff Dreher. The amount donated represents over 10% of their annual revenue requirement so those of you who generously bid and bought at the auction can know that you have really made a difference. Alistair and Geoff explained some of the history and the work of the Trust which is run entirely by volunteers to provide sailing sessions for disabled and disadvantaged adults and children. No report really needed of the rest of the evening – suffice to say there was beer and wine and food and lots of Gaffer chat. No change there!

President's Report: Robert Hill

Unsurprisingly, 2023 has been a very busy year on the East Coast thanks to the 60th Jubilee celebrations & I'd like to begin by thanking all of our Jubilee Committee members for their help & enthusiasm, which made the event the success it was, despite the best efforts of Storm Antoni! Likewise we owe a huge debt of gratitude to all our sponsors, supporters & volunteers on the ground who made the event possible.

Looking ahead to the Jubilee Party a dedicated group of Gaffers kicked off our winter programme with a beer tasting evening at Briarbank in Ipswich with the aim of selecting a suitable brew for our Gaffers Jubilee beer. Fortunately the 11% "Grounds for Divorce" was rejected in favour of something a little less strong!

A good number of East Coast members attended the National AGM at Portsmouth which featured a very interesting & enjoyable social programme in addition to the actual AGM part. 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 winning the Sailing Tales Trophy, Steve & Beverley Daley-Yates winning the Gaffers Tales Award. In the photography competition Tony Pickering won second prize with Josh Masters, Paul Masters & Rob Hart all being highly commended.

Sadly a few days later saw the passing of Deben based member Peter Clay, owner of 'Nirvana of Arklow' & a stalwart of the Albert Strange Association. He is a great loss to the East Coast Sailing Community.

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 brought the Ramsgate gathering to send off the Round Britain fleet, which included 5 East Coast boats & 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 & Swallows & Amazons events in readiness for an even windier Jubilee Party weekend. Sadly the weather led to cancellation of the first Gaffling Championship. It is now planned to incorporate it in the Deben Rally, 25 - 27 May, 2024.

The big Party weekend must have broken all East Coast OGA records for rainfall & wind at a single event but despite this people seemed to have a good time. A special thanks must be due to Claudia Myatt & Sue Pennison for ramping up their art & rope workshops to entertain those stranded ashore & to Haven Ports Yacht Club for opening & manning the Lightship bar all day.

This year's Summer Cruise followed on from the Jubilee Party & headed south to end at Chatham. The weather, while not perfect, was an improvement on the weekend. I'd like to say a particular thanks to the group of our younger members who stepped in to organise the cruise, relieving the main committee of this responsibility. Unfortunately the fleet were trapped in Chatham by a malfunctioning lock gate at the end of the cruise, but such occurrences seem to have been the norm this year. A good number of the Round Britain boats were held up by a bridge breakdown in the Caledonian Canal, Mary Gibbs was similarly delayed by a faulty lock on her cross England expedition & I can testify to having had a few days delay thanks to a bridge breakdown in the Crinan Canal.

As a follow up to the Jubilee celebrations our Committee met to review the event, look at lessons learned & 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 & for some a trip to Holland for Rik Homan's event. Although not strictly an OGA event, Maldon Town Regatta is another late season fixture supported by our members. I have to tell you that earlier this week sadly Gerry Courtney, long time organiser of Maldon Town Regatta passed away & we extend our sympathies to her family.

Finally, I'd like to give my thanks to all of our Committee for their help & support over the year & particular thanks to those who are standing down today. Clare Thomas has served as Treasurer for 16 years as well as contributing a great deal to many other aspects of our activities, Lorna has been Secretary for 9 years and I have been President also for 9 years, so it is time for a change and a rest! We are standing down to make way for new blood.

Pete Thomas & Yvonne Mitchell have also indicated that they will stand down and Richard Giles, another long serving Committee member stood down earlier in the year, so there are lots of opportunities for enthusiastic volunteers to introduce new blood to the committee, which we can explore later in the meeting.

Secretary's Report: Lorna Hill

Hello everyone, it is good to see you this evening. Well, what a year we have had. Obviously, the Jubilee Party and Cruise have taken centre stage this year and I would like to thank the many members, both committee members and non committee members who rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in and volunteered in the many roles assisting in Ipswich, Levington and onto Chatham, before and during the events. Thank You All. As Secretarial duties go, this year far outweighed any others I have experienced in

my nine year term. You may be aware that I am standing down as Secretary, that has nothing to do with the past year's level of work, but I sincerely hope my successor doesn't experience such a high level of Secretarial duties!

You may recall from last year's AGM that attendees were asked to vote on their desire for the Association to consider a change of name. The vote from the East Coast was a resounding 'No'. Your President and myself took this information to the AC Meeting the following January. I regret to say, that most areas appeared not to have asked their members their feelings on this subject. However, despite the EC strongly contesting their corner, some other areas were quite vocal that there should be a discussion on the subject. The National President asked if I would agree to Chair a small Committee to discuss the subject of a possible name change. I agreed to do this. I am pleased to say that 4 January 2024 is the fixed date for a meeting and I will report to the AC Meeting the results in due course.

We have had over 30 new members join the East Coast Area of the OGA this past year, which I think is excellent news. On your behalf I would like to wish a warm welcome to them all.



'Charm' sails with the OGA, 2016 Photo: Beverley Yates

EC OGA featured boats

An East Coast boat is featured each month on the East Coast Gaffers Facebook page and EASTCOASTER blog. If you can, take a look at the additional tales and pictures online. In November, our featured boat was 'Charm' followed by 'My Quest' and 'Hussar' in January - a Bermudan boat to see in the New Year, 2024.

Do contact the Editor if you have a nomination for a boat to be featured in future.

'Charm': Albert Strange yawl built 1921 in Dublin

'Charm' is based at Suffolk Yacht Harbour, Levington on the River Orwell in the ownership of Robert and Lorna Hill, who stood down as OGA East Coast Area President and Secretary in November 2023 after nine years excellent service to the Area.

'Charm' was built by Arthur Richardson in Dublin. Building started in 1921, but she wasn't completed and launched until 1927, in part due to the difficulty in obtaining the correct quality materials in the post World War 1 period.

Richardson purchased the plans of 'Shiela 2', designed for artist Robert E Groves by Albert Strange from Albert Strange's widow. Strange had died in the 'flu pandemic in 1917.

We understand that Groves was a friend of Richardson's and Richardson had an artist (we think Groves) alter the sheer for building 'Charm' and altered the angle of her sternpost to improve balance. 'Shiela 2' was sailed single handed to New Zealand in the 1950s by Adrian Hayter, as described in his book 'Shiela in the Wind'.

Owned for three years by Richardson and initially named 'Barbara', after his daughter, her name was changed to 'Charm' after his daughter Barbara's death. 'Charm' was then owned for approximately three years by a Mr Beckett (Samuel Beckett's brother?), before ownership passed to Thomas Cobbe in the early 1930's.

Tommy Cobbe, a descendant of the first Archbishop of Dublin, owned a large estate (Newbridge) north of Dublin and based 'Charm' on Malahide River until the 1970s, cruising and racing her in the Dublin area. He also cruised to the west of Scotland regularly. Tommy was very traditional in his outlook and spared 'Charm' any 'modernisation' as was in vogue in the 1960s. She remains mainly original to this day.

Advancing years forced Tommy to sell 'Charm' in 1974 to Harry Murphy, who moved her to the Solent. She remained in his ownership until the 1990s when old age forced her sale to David Still of Emsworth, who had her re decked before selling her to Julian Costley.

She continued to be based at Emsworth until Costley sold her to Robert and Lorna Hill.

'My Quest': built 1930

'My Quest' was built at Horning, Norfolk, England in 1930 by Ernest L Woods, 'My Quest' has a carvel hull, pitch pine on steamed oak frames. She was built to lines published in Yachting Monthly, August 1929.

The article was an account by yachting author of 'Tern' fame, Claud Worth, of the maiden voyage of a small half decker he had built for single-handed day sailing.

She's a 23ft gaff cutter, one of only two hulls built to a design by George Cozens. William Taylor owned her from 1949 – 1978, parting with her for just two years in 1967-1969. He kept her on the River Deben, Suffolk. Taylor's owning and maintaining the boat for a total of 27 years no doubt contributed significantly to her longevity.

In 1984 she fell into the hands of Richard Gavin who restored, maintained and sailed her for 30 years, removing the engine in 1996.

She is now owned by Howard Wheelton, Sue Lewis and Barry Edwards and she regularly sails the East Coast rivers from her base in Harwich.



Annie Taylor aboard 'My Quest', c.1950s



'My Quest', East Coast Race, 2023
Photos: Sandy Miller



'Hussar' Vertue 21

'Hussar' is a Laurent Giles designed Vertue, built by Elkins of Christchurch in 1949. She has a planked mahogany carvel hull on grown oak and steamed frames with a lead keel. We believe she was commissioned by Lt RNVR Robert Henry Douglas Barklie. He was mentioned in dispatches, 30 May 1944, for courage and skill in dangerous minesweeping operations during Op Antidote (Galita, Algeria to Sousse, Tunisia) when serving on 'HMS Hussar'. As the Navy did not keep the name after she was lost, Lt Barklie re-used it.

The first 'HMS Hussar', a 28-gun sixth rate was launched in 1757, while the tenth and last 'HMS Hussar', a Halcyon class minesweeper, was launched 1934 and sunk by friendly fire (RAF Typhoons) off Normandy, August 27 1944. This was very much hushed up at the time. There are several graves of seamen at the Shotley Naval Cemetery, Ipswich, who died while serving aboard 'HMS Hussar' in different locations.

In 1952 our 'Hussar' won the Concours d'Elegance at Poole having won the races on both days. At this time she was owned by Mr Frank Webster who kept her until 1971 in Christchurch, Hampshire. As MD of Ashby and Horner, a building company, we assume she was well maintained and 'changed hands' when it was felt inappropriate to have a boat as an asset on a City of London building company.

She was sailed for 32 years over this period by Mr M Hall who parted with her in 1987 when she became too small for his family, having crossed the Channel and taken part in the Round the Island race (Isle of Wight) where she came 55th on handicap in a fleet of 1400. We found her in Faversham in 2005 and became boat owners for the first time, ignoring the advice to find a boat with bits of wood rather than all wood.

Ken Crudgington & Carey Stephenson



'Life at Sea' Highly Commended: 'Peace', 'Cygnet of London' on Loch Eriboll by Simon Harding

Maritime Museums: a suggestion

East Coast Gaffer, Mervyn Maggs enjoys visiting our excellent maritime museums and suggests they should get more online promotion. Can Eastcoaster readers help by sending recommendations to the Editor?

Sailing from Scotland to Essex I could never resist hunting out local maritime Museums. I have discovered several on the east coast of note for their comprehensive displays as enthusiastic custodians of our commercial marine heritage. I am certain there are many more. After visiting Lossiemouth Fisheries and Community Museum I felt they should be given credit for their work and made more visible, prompting my contribution to Eastcoaster. So many of the smaller museums fail to display on a normal Internet search, perhaps the OGA could promote these important places via our own online channels?

I knew little about Lossiemouth on the NE coast of Scotland and having settled in for a couple of days we visited the Lossiemouth Fisheries and Community Museum on the cusp of them closing. We quickly realised it held more of interest and treasures than we could appreciate and returned the following day. The Museum is run solely by 20 members of the local community and was established in 1984 using a disused fishing gear store. The exhibits range from the old Covesea Lighthouse, boat building and models from local fishermen through to reconstruction of the study of the late Prime Minister Ramsay Macdonald, as Lossiemouth had been his family home.

Lossiemouth was the originator of the design for the first Zulu class of fishing luggers in 1879. A local man named Alexander 'Dad' Campbell realised the design and had it built, naming it 'Nonsuch'. Hundreds of this class were built, although larger than the original reaching 60' – 80', to sail the coasts of NW Scotland and the east coast in search of herring, fished in vast quantities. One bewildering fact with all these vessels was that to fish you would lower the main mast before commencing. This was no mean feat, as it could be 60' tall and up to 2' in diameter at the deck, notwithstanding a bowsprit up to 50' long.

The museum is a big story in a small space and has many wonderful photographs and exhibits that help you understand the evolution of the port from sail to motorised vessels and the economic importance of these boats and fleets that fished our coast. Further to this Lossiemouth was in the vanguard of using Danish seine nets when the herring market collapsed in the 1920s. On display are rare examples of the material and early means of making the floats for drift nets, called doggers, in the late 18th and early 19th century. The impressive part of all of this is how the community has donated so many treasures for others to appreciate and understand the commercial past history of the port. Particularly fascinating are the photos of local people taken by David Baikie. This is a wonderful collection of photographs in albums taken over a broad sweep of time presenting how it was. This method of recording and presentation, I fear, is not so prevalent in the digital age. So much will be lost in the 'cloud' if we are not careful.

Make sure to visit if you're in the area and contact the Eastcoaster Editor with ideas for more Museums to feature!



OGA AGM Liverpool, January 2024

Area Secretary, Pete 'the knife' Elliston provides a report from the Association AGM held in Liverpool on 13 January, 2024 with photos on this page by Area President Paul Masters.

The event was organised and managed by the North West Area of the OGA with the ODTAA Cup being awarded to the NW Area Secretary, Alasdair Simpson for his hard work in bringing the event together along with the work undertaken in the NW on renovation and preservation of significant gaff-rigged craft and the Gaffling 4.1 project. The chosen venue allowed many Gaffers to explore the historic sights of Liverpool.

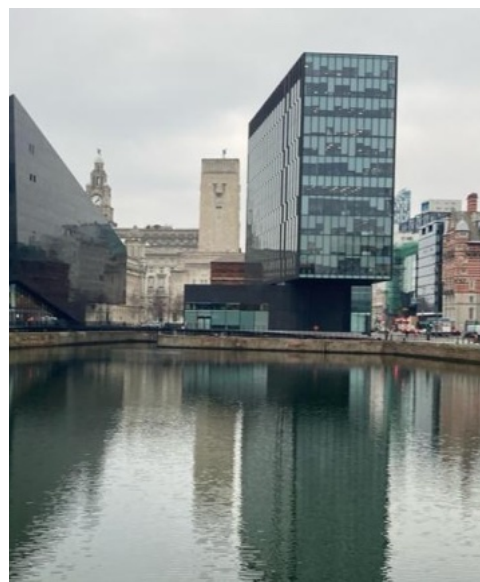
AGM 2024 proceedings

Mike Becket, Association President welcomed 57 members attending in person with a further ten signing in online via Zoom. He also welcomed Margaret Wainwright, Honorary Member, invited to the AGM by the East Coast Area Secretary. Mike's main report was a review of the OGA60 Round Britain Cruise, party ports and Jubilee Party hosted by the East Coast Gaffers on the River Orwell. The previous meeting Minutes and three Officers' reports turned up no contentious issues. However, it was noted later in the meeting that Clare Thomas, East Coast Treasurer until November 2023 did an amazing job in managing the accounts for the Jubilee Party. Membership Secretary, Mary Gibbs stated membership was around the 1000 mark and ended her report with a plea for someone to take over from her next year when she will stand down. Colin Stroud was re-elected as Association Secretary.

Alison Cable did a presentation on the OGA60 RBC and Jubilee Party. Unfortunately there were several IT problems but the video, despite having no sound, clearly showed how horrendous the weather was during the 'Parade of sail' on the River Orwell. Part of the video was from Steve Mitchell in his 12' Smack boat 'Joy' which everyone agreed was an incredible feat in just sailing with full rig, let alone filming with one hand at the same time!

During the discussion of plans for OGA65 and OGA70, Mike reported on the proposal from the earlier Association Committee Meeting that there would be an OGA65 RBC in 2028 with a small boat event being run soon after that in the same year.

Richard Bailey made the first mini-presentation with an excellent summary of his experience as the skipper of 'Lahlloo' in the OGA60 RBC. Everyone appreciated his humour and attention to details, such as the miles travelled under sail and motor and the price of beer ranging from £2 to £5 a pint! The presentation would be worthy of a 'YouTube' video or a short talk to the East Coast Gaffers later in the season. The second mini-presentation was by David Elliott of the British National Yacht Archive, showing what was available on their website and encouraging the OGA to join. Julian Cable made the final mini-presentation about the new online crewing system on the Association website.



Following the main business of the AGM, there were presentations and prize giving for the Photography Competition and Association Trophies.

National Awards to East Coast Members

Robert and Lorna Hill were awarded the David Cade Memorial Trophy, presented for an 'outstanding contribution to the Association during the year, over and above the call of duty'. They served as President and Secretary for nine years and led the OGA60 team to deliver the final party event on the River Orwell, August, 2023.

Joff and his daughter Lily Hudson were awarded the Grumpy II Cups, presented to an OGA skipper and young crew for 'an outstanding sailing achievement during the year'. They helmed 'Crescent Moon' during the 2023 East Coast Race in extreme challenging conditions on the River Orwell.

Edgar and Else Wagemakers were awarded the Gaffers Tales Award for their excellent article in Gaffers Log, Spring 2023. Nick Phillips was awarded the Tales of Sail Trophy for his sterling work on the OGA60 Jubilee publicity materials in print and online.

Pete Thomas was awarded the Jolie Brise Trophy in recognition of his 'significant contribution to gaff rig'.

Clare Thomas was elected an Elder Gaffer.

A special East Coast guest at the AGM

Honorary Member, Margaret Wainwright, widow of East Coast stalwart Jon Wainwright who passed away in 2007, was invited to the AGM. She presented the Gaffers Globe Trophy, donated by Jon, to this year's winner, Barbara Runnalls. At the end of the meeting she was presented with her favourite flowers as thanks from the East Coast Members on what would have been Jon's 78th birthday.

It became clear that the five Young Gaffers who had come to the AGM and were sitting in the bar should meet Margaret who was in an adjoining lounge. Margaret 'held court' for the best part of 30 minutes. The photo shows her looking very regal and provides future memories for the Young Gaffers and all who remember Jon. Many thanks Margaret and Happy Birthday Jon, you would have been very proud.

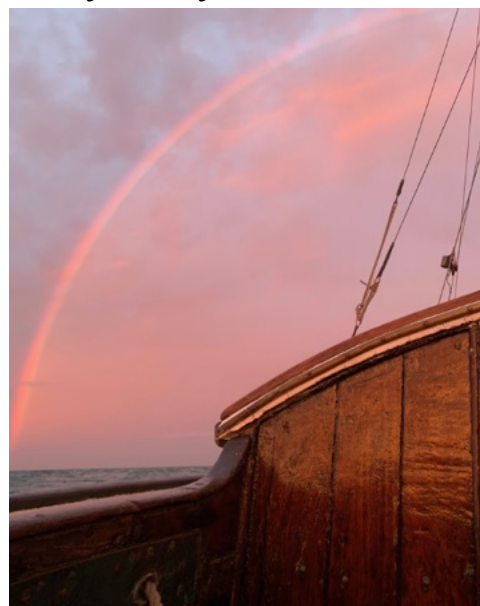
East Coast Photography Competition winners

The Photography competition was judged by our regular canoeing, photographer/artist, Sandy Miller, who did a wonderfully constructive and enthusiastic job to encourage members with his appreciative and to some degree envious comments! Very many thanks Sandy. Our Area President, Paul Masters was very pleased to get a second place as he had only ever achieved 'highly commended' in previous years. Particular congratulations should go to Alison Cable as it really was a stunning photograph of which 'our Judge' was clearly envious!

Several East Coast members were awarded prizes, turn over to find Sandy's comments on them.



*'Sailing Gaffers' First prize:
'Stormy Skies' by Gerard Brown*



*'Life at Sea' Highly Commended:
'After a Lively Night' by Justin Greig*



*Margaret Wainwright with the
Young Gaffers Photo: Paul Masters*

Winning photos from East Coast members have been used to illustrate this issue. The following is the list of awards with the Judge's comments.

Life at Sea

Highly Commended

'After a Lively Night' taken in Lyme Bay during RBC60
Justin Greig

This is a lovely soft image that is very well seen. The sky is a delight and interacts perfectly with the curve of the coach house. The wood adds atmosphere too. An image to be very proud of.

Peace: Loch Eriboll aka Loch 'Orrible. Nature allows a brief window
Simon Harding: East Coast

The light on the boat is beautiful and brings out her stunning lines. She stands out in the wonderful scenery and there is a postcard feel to this picture that will serve as an excellent memory. It must have been a lovely moment.

Sailing Gaffers

Highly Commended

Green Cliffs: three little gaffers heading east OGA60 June 2023, Scotland
Paul Masters

This was one of my favourite compositions of all the entries. The image is divided up uniformly by the vertical lines of the stays, sheets and furled headsail, and the horizontal lines of the canal and treeline. The boats then fit into this grid in exactly the right places. The Scots Pines lining the canal provide the atmosphere and there is a real sense of calm and natural beauty.

Third place

Pre-season Check-up: setting up my Kittiwake 'Syrinx' when Gaffers Log arrived.
Douglas Bridger

I thought this picture was full of interest, humour, colour and detail, which all fit together very well. It's a very clever 'mise en scene' and the taker has managed to bring all these different elements together, which could easily look busy and distracting, into a very harmonious whole. Hats off!

Second place

Rainbow Treasure: waiting for the tide on passage to Ipswich for OGA60
Paul Masters

Take some lovely light over the beautiful River Deben, add a rainbow and then put 'Clytie' in the foreground and you've got everything you need for a real showstopper. I see this picture and I just want to make more trips up to Suffolk!

First place

Stormy Skies: a Winklebrig on the The Lynn of Morvern
Gerard Brown

Wow! A perfect little gaffer amidst the grand and wild Scottish scenery. I can't think of anything better. Beautiful light on the hills behind, a moody sky and enough life in the water to suggest some blustery gusts. The lovely green of 'Sea Jade' combines with the hills behind and of course contrasts beautifully with the red ochre sails. It is perfectly captured and a runaway winner for me!

Meet the new East Coast OGA Committee: 2023/2024

At the Area AGM in November, 2023, three new Officers were elected and several other Members joined the Committee. Meet them all here. You don't have to be on the Committee to help and we're always happy to hear from you about ideas!

Area President: Paul Masters

I have been an East Coast OGA member since 1993 with my wife Jo. We sail 'Clytie' a gaff cutter built in Woodbridge in 1922, where we live, for Jo's Great Grandfather.

Our three children have grown up sailing 'Clytie', and with other East Coast young gaffers now skipper and race with the East Coast Gaffers. This year we have welcomed Max Masters, our first Grandchild to the 'Clytie' crew.

When I am not sailing or thinking about sailing, I run an International Horticultural Sales & Consultancy business.

Area Secretary & Vice President: Pete 'the knife' Elliston (PTK)

I joined the OGA in 1996 after three years sailing the Thames Bawley 'Good Intent'. Sarah Adie and I met at an OGA party and Jon Wainwright lent us 'Deva'.

I sailed on many East Coast smacks including 'Ellen' and 'Quiz'. We have owned and sailed 'Reverie', an Itchen Ferry, for 18 years, converted and sail our gaff rigged Wayfarer 'Papa Little' and smack boat 'Papa Stour'.

We led the build of the Gaffling 'Essling' in Mistley with East Coast OGA team members. I have been working at Sizewell B Nuclear power station for Lloyds Register (LRQA) for 13 years. I also have a 'smacksmithing workshop' (blacksmithing for smacks) in North Essex and can often be seen (or heard) messing about on the River Stour!

Area Treasurer: Yvonne Graham

I joined the OGA with my husband after he purchased and renovated 'Firefly' in the early 1990's. In those days he used to sail with his late mother. More recently we (well, mainly Rik) have been sailing 'Kelpie 2' and I have been involved with the committee for about ten years, latterly as minutes secretary

Although we no longer sail due to ill-health, we are both still very committed to the OGA which has been a source of so much friendship and assistance over the years. Now that I have retired, I can offer more time to the committee.

Having spent all my working life in finance in one way or another, I hope that I will be able to use my experience to take over as Treasurer.



Sarah Adie

I've been a member of the OGA for 23 years and at the Stour Sailing Club in Manningtree for 35 years. After a long break from SSC committee work and following the departure of several key people on the East Coast OGA committee I felt it was time to step up! Also I'll find it easier to keep tabs on what PTK is up to!

Eastcoaster Editor: Beverley Yates

I joined the East Coast OGA, with husband Steve, when we purchased 'Cachalot' in 2005. After our first season sailing, we spent ten years restoring her and got to know many East Coast Gaffers who provided excellent support and encouragement throughout the long project. I was OGA Editor (Log and Online) 2014 - 2020 with Steve doing all the 'colouring in' to make the publications look good. Until retiring, we ran our own business for print and online.

Ed Roberts

I've been sailing with the East Coast OGA since the age of 10 when I was invited on the smack 'Quiz' with my uncle and aunt for the OGA 40th anniversary cruise. Since then I have returned for the cruise most years, first with my uncle and aunt on their Itchen Ferry. I became a beneficiary of the kindness that typifies the OGA, being lent boats to skipper from the age of 16. These range from a GRP Corribee to workboats and then 'Dirty Girty' for which I am best known. I now sail with my wife on our own smack on the east coast and tow 'Girty' across country to meet and race with other areas.

Nick Phillips

My muse is a GRP pocket gaffer (Cape Cutter), 'Minnie' based on the River Orwell. She is my 'downsize' (in feet, maintenance and pride) from a series of wooden yachts. A Falmouth Pilot, a Broads River Cruiser and an Atalanta. I learnt to sail on the River Medway, when there was still an oil refinery there, in a club boasting many boatbuilders and traditional boats. I still love the mud and shoals of our East Coast cruising ground. A latecomer to the OGA I have some catching up to do!



George Hutley

My first experience of sailing was in 2011. I attended the East Coast Summer Cruise starting at Ipswich. There were 100 people on 'Rely' singing happy birthday to a boat. As a non sailing person I found this to be most odd. However I did decide to stay and see out the week, crewing on 'Rely'. I haven't looked back. I recently acquired a MK1 Drascombe Lugger which I hope to be bringing to some small boat events next year.



Carey Stephenson

I have been an OGA member for over 15 years now, joining to sail in company with fellow Vertue owners on the East Coast so it's about time to give back and help out by being a member of the committee. After the intensity of planning the OGA60 party in Ipswich and Levington, it will be interesting to see how a more 'normal year' works. There is a wealth of knowledge within the organisation which is happily shared. I look forward to learning more and getting a greater understanding of the current tech. world.



Ken Crudgington

I joined the OGA in 2007 after meeting Rob Williamson at a Vertue owner's rally. Although we only have three corners on our mainsail we feel warmly welcomed into the Association. I started sailing in dinghies and worked my way through the various levels and have now graduated to slightly bigger boats. Since retiring from teaching, we have bought a little lugsail dinghy which we can tow to some of the small boat events. I joined the committee in 2022 and look forward to helping organise future events.



Trevor & Elaine Rawlinson

Trevor is a stalwart of the East Coast Gaffers having been a member for over 40 years, during which time he's been an active Committee member. Elaine joined the OGA eleven years ago and her main contribution as a Committee member is to organise the excellent Annual Dinner held at the Royal Burnham Yacht Club in March. Their boat, 'Aussie II' is a Cornish Shrimper, well known for racing with the OGA on the East Coast since the 1980s.



RIP Jimmy Lawrence

We are very sad to hear that Jimmy Lawrence, known to many in the East Coast sailing community and much further afield, has crossed the bar.

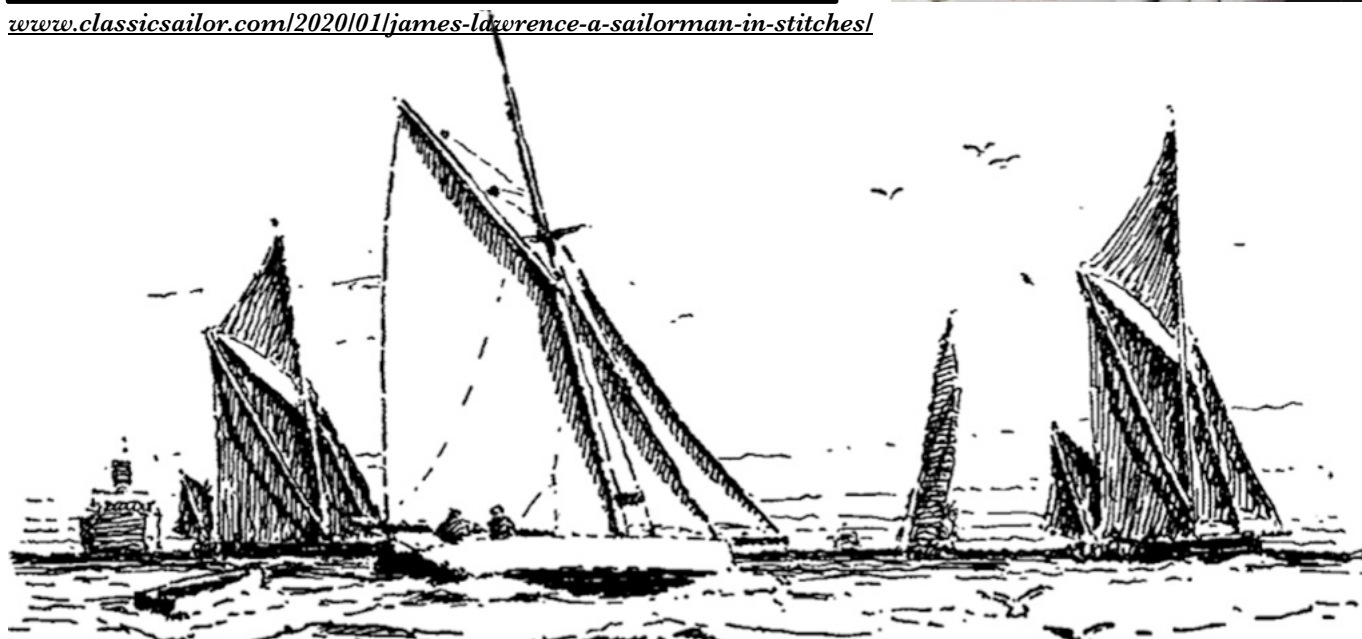
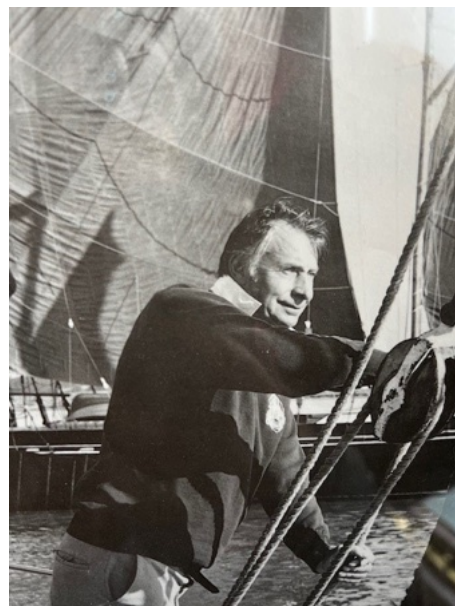
"It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of Jimmy Lawrence, who died peacefully in hospital on 20 January, 2024. Jimmy was a local legend and long time member of the Colne Yacht Club, who led an active life into his 90's. A Bargee by trade, Jimmy was a highly qualified commercial skipper who traded under sail and won many cups on the racing circuit. He had spent the first 15 years of his working life on Thames Barges, becoming the youngest skipper in the fleet at the age of 18 and going on to be one of the last skippers when trading ceased on traditional barges in 1963. Jimmy then started his renowned sail making business in Brightlingsea using traditional methods to make sails, retiring in 1995. He continued to race, sail, play the accordion, sing and write his memoirs to the end. In line with Colne Yacht Club tradition the club flag is being flown at half mast, as are a number of flags in the Smack Dock. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jimmy's family and friends at this sad time."

Colne Yacht Club, 22 January 2024

"Jimmy left his Colchester school to join 'Gladys', a 'free agent' barge that went 'anywhere', as her third hand on £1 a week in 1948. Learning his trade as a sailorman, as barge crew were widely known, he swiftly rose to mate, joining 'Falconette', of the 40-strong Colchester Barge Fleet, trading between London and the East Anglian ports. There were 150 sailing barges left then, he says. Barge hands and skippers worked on a share scheme: "Half went to the owner and the rest was divided between the crew," he explains. "You weren't paid to sail empty, and we often went empty up to London. But let's say you grossed £60 for a trip. £30 went to the owner, £20 went to the skipper and £10 to the mate. The mate and skipper paid the third hand his weekly wage between them – that's because a third man was often considered unnecessary."

Extract from an interview with Dan Houston, 1999

www.classicsailor.com/2020/01/james-lawrence-a-sailorman-in-stitches/



'One or two barges were beating up in company with us', in 'Under the Cabin Lamp', Alker Tripp, Lodestar Books

Website, Social Media, Print & email

The choice is yours!

Every registered EC OGA Member who has provided us with an email address receives a regular mailing with updates and links to new content online. Please note that both Family members may submit their email address.

News is published on the Eastcoaster website:
www.eastcoastgaffers.org.uk

The EC Gaffers Facebook page is updated regularly and there are WhatsApp groups for social 'chat' and events.

The Association website was updated in January 2024 to provide easy access to 'East Coast Gaffers Online': Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp and EASTCOASTER (online as well as archived PDF copies to download and print). A quarterly PDF digest of posts is available for download to print at home.
www.oga.org.uk/areas/east_coast/east_coast_online.html

For £5 per annum, East Coast Members may also opt in to having a printed copy of EASTCOASTER mailed to them on a quarterly basis (black only). Send your cheque and request for this service to:

Sarah Adie, Arpajon, 25a Harwich Road, Mistley, CO11 1ND

If you and/or another family Member in your household has an email address and would like to receive the monthly mailings, or you have changed your email address, please contact Colin Stroud, Association Secretary to confirm your details.
Contact Colin by email: secretary@oga.org.uk



*'Sailing Gaffers' Highly Commended:
'Green cliffs' by Paul Masters*



*'Sailing Gaffers' Third Prize:
'Pre-season Check-up' by Douglas Bridger*



AGM Liverpool Photo: Paul Masters