

# GAFFERS LOG



December 2013



50  
OLD GAFFERS  
ASSOCIATION

*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year 1963 - 2013*





## *Welcome to the December edition of Gaffers Log*

I hope that you will all find that this edition of Gaffers Log is a happy one, concentrating, as it does, on the events of 2013 and especially on the people involved. With that in mind I have included as many photos of people taking part in the events that took place during our 50th anniversary year rather than just good shots of good looking boats – although there are a few of those as well.

It is also a slightly sad edition for me since I stand down as editor for the last time, with a total of 34 editions under my command, a good number of tides have ebbed and flowed since I began in June 2003 but it has been a happy time, if somewhat fraught on occasions, and has given me cause to meet, exchange letters and emails with, and speak to more members of our Association than have most. So I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to the Log on my watch and have supported me with your anecdotes, experiences and wonderful photos. In the early days it was one of the main pleasures of the job to open a good old fashioned letter with a great story with a photo or two and this has not changed, although the letters have become emails. No doubt in future these will evolve into some other form of correspondence, who knows.

*Phil Slade*  
*Editor*

*Front cover photo:* Cowes 2013, the highlight of our fiftieth year, saw what was probably the biggest gathering of gaffers seen in UK waters for many a long year. Mike Warren, husband of Jessica Warren, Solent Area Secretary, took this photo with their 'Roma' in the foreground sporting the flowing burgee.

*Facing page photo:* Jim Bell OGA Area Secretary North East, worked very hard to set a wonderful welcome in Newcastle for the boats going around Britain. The photo shows the last night party on 'Good Hope'. Photo Sue Lewis OGA Secretary.

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## *Success graces our Jubilee year*

We thought we could and we did! Whichever way you look at it 2013 has been both a huge success and hugely enjoyable. Our celebrations have attracted major sponsors – *Associated British Ports, Teamac, Classic Boat, Hall & Woodhouse, James Lawrence Sailmakers, Ocean World, Haven Knox-Johnston, Classic Marine, Heyland & Whittle, Cornish Crabbers and Character Boats* - and have been covered in the yachting press and by local TV and radio. Blogs and the social media have followed us round Britain. Over twenty boats competed in the Round Britain Challenge. Tokens characteristic of our areas were relayed round the kingdom and auctioned for the benefit of the RNLI. A new website, SAILING BY, has been read far beyond our membership.

We have considerably increased our membership and our public profile. We have worked closely with National Historic Ships UK, who recently hosted our Jubilee Photographic Competition alongside their own onboard HMS Belfast. We have been accompanied by our Dutch and Belgian friends, who sailed round the UK with us, and supported by our French friends and all our areas, each of which hosted a special major Jubilee Event. These events helped to unite us and develop a new spirit and momentum – a real change of gear for the Association - which, caught on the flood, led on to the huge success of the greatest gathering of gaffers at Cowes.

It has been an astonishing year that has inspired and encouraged the whole Association, bringing in new blood, and enabling us to experience the friendship and generosity of our membership nationwide. It has not just been about the big boats. The smaller boats and trailer-sailers had a large and very successful rally in Cardiff, blessed by splendid weather and recorded by local television. Our younger members enjoyed the fun and games organised by the East Coast Area in Cowes and the whole RBC fleet was blessed by a gaffer-priest in Newcastle in the presence of the High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear. What a year we have enjoyed and what a stunning success! Everyone worked with a will and gave generously of their time and energy.

It does not stop here because there has been both generosity and enthusiasm for the Youth Fund, which has been set up to be a kind of legacy. Already the Fund has received donations in excess of £5,000 and it is still growing. This is a real mark of membership enthusiasm to encourage young people to get afloat under the gaff. Now we must think of the best criteria for using this fund.

Our other aim is to complete and put on line our National Boat Register. Alistair Randall and Pat Dawson, the Register's Editor, are bringing this to fruition during 2014.

Again we have been asked to run a stand at The London Boat Show. Our theme is Adventurous Sailing. *MoonRiver*, a Yarmouth 24 that Barbara Runnalls from Sussex sailed single-handed round Britain, will be on the stand, representing the contemporary spirit of gafferdom. We shall have a programme of speakers.

Come and hear these talks and please play a part in the continuing development of the Association by attending the AGM which will take place at 6pm on Saturday, January 11th 2014 at the Greenwich Yacht Club.

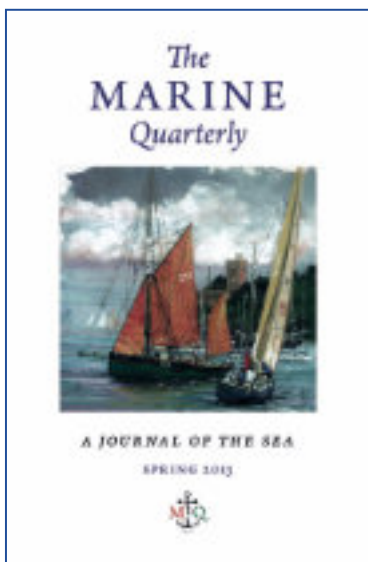
This is the end of my watch and my last signal. It is a changing of the tide and you will be asked to elect a new President at the AGM. It has been a privilege, and also a very real pleasure, to serve the Association over the last four years. My gratitude and thanks to our Secretary, Sue Lewis, who is most definitely not stepping off the quarterdeck; to Phil Slade our inimitable Editor of this Log, and to Peter

Farrer, our webmaster who both are standing down having done the association considerable service over the years; and to the team of clever and enthusiastic members who worked so well together to make a thrilling success of our Jubilee Year. Bravo!



Mike Shaw, OGA President, helming Robert and Jan Holden's 'Emmanuel' in the Ramsgate 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade of sail. Photo Robert Holden.

*Mike Shaw,  
President, OGA.*



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Bon voyage!  
SamLlewellyn

Editor, The Marine Quarterly  
Hope Farm, Lyonshall  
Kington, Herefordshire HR5 3HT  
01544 340636

# OGA Annual General Meeting and London Boat Show

## AGM – book your supper now!

Don't miss our AGM .....

River Rooms, Greenwich Yacht Club, 1 Peartree Way, Greenwich, London SE10 0BW. Don't miss our AGM at Greenwich on 11th January 2014. If you haven't been before it is a jolly occasion: it's a chance to meet other gaffers, catch up on what the Association is up to, ask questions of the management committee and enjoy an excellent supper in a great location. And why not tie it in with a visit to the London Boat Show at Excel? The perfect opportunity to try out the Emirates Air Line which connects the 2 venues. It's a cable car ride which takes you high over the Thames with fantastic views.



Why not take a cable car ride to the boat show? Photo Sue Farrer, North Wales OGA'

We try to keep the business and social aspects of the evening well balanced (in other words we try to get through the business as swiftly as possible) and we round things off with the presentation of our awards and trophies, and the results of the photo competition. So there's another reason to come: support this year's winners!

**Supper is £10 a head for an excellent dish of sausage and mash with savoy cabbage and an onion gravy. We need numbers in advance of course so please book your meal NOW with Sue Farrer: [sue@psfarrer.co.uk](mailto:sue@psfarrer.co.uk)**

## **London Boat Show 2014 - 4th to 12th January 2014 at London Excel**

We are delighted to say that we have been invited back! This year's stand at the Show back in January was a great success with new members recruited, current members visiting us, some excellent speakers to represent us and lots of good publicity for our anniversary year. Many volunteer members enjoyed free entry to the Show in return for taking a turn on the stand.

This time will be even better because one of our members and Round Britain Challenge participants will be at the show with her boat! Barbara Runnalls sailed single-handed round Britain in her Yarmouth 23 "Moon River" this summer and in recognition of this achievement both Barbara and Moon River have been invited to the Boat Show. Moon River will be one of the highlights of a new "Adventurous Cruising" feature and that's where you will find the OGA too.



Barbara Runnalls on her Yarmouth 23 'Moon River'

### **Volunteer on the OGA stand at the Boat Show – and get free entry!**

We would like to invite volunteers to help on the stand - by helping out you will receive a free entry ticket to the Boat Show together with entry to the Telegraph Cruise Show. No previous experience or special skills required, just the ability to chat about gaffing. All that we ask is a few hours morning or afternoon : 10am to 2pm or 2pm to 6pm.

**If you would like to volunteer to help on the stand please contact Sue Farrer Tel: 01270-874174 or email [nwasec@oldgaffersassociation.org](mailto:nwasec@oldgaffersassociation.org). We would also appreciate volunteers for Saturday 11th January – the day of our AGM.**

We hope to have a promotional code for a special OGA members' discount and we will post this in the Members Area of the website (password **OGAmember**), as well as informing Area Secretaries. Pre-booking is cheaper than tickets on the gate but we expect the members' offer to be cheaper still so keep a look out for it.



**Moon River and Barbara on their way round Britain**

***Sue Lewis***  
***OGA Secretary***

### ***OGA@50 flags***

There are still a few OGA@50 flags available. It's a handsome blue and gold flag to fly with pride and there will not be another chance until 2063!!! Contact Ed Allen , OGA Merchandise co-ordinator whose details can be found on page 54 of this edition. Price £8.00 including postage and packing. A little enough price to pay for a piece of history and a great Christmas present for your beloved gaffer.

### ***Calling all Elder Gaffers!***

Our debates at the ACM and the AGM will include some discussion about the structure of the Association and this will include the role of Elder Gaffers. You will see from the notice of Rule changes published here, that a change has been proposed which would, if passed, remove the membership on all committees 'ex-officio' of Elder Gaffers. This is in readiness for a possible vote, as early indications from research (as yet incomplete) indicates that some changes to the structure and management of the Association are needed. Your feedback on this and any of the other questions for debate published here would be most welcome.

Please contact the Secretary, Sue Lewis, by letter or phone or email with your thoughts and comments. Sue Lewis: 13 Long Rd Mistley Manningtree Essex CO11 2HN, 07900 242452 or [secretary@oldgaffersassociation.org](mailto:secretary@oldgaffersassociation.org)

## AGM AGENDA

1. President's Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting
4. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting
5. Treasurer's report – presentation of accounts
6. Secretary's report
7. Reports on 50th Anniversary events
  - ☐ Round Britain Challenge and Relay
  - ☐ OGA Jubilee Festival at Cowes
  - ☐ Anniversary book "Sailing Gaffers, Stories from 50 years of the OGA"
8. Report on plans for investing in Gaffers Log and website.
9. Report on the Association Committee debate about the future of the OGA
10. Vote on Rule changes proposed (see proposals below)
11. Election of Officers (see list of candidates below)
12. Members' questions

Dinner will be served at 8pm followed by the presentation of awards and trophies and the announcement of the winners of the OGA photographic competition.

### AGM 2013 – Election of Officers

The following nominations for Officers of the Association have been received:

#### President:

Sean Walsh Proposed: John Wedick Seconded: Tim Magennis

#### Gaffers Log Editor:

Beverley Daley-Yates Proposed: Richard Giles Seconded: Peter Thomas

#### Webmaster:

Beverley Daley-Yates Proposed: Richard Giles Seconded: Peter Thomas

### Rule Changes

Proposed rule changes are hereby notified to members. The Association Committee will discuss these rule changes before the AGM so if you have views you would like taken into account please make these known to your Area Secretary in advance of the meeting. The rule changes will be put to the vote at the AGM where a two thirds majority is needed to pass a change.

#### Proposed change to Rule 2a concerning Objects of the Association

Rule 2a currently states "The Objects of the Association shall be to encourage interest in traditional gaff rig... etc" and this rule change is proposed to encompass ALL types of gaff rig including new developments.

Proposed new wording of the Rule: "The Objects of the Association shall be to encourage interest in gaff rig and its development; to encourage seamanship and comradeship; to offer help and advice to members; to organise races and rallies for members."

Proposed: Gil Hayward Seconded: Andrew Wolstenholme

### Proposed change to Rule 5 concerning Expulsion

Currently an Area has no support in the Rules for excluding an expelled member from Area events.

Proposal: to amend Rule 5 to include these words: "Any member expelled from the OGA shall not attend any OGA organised event unless they have received permission from the Secretary or the President of the Area responsible for the event."

Proposed: Pete Thomas Seconded: Mike Shaw.

### Proposed change to Rule 7(ii) concerning election of Officers

A further minor rule change is proposed to add the following wording "Nominations must be received by the Secretary 10 weeks before the Annual General Meeting".

Proposed: Pete Farrer Seconded: Phil Slade

### Proposed change to Rule 7(v) concerning Honours

Rule 7(v)a currently states "An Elder gaffer has ex officio membership of all committees, but only in an advisory capacity, having no vote other than the normal member's vote in a General Meeting." Proposal is to delete this sentence. To distinguish between an Elder Gaffer and an Honorary Member it is proposed to add mention of the special Elder Gaffer flag. "

The proposed revised version of Rule 7(v) reads:

Rule 7(v)a Elder Gaffer

This position is awarded to those who have rendered exceptional service to the Association as a national body, usually having held one or more Association offices. An Elder Gaffer shall have the right to fly a special rectangular flag with a gold pitchfork on a blue ground, the whole edged by a gold border". There shall be no more than 16 Elder Gaffers at one time.

Proposed: Sue Lewis Seconded: Rob Williamson EG

### Proposed change to Rule 10(i) concerning the Annual General Meeting

Rule 10(i) does not currently specify that candidates for election should be notified to members in advance of the Annual General Meeting though it does specify that notice be given of the meeting at least 14 days in advance with notice of any business the Association Committee shall order to be inserted in the notice convening the meeting. It is proposed to add the following wording: "This business must include details of candidates for the election of Officers of the Association and details of any proposals put forward for discussion"

Proposed: Pete Farrer Seconded: Phil Slade

## 7 Questions about the future of the OGA

The Secretary has circulated to all Areas 7 key questions about the future of the Association. These questions will be debated at the Association Committee meeting and feedback received from the Areas will be shared. If you have strong views on these topics why not come along to the AGM and let us know.

1. Should we focus on development as well as preservation of the gaff rig? If so, how might we take a lead in furthering the development of gaff rig?
2. Could we do more to include modern gaffers? Should handicapping be reviewed?
3. How does the Bermudan rig fit into the objectives of the OGA?
4. Should the “honours system” in the OGA be revised?
5. How can we encourage younger members?
6. Is it time for a name change?
7. Is there a better structure for managing the OGA which would be less expensive to run?

***Sue Lewis OGA Secretary on behalf of the GMC***

### ***A New Trophy for the OGA***

The OGA now has another trophy. A model of the Jolie Brise has kindly been made and donated to the OGA by the Rev. David Mumford. Grateful thanks have been extended to David. However, it has been very difficult to find criteria for this trophy but we have finally come to a decision which is to be:

“Awarded annually to an OGA Member who, in the opinion of the GMC, has made a significant contribution to the development of the gaff rig.”



Please make every effort to attend the Association AGM when you will see the trophies being awarded together with mementos for the recipients to keep.

***Sue Farrer Trophy Secretary***

## Changing your OGA Area?

Please let us know if you wish to change the Area of the OGA you wish to belong to.

Maybe you have moved your boat to a different part of the country or perhaps one of our newer Areas would suit you which perhaps wasn't formed when you joined.

We have a newly formed North East Area who are very keen to welcome new members, and the Lake District section would like to form itself into a proper OGA Area if enough members join it and volunteers can be found to form a committee.

In the first instance please notify the Membership Secretary Alistair Randall: [membership@oldgaffersassociation.org](mailto:membership@oldgaffersassociation.org) or write to him at 36, High St, Waterbeach, Cambs CB25 9JU

## Calling all Lake District Gaffers!

Did you know that there is a small section of the OGA dedicated to sailing in the lakes? If you would like to join them then contact Barry Healas: [bhealas@yahoo.com](mailto:bhealas@yahoo.com) (please note this is a new email address so use this one not the old one which is printed in the Yearbook). For more information see [www.sailinginthelakes.com](http://www.sailinginthelakes.com)



Ullswater

| <u>Area#</u> | <u>Boats</u>      | <u>Member</u>                                                               | <u>Address</u>                                                        |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BC5800       | Samphire          | MrHuwDyer                                                                   | 24SandfordRoad, AylburtonCommon, Lydney,<br>Gloucestershire, GL15 6DP |
| BC5801       | MrWesley          | Massam                                                                      | NobleMasts, HarbourWay, Bristol, BS407TQ                              |
| BC5816       | MrAndrewKelland   | 163PlymouthRoad, Penarth, ValeofGlamorgan,,<br>CF64 5DG                     |                                                                       |
| BC5818       | MrJosephFrearson  | WillowbankCottage, BarrenHillPenmark, Barry, Vale<br>of Glamorgan, CF62 3BN |                                                                       |
| BC5821       | MrMatthewGoode    | & Ms30TurnerRoad, Canton, Cardiff, CF51HS<br>Claire Richards                |                                                                       |
| EC5804       | MrDavidPrior      | HollyHouse, CrossStreet, Drinkstone, Suffolk, IP30<br>9TP                   |                                                                       |
| EC5811       | MrEdgarWagemakers | & P.O. Box183, 3220ADHellevoetsluis, Netherlands<br>Mrs Else Wagemakers     |                                                                       |
| EC5814       | Edenside          | MrStuartRedhead22ChapelHouseStreet, London, E143AS                          |                                                                       |
| EC5819       | MrLucasSluimer    | LangeGriendsweer14, Hardinxveld, Zuid-Holland,<br>3371CH, Netherlands,      |                                                                       |
| NI5809       | MrJamesLyle       | 31BankhallRoad, Magheramorne, Larne, BT403JQ                                |                                                                       |
| NWA5812      | MrDerekAtkins     | LydiateWindmill, 183LiverpoolRoad, Lydiate,<br>Liverpool, L31 2LY           |                                                                       |
| SCO5806      | BodkinMrs         | MoragReeves29 InvereskVillage, Musselburgh, EastLothian, ED2<br>7TD         |                                                                       |
| SOL5795      | MrMichaelEmmett   | TheHolt, ButtLane, Maldon, Essex, CM95HD                                    |                                                                       |
| SOL5802      | DrCharlesErb1     | ChaddesleyDrive, Pedmore, Stourbridge, West<br>Midlands, DY9 0RN            |                                                                       |
| SOL5803      | MrRichardLee      | Flat9SkylineCourt, 9GrangeYard, London, SE13AN                              |                                                                       |
| SOL5807      | MrGavinReddin     | 19StJohnsStreet, Chichester, WestSussex, PO19UP                             |                                                                       |
| SOL5808      | MrRayCanaven      | WynardsFarm, WinfrithNewburgh, Dorset, DT28DQ                               |                                                                       |
| SOL5810      | MrDominicBrady    | & Mrs86LucasWay, Shefford, Beds, SG175DU<br>Anne Brady                      |                                                                       |
| SOL5813      | MsKarenGrainger   | Underwood, BedburyLane, FreshwaterBay, Isleof<br>Wight, PO40 9PD            |                                                                       |
| SOL5817      | MrIanFolland      | LittleThatches, StratfordSubCastle, Salisbury,<br>Wiltshire, SP1 3LH        |                                                                       |
| SOL5820      | Hyrst ofEremue    | Mr AlanHocking61 PinewoodRoad, Hordle, Lymington, Hants, SO41<br>0GN        |                                                                       |
| SW5797       | MrRobertBulgin    | JessamineCottage, RoseHill, PortIsaac, Cornwall,<br>PL29 3RL                |                                                                       |
| SW5798       | MrRalphBell       | 146Meadwood, StMarksRoad, Torquay, TQ12EH                                   |                                                                       |
| SW5799       | MnemosyneDr       | MichaelCostenThe OldChapel, SparrowHill, Weare, BS262LN                     |                                                                       |
| SW5805       | MrJolyonLumai     | Canaglaze, Altarnun, Launceston, Cornwall, PL157SW                          |                                                                       |
| SW5815       | MrEdwardRobins    | 94EastStreet, CorfeCastle, Wareham, Dorset, BH20<br>5EQ                     |                                                                       |

## Our second proposed legacy

### A report on the boat register

The new Boat Register database can record so much more information than the old spreadsheet system. The new system has space for structural details, history, cruises photographs and scanned articles.

Throughout this summer I have continued to receive details on many boats, some already on the register others new to our records. Thank you all. I apologise I have not always been able to respond immediately; there has to be some time for sailing!

However the present database is only an interim system and work is now underway to prepare an on line system so members can access the extensive database that has been built up over nearly 50 years.

So if you haven't updated your boat's details recently it could be the records on your boat are incomplete. Now is the time to make sure. Have you carried out any major work on her? Have you taken her on a long cruise? Did you take part in the Round Britain Challenge or the Relay this year? A short report for the Register would be great. Have you found out more about her history or have the names of previous owners? Please download a form from the OGA website or get in touch with me.

**Pat Dawson**  
**Boat Register**



*At just 18 feet LOA Chough, sailed by owners David and Christine Hopkins, was the smallest boat to finish the race during the Cowes celebrations. Photo Keith Allso*



Big and small they all came to Cowes. Photo Keith Allso

By every measure the Cowes OGA 50th Anniversary Festival in August proved to be a huge success; a splendidly attended record breaking turnout of Gaffers from near and far assembling for the three day event; aided thankfully by relatively benign seas and fair winds – except of course, on race day, when it blew ol’boots! Wasn’t it ever thus?

Pride of place in Cowes Yacht Haven, which we had almost entirely to ourselves, and where the bulk of us were assembled, going to the Gaffers who had, or were about to complete the RBC – the Round Britain Challenge; the Festival coinciding with the end of their challenge – although a few crews still had to complete theirs when they reached their home ports in the South West and Wales in the days ahead. Many of us share a real empathy for what the Challenge crews achieved; having done it a few years ago in a 24ft Gaffer, I sensed the camaraderie and friendships that had developed between the crews as the challenge progressed; life long friends made for sure. Maybe it’s ‘The Gaff Rig’ experience allied to the raw beauty of so much of our extraordinary coastline that are the principle ingredients, but music grew to be a catalyst, as within the crews lay real talent; some of it hidden untapped and dormant until well into the challenge!

Gaffers arriving on Thursday morning were met and guided to their allocated berths; help at hand from incredibly young and proficient crews in ribs provided by Martin Bennett’s ‘Youth Marine Training Academy’ a charity based at Lepe and by Solent OGA helpers on the pontoons taking lines where needed. Whereupon skippers were invited to collect their welcome packs stuffed with goodies from our sponsors from the organiser’s office; many Gaffers arriving just in time for the lunchtime BBQ, which needed to be moved into the lee of the beer tent, out of a strengthening breeze. The sheltered spot provided a hot sunny launching pad for friendships old and new, every table soon full, the craic hearty, but isn’t it always? Hardly had the smoke drifted away and empty glasses cleared, before it was time for the evening Welcome Drinks party; where the RBC tokens, carried around our coast by the participants

## OGA 50th Anniversary Celebrations at Cowes

were auctioned in aid of the RNLI, after which, the 'Open Mike' entertainment began. Few of us in the audience had any idea what to expect, but in no time we became awe struck at the depth and breadth of musical talent that lay within our ranks who took turns on the stage either individually or in groups to perform; a remarkable atmosphere developing as we joined in the singing and danced into the night.

Friday was 'full on' from 10am which began with a very comprehensive Race Briefing accompanied by coffee and cakes, the Event Hall almost full to overflowing before the day's activities organised by the East Coast OGA kicked off with a dinghy race on the Shraper at 11am. The lunchtime BBQ ending promptly to make way for the afternoon's marina based races that included, ladies, men's and children's smacks, sculls, rubber Flubber and dinghy races; so well attended were they that heats had to be quickly organised before the finals. The Rubber Flubber football game ended the water based activities; the participants mostly ended up either soaking or swimming! Was a goal actually scored; there was talk of some rather dodgy refereeing? Meanwhile a dog show got underway on the hard for proper 'sea dogs' only. Incidentally, the more experienced eye can pick them out from their land based four legged cousins by their bowed legs, awkward gait and love of a sharpener mid morning! It's also bizarre how many dogs take on the appearance of their owners; well at least some did!

As the sun kissed the yardarm the Dutch Clog Race Challenge got underway.



Start of the Clog Race. Photo Keith

For those of you who are in the dark about clog racing, and who isn't, real wooden clogs are beautifully engineered and crafted into gaff rigged yachts; and I do not use the word engineered loosely. Two boasted enviable windward performance, others highly complex self steering mechanisms and bizarre looking keels. Some showed terrific pace carrying massive rigs but then became seriously handicapped by fickle gusts in the marina basin. One thing is certain, many hours of pleasurable toil must have gone into their design and build and all performed far better than the enthusiastic crowd of onlookers would have dreamed possible. Two were then sold at an impromptu auction which raised £210 for the Youth Fund; the day ending with a fish and chip supper for over 400 crew! A huge thank you to Teamac who were one of the event sponsors but who also put on some competitions where an iPod Shuffle and a £200 voucher for their products were won. **On the subject of sponsors, how could we have done it without Hall and Woodhouse, Teamac, Associated British Ports, Classic Boat, Classic Marine, Cornish Crabbers who had a new gaff rigged dinghy on display, Heyland and Whittle, James Lawrence, Haven Knox Johnson and Character Boats who not only donated useful products like soap in the welcome packs but provided your welcome drinks and the funds needed to host such a gathering on scale we have never before attempted.**

**Three Huzzays to all of them for their support which is reflected in the beautifully edited and professional looking Festival Programme, the quality of which surpasses anything ever attempted before.**

Saturday was race day. The Met looked challenging a force 5 gusting 6 even 7 forecasted as the race progressed. It proved a bit too much for some who retired either broken or at risk of being swamped, the Solent mid race cutting it up really rough. Perhaps the Race Officer's choice of course to the West to give the people of Cowes, not to be forgotten sight, of well over 100 old gaffers racing at close quarters. A course set to the East might have been kinder on spars and crew; it being somewhat more sheltered. But as many were to recount in the bar later 'It was what it was'!



Racing in the Solent. Photo Keith Allso

I sensed a slightly more subdued evening from the previous; crews understandably drained from their racing exertions, remained so until a splendid supper was put away and the band took to the stage, then en masse and in Gaffers finest tradition the dance floor filled; and so began another energetic night dancing, the earlier fatigue suddenly forgotten!

What a way to bring the Festival to a close.

So, I hear you ask, 'When and where's the next one going to be'?



When and where's the next one going to be? Photo: Keith Allso

*Simon D'Arcy*  
*Solent Area OGA*

# Letters: Palace approval for Cowes event sought

## HM the Queen advised of the Cowes event



Robert Holden, External Liaison,

6 Chatham Place, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 – 7PT, United Kingdom.

Tel: +44 (0)1843 582997 Mob. +44 (0)7973 468961 Email: [robertjan.holden@btinternet.com](mailto:robertjan.holden@btinternet.com)

Her Majesty The Queen  
Buckingham Palace  
London

May it please Your Majesty,

The Old Gaffers Association is 50 years old this year and is celebrating its 50 years of achievement in the preservation of Gaff Rig on sailing vessels—and, in more recent years, its use on new craft of many designs and in modern materials.

In the course of our celebrations we are holding a number of events around the country, and overseas where we have developed offshoot associations. This culminates in a great gathering of Gaffers in Cowes, where 200 or more vessels will be joining in the OGA 50 Jubilee Celebration of the gaff rig.

As a prelude to this Cowes event we are holding events, in a Round Britain Challenge for gaff rigged vessels; additionally we are relaying items from the events to Cowes. This being done in partnership with, and support, of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) of which you have been graciously pleased to be Patron since 1952. Our objective is to raise funds for the RNLI whose services are so vital to all sailors. We will be involving young people where possible.

It is to be anticipated that the Old Gaffers Association will raise significant amounts of money for the RNLI during our succession of events. Perhaps even more importantly, the publicity generated will place the RNLI in the forefront of the minds of those wishing - in subsequent months or years - to make valuable bequests or legacies long after our events have concluded.

Here at Ramsgate we look forward to receiving a contribution from Westminster to be presented by our MP Laura Sandys. This will be conveyed to Cowes and auctioned, along with other tokens from round Britain for the benefit of the RNLI. A Letter of Goodwill from the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral is to be carried from Canterbury in a small inflatable boat to Sandwich where it will be transferred to the old gaffer 'Emanuel', and will be taken via Ramsgate to Cowes for formal presentation to the RNLI.

Please see here: [www.olgaffersassociation.org](http://www.olgaffersassociation.org) and <http://oga50.org/>.

We trust this all meets with your approval

We would like to thank you for your unfailing patronage of the RNLI over the past sixty-one years. At our event in Ramsgate today, we are entrusting the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, with this letter for delivery to you.

I have the honour to remain, Madam,  
Your Majesty's most humble and obedient subject,

Robert L H Holden  
OGA External Liaison and Ramsgate Event organiser.



Old Gaffers Association and gaffer logo with pirate flag motif are registered trademarks of the Old Gaffers Association



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Robert Holden, Esq.,  
Old Gaffers Association.

The Queen was pleased to receive your kind letter from the members of the Old Gaffers Association, sent on the occasion of its Fiftieth Anniversary Year.

Her Majesty was interested to learn of the celebratory events that are taking place to mark this special year and of the commendable fundraising efforts being made in support of the R.N.L.I. In return, The Queen sends her best wishes and congratulations to all concerned with the Old Gaffers Association as well as to all those participating in the great gathering of Gaffers in Cowes from 15th-18th August.

PRIVATE SECRETARY

15th-18th August, 2013.

## Members' Letters

Dear Phil,

I am writing to say thank you very, very much to all the people involved in organising this year's OGA 50 Round Britain trip. We appreciated the helpful arrangements made for us; apart from the various discounts, we found that being told "yes you are on my list" when calling up marina staff and the people operating the Scottish Canal entrance locks, made subsequent admin and welcome easier. People generally went out of their way to be amazingly helpful- and this really was one of the pleasant surprises of the trip for us. Although **Peggy** was generally behind the fleet, we managed to join the celebrations at Plymouth, which were good despite the weather, and Belfast, where the sunshine was ideal for the riverside BBQ. We knew that other commitments would prevent us being at Loch Melfort. Unfortunately engine problems at Inverness and then at Peterhead made us too late for Newcastle and Ipswich, and made us decide not to risk going on to Cowes.

We had our adventures from time to time and the trip provided pleasing reassurance about **Peggy's** capability. We really enjoyed ourselves and were pleased to get round; we now realise that Scotland and Ireland are viable cruising destinations for us and our appetite is whetted to go back and see more of them. I have to say that I doubt whether we would have done such a trip without the OGA having organised it, and thus providing something to commit to. It is nice now to look at, say, the UK weather forecast and be able to think back about what the coast was like in the various parts of the country.

The trip provided good reason to upgrade some of **Peggy's** equipment as well as thoroughly overhauling her. The new cooker and plotter work so well- why didn't we change these before?! We now have a rail going around the stern which gives a great feeling of security. The wheelhouse cuddy has saved us from the rain and cold and I am now thinking what was for me the unthinkable - a full wheelhouse!! Getting her ready was hectic and the late season snow that we had in Ipswich certainly did not help, but the April deadline made us brave the cold and get stuck into the work- not that we set off "finished"- we were making the nav lights work on the way to Plymouth! Three months on the move is much more than we have done in recent seasons, and we did find that shackles sometimes came undone and ropes chafed, so we had to watch for this, as well as making things work properly! All the work was worthwhile though. In all, the trip was good for Rose-Marie and I, good for **Peggy**, and good for the OGA I'm sure. So thanks again,



Rose-Marie, Phil's wife, plus crew on board **Peggy** having safely arrived in Plymouth during the RBC

*Phil Newman*  
**ECOGA**

## Our sponsors for Cowes



*Old Gaffers at Cowes. Photo Keith Allso*



*James  
Lawrence  
Sailmakers*



## The Peel Traditional Boat Weekend 2013 – A fantasmagorical weekend

The beauty of having a tidal sill with a swing bridge is that besides keeping the tide inside your harbour, it also means that all craft entering and leaving the harbour must do so en masse. When you are holding the Peel Traditional Boat Weekend, this means a series of mini flotillas enter the harbour twice daily!



From our viewpoint alongside Mike Clark's 'WhiteHeather' we had grandstand views as the fleet trickled in over the week preceding the event. Great excitement, good banter, much good natured abuse was flying around as craft converged on the historic and very pretty Peel harbour on the west coast of the Isle of Man. Peel Traditional Boat Weekend has been running now for many years, and has been supported since its inception by the Old Gaffers based on the Irish Sea. The NIOGA, DBOGA, SOGA, NWOGA amongst others have always turned out for what has typically been a superb weekend of sailing, singing, shouting, laughing and fantastic fun. This year the organising committee had arranged to accommodate the 50th anniversary celebrations of the OGA into the event, and this led to a record attendance, it really is fantastic the lengths people will go to for a free meal!

This year's event was stretched from three to five days, including two parades of sail making for a spectacular display for the crowds viewing along Peel harbour and promenade. If you have not yet attended the Peel Traditional Boat weekend I can strongly recommend making the effort. The cliffs surrounding Peel, the castle dominating the entrance to the harbour, the swing bridge, the 'olde worlde' winding cobbled streets, the sailing club literally 20 yards from the quay all make for a fantastic setting for what is definitively the best traditional boat rally (in my opinion) in Britain and Ireland.

Mr Mike Clark, his organising committee and small band of volunteers worked tirelessly from 06:00 every morning to ensure breakfasts of kippers, bacon, sausages, eggs and fresh bread were delivered aboard every participating craft, also toiling away to ensure that each venue for the nights festivities were properly set up. We were fed a different meal each night of the event including a delicious meal followed by a ceilidh in the local Masonic hall to celebrate the official anniversary of the 50th year of the OGA.

The parades of sail were beautiful displays of the attending yachts and working boats; there were standing lugs, gaff cutters, gaff yawls, gaff ketches of all sizes; Bermudian sloops, cutters, yawls, ketches, even the odd classic motorboat steaming among the fleet to add extra spice to an eclectic display of traditional sail. The annual 'Quick and Dirty Boat Race' was a great success, with a huge crowd lining the harbour to watch a display of boat building prowess, followed by an equally entertaining display of eejitry, sinking, swimming, bobbing, drifting, a small amount of efficient paddling, and general nonsense of the aquatic bent! In fairness, with only a few short hours, a small pile of plywood and an extremely limited supply of tools, floating is impressive, actual controlled movement is very, very impressive! This year the best design plaudits were taken by the 'Surveyor 6' team headed by Alex Farrell, and the race itself won by 'Team Noah' headed by Mr Ted Williams.

Congratulations to the lucky prize winners, prizes are allocated by Mr Clark's committee by the means of a secret formula, known only to himself and a limited special few, this year the trophies were as follows: The Roin Bahn Cup – 'Child of the Waves' (Malcolm Hatton), Greek Inn Cup – Ain Mara (Dickie Gomes), 40+ Fishing Boat Trophy – 'Peel Castle' (Graham Bailey), Rum Cove Trophy For

the individual to helped the event most) ‘Fionne’, Nobby Winch – ‘Up Sprits’ (Dennis Wright) (single handed passage of 60 miles with two dogs, aged 86!), Propeller Trophy – ‘Berceuse’ (Nick Magnay), Commissioners Cup – ‘Fisher Lass’ (Mike Craine), Henry Kelly Trophy for best boat by skippers vote – ‘Vilma’ (Scott Metcalf), Nicky Leg (Booby Prize) – ‘Glance’ Isobel Hood.

Particular note should be given to the winner of the ‘Nobby leg’ given out each year to the skipper of the craft deemed to have entertained the regatta by a display or act of such total stupidity and or humiliation that it would be impossible to go unrewarded. In previous years Mr Adrian ‘Madcap’ Spence (NIOGA) has single-mindedly claimed this prize repeatedly year after year, after year, Mr Joe ‘Master Frank’ Pennington (NIOGA) has carved his name on the leg on occasion, but this year the award for a display of ‘parking using the depth sounding capabilities of the keel over a four hour window within the harbour walls’ was given to the beautiful craft ‘Glance’ with Strangford Lough and Quoile yacht club’s Isobel Hood (NIOGA), once again ensuring that the award for buck stupidity remained firmly on the west side of the Irish Sea....



As with all regattas, the setting, organisation, and weather are important, but without the massed ranks of the slightly eccentric, mildly deluded, and in some cases, frankly bonkers boat owners and crews, prepared to converge from all corners of the British Isles and farther afield onto this small island, most famous for motorbike racing, the Peel Traditional Boat Weekend would not happen. This year’s event was record breaking, it was a blur of craic agus ceol, sailing, diesel fumes, the distinctive aroma of cooking kippers drifting across the harbour (a fair amount of black market trading in illicit kippers between skippers too!), ceilidhs, but most importantly a fantasmagorical collection of beautiful craft, some perfection, some on-going projects, some tiny, and some fairly huge, and above all, we came, we were welcomed by a community like no other for a superb Trad boat hoolie, and we enjoyed ourselves! Congratulations to all involved, and see you next year.



**Gary Lyons**  
**NIOGA**

## The Jubilee Competition

This additional competition was run to compliment the Round Britain Challenge and other events of the 50th Jubilee, and has just been completed with a prize giving in HMS Belfast in London, hand in hand with that of the National Historic Ships UK (NHS) for their own photographic competition.

The prize giving was very well attended with most of the eleven short listed OGA entrants present, including a Dutch contingent.

The short listed photographs from both the OGA and the NHS competitions were continuously on view on large screens, with time available to enjoy both the hospitality in atmospheric surroundings and the company of people with a varied mix of marine and photographic interests.

Following the NHS awards, Mike Shaw spoke of the OGA Jubilee events and the bonds that had been formed between those competing in them, and then presented prizes to Alistair Randall and Else Wage-makers for their Highly Commended entries and to Sue Lewis for her winning picture. The Dutch OGA President Hugo Zwanenbeek accepted the Youth Winner's Prize on behalf of Silke Peeters the youth competition winner, who had a more pressing engagement with her school in Belgium!



Silke Peeters accepting her prize from Dutch OGA President Hugo Zwanenbeek

All four pictures are in this edition of The Log.

Whilst hopefully appearing calm on the surface, there had been considerable paddlingbeneath, as the competition was born fairly late in the day and required a large amount ofcoordination with the NHS.

Few entries had been received as the deadline approached, and Mike Shaw’s prophesy that “In Gaf-ferdom things tend to happen at the last minute” was fulfilled with a final rush. As I was away sailing some very large files swamped my server and I have to apologize to those whose entries were bounced back. All was sorted in a few frantic days.

Shortlisting for both the NHS and OGA competitions was done by a panel from bothassociations and the judging also by a named panel; all very above board!

It is time to consider the next event .....

**The Usual OGA Competition**

This is to run exactly as before except the deadline is extended to Dec 31st. Full details are available through the OGA website but I would like to comment on one aspect of the rules which sometimes seems to cause confusion...digital processing. Whilst extreme manipulation such as HDR and layers is excluded, all normal means of getting the best from your picture is encouraged, eg; levels, exposure correction, sensible cropping and blemish removal. PLEASE straighten the horizon; boats do not sail uphill, even if it sometimes feels that way in the OGA.



**The Future**

Finally decisions are needed for next year’s competition;  
Should we aim to continue the link with the NHS, and if so how?  
Should we change the competition categories?  
When should we have the deadline?  
Should the prizes remain as cash?  
How should the judging be done?  
Remember that this is your competition so your views are needed.  
Please prove the President wrong and enter early!

*Mike Garlick*  
*OGA Photographic Competition*

HMS Belfast in the pool of London taken on the eve of the awards ceremony.  
Photo Mike Garlick, South West OGA



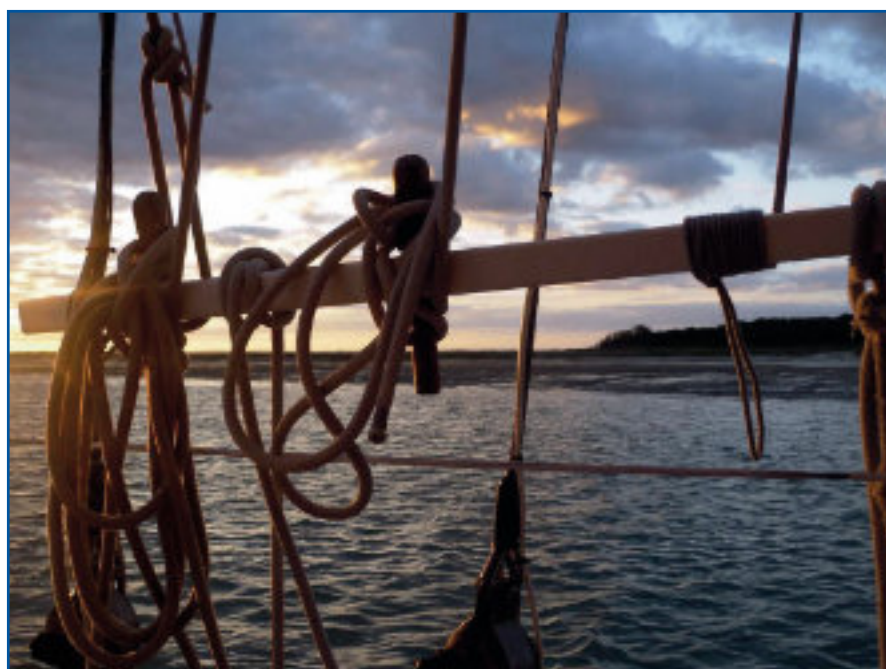
Highly Commended.Alistair Randall  
"Cine Mara Runs To Chichester Harbour On The Round Britain"



Highly Commended.Else Wagemakers" Bonify Under A Dramatic Sky"



Winner. Sue Lewis “ Camaret Crabber Sails Past Bonify At Salcombe”



Junior Winner. Silke Peeters “Dreams on NewtownRiver”

## South West Area OGA

August was a busy month afloat. Numbers were down at Dittisham Regatta as the event clashed with the Cowes Jubilee Festival. However Roger Tushingham's effort to make the event by sailing single handed from Salcombe and arriving in the early hours of the morning was rewarded by his finishing first in his modified Shrimper "MistyMorn" and claiming the John Wynn Trophy. For the second year running Michael Olliff-Lee finished 2nd in his Shrimper "Morwenna", this time with a novice crew, who had only attended the Learn To Sail event at Dittisham Sailing Club the previous week. This certainly fulfils the OGA's brief to introduce people to sailing gaffers! He was awarded the OGA Grog Trophy. The wet and windy conditions proved a bit too much for John Wynn who had to retire in his Tela "Swallow".



Swallow leading Morwenna and Misty Morn at Dittisham Regatta – Photo Peter Crook



The winner Misty Morn, a cutter rigged Shrimper with carbon spars! – Photo Peter Crook

12 South West members and 5 boats (Arianna, Ester, Grace, Mary Hay and Periwinkle) were lured to Cowes. A sixth boat "AnnieKay" made it as far as Brixham but had to scratch from the event. All those attending had a memorable few days. The Solent tides were a challenge to those unfamiliar with the area. The strong winds for the main race on the Saturday proved too much for some but "Grace" and "Mary Hay" achieved a respectable 3rd and 2nd in their respective classes. Steve Cole's Clog Yacht was much admired and performed well. Most of the photographs show her in the lead until she was hit by the ketch rigged clog, whose bowsprit impaled her between mast and mainsail and sailed her away from the finish line and towards the marina entrance. The crowd loved the clog race and the general feeling was that it was a lot more fun to watch than big yacht racing! Thanks to all members who suggested names for the clog. There were some excellent suggestions including "Sabot" and "Sabotage". However Steve decided to keep it simple and she has been aptly named "Tulip". Ideas are now required as to how she can be put to use.

The numbers racing in Dartmouth Regatta were down in most classes. The gaffers were an exception with a 100% increase over 2012 but still only 4 boats raced most days. Pete Lucas' beautiful "Ripple", Gil and Carolyn Hayward's Kite Class "Mary Hay", Mike Garlick's Shrimper "Rascal" and "Nutmeg" a Crabber 22 belonging to a member of RDYC. "Ripple" and "Mary Hay" both sport a gaff rig but that is about the only thing they have in common. However they do represent traditional and new gaffers in the OGA.



Ripple – Photo Mike Garlick

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Mary Hay – Photo Peter Chesworth

Ignoring the OGA handicap system, these 2 boats enjoyed some really close racing and on the last day “Mary Hay” won the first race by 10 seconds and “Ripple” won the final race by 7 seconds. The weather conditions were near perfect for this regatta with a respectable sailing breeze each day although the start on the last day had to be delayed for a couple of hours but those who waited were rewarded with a fair southerly breeze gusting up to 19 knots. We would love to see more South West Gaffers entering this event. Trophies have already been allocated so please enter in 2014.

By the time this article appears in print, the season will have finished and we will have held our Laying-up Lunch and AGM. The current officers have agreed to serve for a further year. We are looking for a volunteer to become editor of our local newsletter “The Dog Watch”, maybe with a new name following our Area name change. It has come to our notice that the Area Secretary’s address is incorrectly stated in the Year Book. He can be contacted at [secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@southwestgaffers.org.uk)

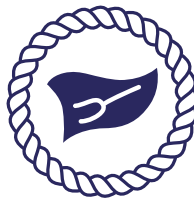
Your committee will be represented at the OGA ACM/AGM in London on 11th January 2014. We have circulated a discussion document with the notice of our Laying-up Lunch in November. If you were unable to attend that event please let us have your views so we can make sure the OGA know how you think they should adapt to the challenges facing the OGA as it enters the next 50 years.

Finally, I am sorry to have to report that our Area President, Mike Lucas’ daughter, Louise has been seriously ill in hospital for some time. I am sure you will all wish to join me in hoping she makes a full recovery and we will see her sailing again with her father in “Marie Louise” in 2014.

*Gil Hayward*  
*Area Secretary*



NL  
OLD GAFFERS  
ASSOCIATION  
2004  
2014



## OGA<sup>1</sup> (

## Cross Country tour

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### 25/07-10/08

### 2014

### Skippers Ahoy

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#### What are the plans

Following the great success of the RBC this year and taking into account that we don't live on an Island, we will organize a 'Cross Country tour' through the Netherlands. From Friday July 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>. . . \$%1 ) / ' , 4\$ % %

nautical, cultural and social events.

You are most welcome to join us at the opening event at Wemeldinge in our Zeeland delta on July 25<sup>th</sup>. From here we will guide you on a trip through the low lands. Through rivers and canals - which you can navigate with your stepped mast - we sail to visit ancient city's, including a stopover in Amsterdam.

Once we all survived this costly city you can have the experience of sailing on the biggest pond you have ever seen. The IJsselmeer - without tides - gives you the opportunity to sail at any time. And you can taste the atmosphere of the ancient rich VOC period. Then we will bring you to the north, through the Frisian waters, to end in the Dutch historical naval city Den Helder on August 10<sup>th</sup> (don't be afraid of Michiel the Ruyter, since he died ages ago).

Of course all plans are weather prevailing. The details, at this moment, 'only the Dutchman knows'. But be sure we will do our best to make the trip worthwhile.

We realize that the low lands are for many foreign sailors a bit out of reach to sail to. Therefore we intend to facilitate crew

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their own boat. And when demand is high enough we can try to charter barges to sail with us on this tour.

Enough reasons for you to change your holiday plans for next year and to head for the Netherlands. But as we are living in a crowded little country, especially on the waterfront, we have to settle with harbour authority's etc. So please to let us know if you intend to come. Just to know how big our international OGA armada will be.

As soon as there will be further details we will let you now through the website, and for all who already subscribed by direct mail.

At this moment we haven't organized a proper website or mail address yet, but we intend to inform you as soon as possible. So for the moment you can subscribe by sending a mail to my address [inst@xs4all.nl](mailto:inst@xs4all.nl) and we hope to have some webspace soon as well.

On behalf of the Dutch OGA

Rik Janssen

## Autumn notes from the North East

With the sailing season behind us (although for ‘Camay’ the ‘refitting season’ is reaching a paint & varnish smelling climax!) thoughts now turn towards next year’s activities.

That will start with the Annual General Meeting which I shall attend as NE Secretary representing everyone in the area so please let me know what you want said. Come along if you like – I can access some tasty travel & hotel deals.

There are at least two anniversaries that are of interest to our area:

In 2014 the Coquet Yacht Club celebrates its Golden Jubilee and I shall be asking them to include the OGA in the celebrations and August 2014 is the 70<sup>th</sup> ‘birthday’ of MFV 1100 ‘Scotch Queen’, launched by Humphrey & Smith at Grimsby in 1944. It is hoped that she will return to Grimsby (complete with auxiliary gaff rig) to take part in the Fish Docks festival & start a new phase of her long life as a community resource.

Also, remember that there will be numerous interesting local events worth visiting – eg. The Eyemouth Herring Queen Festival, fishy, foodie, funnie fests at Amble, North Shields, Lifeboat Days etc. etc.

Is there any interest in our area (& from our neighbour areas, North, South & West) in cruising / passage racing / trailering to take part in any of the above? I’m happy to at least set the organisational ball rolling.

There will be NE area meetings mid December 2013 on Humberside and March 2014 in the Tyne / Tees area. I shall circulate details via the web site & individually to NE members by email.

Compliments of the festive season to all.

**Jim Bell**  
*NE Area Secretary.*





OGA Round Britain Yachts arrive in Newcastle

# Ramsgate celebrates the OGA's 50th anniversary

## *OGA50 at Ramsgate by Robert & Jan Holden*

An easy weekend prelude to our big Cowes event Saturday August 3rd - Monday August 5th, 2013 saw the eastern corner of Ramsgate Royal Harbour's inner basin neatly packed with over 20 Gaffers of all sizes. They even went as far along as the quayside beneath the bus stops. This spectacle has not been seen since the demise of the sailing trawlers in the early years of the last century. With all craft gaily dressed overall we could not be missed and, accordingly, and as the pavement runs directly beside the harbour, a healthy number of passers-by were able to stop and enjoy a close view of the Gaffers from the railings above – many easily able to chat to the crews on the pontoons.

First item on the agenda for Saturday morning; the marquee which was to be used for the opening ceremony (the only 'Official bit' of the weekend ) had to be erected. As usual, there were plenty of offers of help and all things considered the marquee went up tolerably quickly, given the amount of wind intent on transporting it – and us - towards the main beach. With the marquee secured, our colours, and those of the RNLI, were run up the nearby mast whilst the furniture was moved in. Including The Summer Squall Workshop as this summer their theme was boats and they had every one making or painting paper boats.

Also in position within the marquee for the duration of the event was a drawing kindly designed by OGA East Coast Member John Cann.



The original idea was that this drawing should be 'coloured in' by O.G.A. Members and the public who paid for the privilege as part of our fundraising efforts for the R.N.L.I. However on seeing the superb quality of John's drawing it was decided to sell photocopies of the drawing to raise the funds – while Claudia Myatt kindly started the painting off and supervised other colouring in by some of the artistic Gaffers . A local artist, Angela Adams, offered to complete the painting after the Gaffers had left so all was well. This picture is intended to be a pictorial record of the OGA Rally in Ramsgate. Measuring 1.2 x 1.2 meters, it will join over 100 other exceptional and varied paintings on what has come to be known as The Great Wall of Ramsgate. This great wall is effectively a very long building site hoarding opposite Ramsgate's main beach.

The rest of the morning was spent either relaxing on board, or exploring the nearby shops, pubs, cafés etc. President Mike Shaw was able to join us - arriving at mid-day on the local Loop bus service direct from the railway station to harbour.

The Saturday sunshine continued for the opening ceremony in the marquee at 15.00. This was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent Lord De Lisle, The Queen's representative for Kent, who was pleased to receive a letter from the OGA to Her Majesty, thanking her for over 60 years of RNLI Patronage. Also present was our local MP Laura Sandys, a representative of the Maritime Museum and other local dignitaries. The Gaffers were guests of The Royal Temple Yacht Club on the Saturday evening, joined by crews of the several boats who had arrived in Ramsgate later on in the evening. All to enjoy the OGA's distinctive musical partying.

Sunday morning the public gathered along the walls of the outer Harbour and along the beach to watch the Parade of Sail - the Gaffers provided a magnificent spectacle as Ramsgate provides many opportunities to view the boats close at hand.

OGA 50 Ramsgate concluded on the Sunday evening with a dinner at The Oak Hotel, just across the road from our berths, who kindly gave us a first class meal at exceptionally short notice. But that is another story.

*Robert and Jan Holden*

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## Holyhead Traditional Sail Festival

This was our 7th Annual Traditional Sail Festival with this year a total of 33 boats attending. Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances the Brigantine **Zebu** did not arrive. However, we were lucky enough to have the 70ft. schooner **Soteria** to replace her.

We estimate the total number of visitors viewing the boats and visiting the harbour was in the region of 1,500 to 2,000 many wearing re-enactment costumes as well as some pirates. The weather was very much in our favour which made the parades of sail both on the Sunday and the Monday a wonderful spectacle for the many visitors. The sail pasts were lead by the Holyhead Lifeboat. There were cannon and muskets, provided by the Hearts of Oak re-enactment group, aboard our area Presidents 50ft. Tops'1 Schooner **Vilma** and the 70ft. Schooner **Soteria** they both looked wonderful in full sail firing at each other at close quarters and close to the shore which made a fantastic sight for the public. There was also shore battery with cannon etc. provided by the Anglesey Hussars.

The Holyhead RNLI held their lifeboat day over two days. They also tested life jackets and provided on board safety checks for the visiting boats.

Steamhead, a wandering jazz band, also attracted many people with their wide range of music activities. It was good to see that some people who were unable to bring their own boats came by road just to attend and be part of the event.

Saturday evening's entertainment in the sailing club was again a huge success with the Coffin Dodgers providing Irish folk music. Poems and pints on the Sunday evening was well attended with a surprise guest from Steamhead – Jolly Jock who kept us all amused with his many songs and anecdotes. Thanks were also extended to all other participants who kept the evening flowing until late.

Since the event we have received numerous email and letters complimenting us on the whole weekend.

We had support from Holyhead Town Council who provided the Civic Reception on Friday evening held at the Town Hall in Holyhead. The reception was attended by Councillor Ron Williams, the Mayor of Holyhead and his lady. Also in attendance were representatives from the Sea Cadets, Stena Line Ports, the Harbour Master, and the Coxswain from the Holyhead lifeboat. John Cave and Richard Burnell from the Maritime Museum were also came along in taking many photographs of the event over the whole of the weekend. Stena Line Ports sponsored us for the production of china mugs for distribution to skippers and owners of qualifying registered boats.



The Holyhead Marina supported us by giving free marina berthing for the weekend for qualifying registered boats and Holyhead Sailing Club hosted the event and allowed us the use of their premises and their safety boats for the whole of the weekend. We were also lucky to have the St. Cybi Pilot Boat skippered by Alan Williams which we used as the offshore committee boat.



Fred and Angela on board Moonflower

*Sue Farrer*  
*Secretary North Wales Area*



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# The East Coast Celebrates

## East Coast boats on the RBC

Five East Coast boats completed the RBC with a combined age of 481 years. **Bonify** and **Witch** in company with relay boat **MaryRichie**, officially kicked off the RBC in April. **Bonita** left the Swale not long after them, with **Peggy** dropping her mooring on the Orwell to head round at the same time. **Cygneto** of London motored away from Faversham in early May.

**Bonita** took the long way round, enjoying time in the Orkneys, while the rest went through the Caledonian Canal.

Sue Lewis, the OGA Hon Sec. who went round Britain in **Bonify** will be giving a talk on the trip at the Nottage Institute on the 25th of January at 19.30, followed by wine and cheese.



## Swallows and Amazons 25th May (by Anna Masters)

Those arriving on Friday were met by torrential rain while they pitched their tents. We woke up to clear blue skies and a fresh breeze. It was the day of the round the island race, however due to the wind it was shortened to round Honeypot island instead. 13 boats left for the start and 10 finished. The starting gun went and everyone was off reaching towards Honeypot. **Montmorency** and **Melisa** defined 1st and 2nd on corrected time, with **Bella**, a Mirror, in 3rd. It was a close call over the line in the smacks boat class with **Ripple** leading most of the way until **HappyDays** overtook on the home straight winning the class.

In the afternoon we made paper land yachts for a competition kindly sponsored by Classic Marine. On Sunday we woke again to a bright morning. It was a long beat out of the creek against the tide to Witches Quay. The soft bank provided a necessary bumper for some individuals. Everyone, including the various sea-faring dogs, enjoyed the picnic until the tide nudged us to leave.

Monday's plan was a picnic at Stone Point. A blustery morning led to a stiff sail down to the mouth of the Backwaters where the new back eddy was vicious. Landing on the beach ended with several smacks dinghies getting almost swamped. After ten minutes watching our precious boats getting pounded, we retreated to the shelter of the creek. Special credit to **Nemo** the Cadet with sisters Eden and Ruby in - the conditions were quite challenging.



### Holbrook Rally, 22nd June

On Saturday morning Lillibullero, Transcurand Robinetta anchored in the bay while smacks boats Papa Stour, Lettuce, and Ripple made a fine sight running under deeply reefed lug sails. Andy and Fiona Abraham (smack Electron) came across in their inflatable, which turned out to be a wise move. The RHS gave us their usual welcome. They have a new exhibition of school memorabilia including Nelson related goodies.

Back at the creek the wind had really got up. It was so bad that the Life Boat was called in case help was needed. Pete "the Knife" Elliston managed to scull Papa Stour to the landing stage but beating to Wrabness was out of the question. The small boats motored out to the anchored yachts, with those without outboards being towed. One boat sank, luckily in the shallows and the crew had to walk ashore, while another crew took advantage of the Life Boat to help them on board their bucking yacht. The wind was so strong all the boats had dragged their anchors.

After the morning's excitement no one felt like racing. Instead seamanship trophies were awarded to Pintail of Mora, Maid of Tessa and Summer Fox, the three boats whose skippers had the sense to stay at Wrabness!

### Jubilee Cruise, 20th-28th July

This year the Jubilee Cruise replaced the August Classics Cruise. Moving it into July meant it coincided with the Round Britain fleet passing through the area, and twenty round Britain boats joined the East Coast fleet in Ipswich.

Sunday's regatta was used to raise money for the RNLI, with each entrant paying 50p per race. The sailing race was so popular that four heats were run. Next came the rubber flubber sailing race, with some highly inventive and competitive ways of getting a sail into a rubber dingy! Edgar from Windbreker won this in great style. After a lunch break we had very competitive sculling and rowing races both sighted and blindfold. Demeter won the duck hunt, catching 67 ducks, partly aided by swimmers in the water.

# The East Coast Celebrates

The rubber-flubber football tried some rules out to make it easier to manage in Cowes later in the year. However, the customary mayhem was maintained, with boats being left to float empty after their crews dived in.

Monday was a gentle cruise down the beautiful Orwell and Stour to a beach party at Wrabness. Tuesday dawned damp and windless for the race to Walton backwaters. By 9am there was wind to start but most of the other boats fell into a huge wind hole in Harwich Harbour, and could not make against the tide. Less than ½ the boats finished.

On Wednesday the fleet set off down the Wallet for a passage race to West Mersea.

High water Springs at Packing Shed Island is a time when the shed is all there is to the land. The abundant seafood platters were handed round and eaten in interesting conditions for the early arrivals, but by 3 when the last few were handed out there was room to spread out and relax.

Thursday was Lady skippers and Junior Helms race day. With the ladies and young people distributed amongst the boats and the short course selected all of the boats made it to the finish line at Osea Pier before heading to various moorings before the Quay party at Maldon.

A committed group of volunteers had been hard at work all afternoon to provide a tasty buffet in the Little Ships Club which was consumed with relish by 120 hungry gaffers. The venue was much admired by the Round Britain Challenge sailors who had not been there before.

Friday saw the Two Rivers Race held on the Blackwater and the Colne instead of the Orwell and Stour as in normal years.

The Jubilee Cruise would not have been possible without the hard work of the organising committee, so our thanks go out to them and to the following people and organisations for their sponsorship; Adnams, Associated British Ports, Classic Boat, Classic Marine, Claudia Myatt, English Braids, Fox's Chandlery, Ipswich Borough Council, Seafarer Books, Seamark Nunn, Water Craft.

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### **Parade of Sail to Wivenhoe**

The parade of sail to Wivenhoe is another firm fixture of the East Coast. The Wivenhoe Sailing Club always makes us very welcome with local ale, a hog roast and this year, a fine band. In contrast to the previous day, strong winds made slowing down the important tactic on the way up, while the beat back down river was hard work, even with the tide.

### **Crouch Rally, 24th August**

The Crouch Rally, like many other events this year, was moved, from its May Bank Holiday spot to the August Bank Holiday, in order to accommodate the returnees from the Cowes Celebrations and hopefully give us better weather than we've had in recent years. Charm, Pintail of Morra, Kelpiell, Greensleeves, Swallowtail, Aussieil, Janner and Paprika gathered at Fambridge over the Friday and Saturday.

Using the North Fambridge Yacht Club as a base the crews and guests sat down to enjoy fish & chips and chewed the fat and enjoyed the beverages supplied by Trevor Rawlinson. It was still raining next morning when after a hearty breakfast we decamped to the warm and dry Baronial Halls of Roy Hart where we joined by Elder Gaffers Mike Peyton and Ray Austin, many thanks again to Roy and Julie for their hospitality.

### **Maldon Regatta, 21st September**

The final sailing event of the year took place on the 21st of September. The forecast was for almost no wind but in practice there was a fine, light sailing breeze all day. After the customary free beer and cider at the sail loft we assembled for our third dinner of the year at the Little Ship Club and partied late into the night.

That wrapped up our sailing events for the year, but with the AGM on the 16th November and the Christmas Party at Cormorant Sails coming up on the 7th December the OGA 50 year is not yet over. We have a full programme planned for next year too, starting in January at the Nottage, so please visit our website <http://www.eastcoastclassics.co.uk> for details.

*Alison Cable*  
**ECOGA**

Since the fantastic OGA Jubilee Festival, combined with our annual race, we have had a few more events in the Solent Area

### **Bursledon Regatta**

Paris was the setting on the River Hamble at the Elephant Boatyard, and the Eiffel Tower, the Moulin Rouge and the Arc De Triomphe were all there in front of the Jolly Sailor and the Elephant Boatyard. On the Friday evening the Bursledon and Swanwick Regatta Festival Committee presented a very lovely plaque to the Solent OGA in recognition of their support of this event during the past years. It depicts 'Betty' the gaff cutter owned and sailed by Tom Richardson as she is 100 years old this year. She took part in the first Solent OGA race all those years ago. We were very pleased to have this trophy and we have decided to keep it for this event in our calendar to be awarded to the best dressed OGA boat at the event. This year we gave it to Marion Shirley with **East Breeze**, because she had taken the trouble to fly all her Tea Towels up the mast and decorated her boat in a true French fashion with French Lavender on board as well.

Fun and Games was the order of the day on the Saturday, after a hearty breakfast for the gaffers supplied by David and Christine Hopkins at their nearby home in Old Bursledon, with brilliant fireworks in the evening which this year again did not disappoint.

On Sunday there was the Gaffer Race out in the Solent, which was won by **Sepia** (David & Sue Pennison) with **Chough** coming second and **Sonnet** in third place.

### **Rally at Bembridge 6th to 8th September 2013**

We had a very relaxing weekend at Bembridge, with quite a few gaffers turning up on the Friday and more on the Saturday. We moored up on the long pontoon and had a BBQ in the evening ashore, followed by an impromptu music session by Dave Walters, and Mark Hickman, Mark, and his wife, had also invited the gaffers to come to tea at his very interesting workshop in Bembridge, over looking the harbour – a unique view when you are working !

We all sailed off home on the Sunday but had an interesting time with an unexpected squall of 30 Knots of wind mid Solent, but we all coped OK and were back on our moorings safely for the end of day.

### **Centenary Chase at Yarmouth with Royal Solent Yacht Club 21st September**

Following its usual format with a race briefing at midday in the Royal Solent Yacht Club, before the pursuit race in the afternoon. Quite a few gaffers turned out for this event and the race was won by **Zinnia** skippered by Ian and Sue Pople. We had a very pleasant evening the yacht club for supper and swapping the salty tales of the day.

We are planning events for the winter period and will include a visit to the new Mary Rose Museum, a weekend trip to St. Malo, and a trip on a Real Ale train and more will be revealed in the next edition of the Gaffers Log.

The Solent AGM will take place on Saturday 15th February 2014 at 7.00 at Warsash Sailing Club.

If anyone would like more information on the above Solent events then please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Jessica Warren**  
*Area Secretary Solent*



Moored up at Bemburgh. Photo Mike Warren Solent Area OGA

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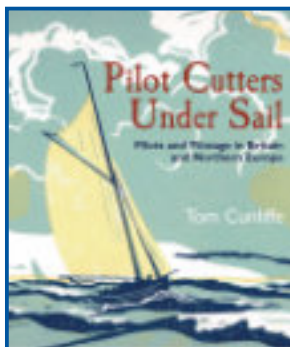


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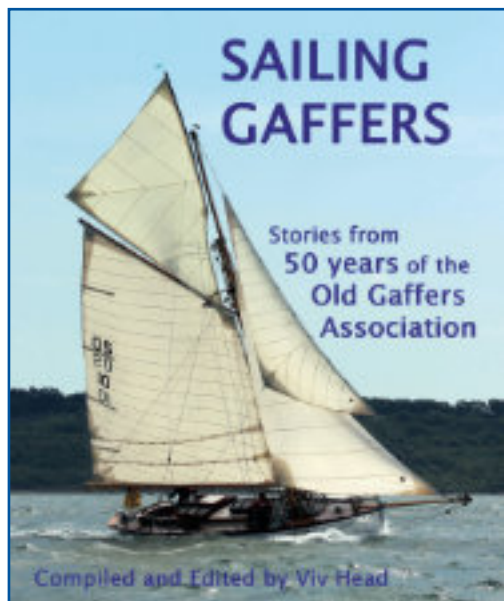
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***Sue Lewis OGA Secretary***

***On behalf of the GMC***



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Race over, homeward run.  
Photo Mike Garlick South West OGA

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