



WIVENHOE SAILING CLUB

MAINSHEET

2010 AUTUMN EDITION

Editor: Roy Crookes

profile: Bernie Hetherington

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editor's note

Well, already a year has passed since I got this job on **Mainsheet** and I look forward, through the next year, to keeping a flow of information and news coming to members of WSC. In this edition you will find the booking form to be used for the annual dinner, a preliminary set of boat lifting dates and an update on the many other events and activities planned up to the year's end. There is a review of the latest Ostend rally, a profile on the Brightlingsea Harbour Master, Bernie Hetherington and an interesting over-view by him, of the evolution of the official governance of our river. There is as well, an account of an unusual sighting on it, recorded this summer. For those currently not so able to get out under sail, there is a snapshot from an alternative sea view of our shoreline.

There are also dedications to the lives of two of our members, Pat Ellis and Maureen Pettit, regrettably recently deceased.



Bernie was born in Coventry, about as far from the sea as you can get in England! When he was 16 he was introduced to estuary sailing on an outward-bound course in Wales. In 1970, after beginning work at the GPO in London, he and Midge went to an evening class, at the historic Royal Victualling Yard, in Deptford, to build a Mirror dinghy - it was winter and the kit cost less than the heating costs of their flat, on winter evenings! They also learned to sail there - the turning marks of the courses were the many swim-head lighters, moored on the Thames! He says the combined experience inspired a passion in him, for all things maritime – and a healthy respect for the power of the sea and tides.

In 1971 they moved to Marks Tey to live nearer the sea and sailed the Mirror and then an Enterprise dinghy from West Mersea – he was unaware of the existence of the best sailing club in the area! During this time he learned to navigate at the Nottage, crewed on racing yachts out of West Mersea and he and Midge holidayed on hired yachts. He also bought a 24 ft wooden centre-board cruiser, a somewhat elderly lady, *Anniversary*, in which he won the

Rat Race in the first year that the “pot rat” was awarded. *Anniversary* is currently an unwanted garden ornament if you listen to Midge or a retirement project if you believe Bernie!

In 1973 he left the GPO and became a physics teacher, at Sir Charles Lucas School, becoming very involved in sailing at the school. He moved to Wivenhoe in 1976 and began a new career running Arleigh Outdoor Centre for ECC. Since that change of direction he has taught navigation at the Nottage, skippered sail training yachts (including taking part in several Tall Ships races) and fitted out a GRP folkboat, all whilst being paid “to avoid drowning kids or letting them fall down mountains”. In 2000 he became Harbour Master at Brightlingsea, sold his folkboat and bought *Desire*, a 30 ft yacht which he still loves, owns and keeps in Brightlingsea Harbour - he and Midge even manage to go sailing in it occasionally!

Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners

Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners (BHC) was established as a Trust Port by Act of Parliament in 1927 in order that the harbour could be managed effectively to meet the conflicting needs of all its users especially the boat builders, fishermen and oystermen. BHC has to answer to the Department of Transport for its actions. There are four types of port in the UK. Trust Ports are non-profit making public utilities with statutory powers under their own Acts of Parliament and the 1847 Harbour Docks and Piers Act. The other three types are Naval Ports such as Plymouth, Private Ports such as ABP Southampton and Municipal Ports such as Colchester before it closed.



harbour office with Caroline at the door

BHC has had various revisions to its Act to deal with issues such as finance, byelaws and structure. The last revision in 2001 involved modernising its structure. The revision changed the board of trustees from fourteen members nominated by various defined vested interests to eight members known as commissioners, six of whom are unpaid volunteers recruited by public advertisement. Each of these non-executive commissioners is appointed for a term of four years by competitive interview based on the qualities they bring to the commissioner team and the chairman is elected from their number by the other commissioners. To maintain continuity three commissioners are appointed in a four year cycle and two years later the other three commissioners are appointed for a different four year cycle. Each commissioner can serve a maximum of two terms consecutively. The role of these non executive commissioners is to ensure that the two executive commissioners, the Chief Executive and Harbour Master act in the best interests of the harbour as a whole. There is a board meeting on the first Wednesday in every month except January and August. The AGM is held in October and a Public Meeting in November. Additional meetings are called as necessary.

BHC is a “Competent Harbour Authority” which entitles it to authorise pilots to guide ships into the Harbour. Pilotage is compulsory for vessels over sixty metres LOA. Pilotage is compulsory on the River Colne for vessels over fifty metres and is currently provided for small coasters which still visit the ballast quay at Fingringhoe about four times a year. BHC owns and crews the pilot boat but contracts with Harwich Pilots’ Association to provide at least one pilot per tide as required. When Colchester Harbour closed in 2001, BHC assumed responsibility for both the positioning and maintenance of the navigation aids and the pilotage of vessels on the River Colne from the Inner Bench Head buoy to the river’s confluence with the Roman River.

In 2001 a new piece of legislation was introduced known as the Port Marine Safety Code which defines the duties and responsibilities of the Harbour Board and ensures that it manages the harbour safely. All statutory harbour authorities in the UK including BHC are required to comply with it.

Under this Code, BHC is required to have an oil spill response plan, a waste management plan, undertake hydrological surveys and ensure the harbour remains sustainable and is a safe and proper place for use by its stakeholders, which include the local natural environment and ecology as well as all people using or affected by its operation.

The money needed to support the work of BHC comes solely from payments made by the users of the waters under its management and the services it provides to them. It receives no grant aid from local or central government. Any surplus it generates above its expenditure is held in reserves for reinvestment in the harbour infrastructure. The statutory harbour covers all the waters in Brightlingsea Creek and its adjoining creeks to the east of a line drawn between Bateman's Tower and the Martello Tower at Point Clear. The harbour lies within an environmentally sensitive coastal area of international importance. It is an SSSI an SPA and a Ramsar site and has the highest levels of protection and as such all activity and development is closely monitored to ensure there is minimum impact on the natural environment. BHC works with Natural England, the Environment Agency and other bodies. One of those other bodies is the newly formed Marine Management Organisation which manages the marine environment including estuaries and coastal waters out to the limits of our territorial waters.

Brightlingsea had a long tradition as a fishing and boat building harbour but is now a modern leisure harbour and small commercial port. Its facilities and profile have improved over recent years whilst it still retains a friendly informal atmosphere. The harbour is one of the larger leisure boating centres in the area with approximately six hundred moorings of which four hundred are provided or managed by BHC, the remainder being owned by other providers. There is a variety of moorings which range from conventional swinging and fore and aft drying mud moorings on buoys to nearly a mile of mostly all tide accessible berthing alongside floating pontoons in mid channel and two marinas which are both privately owned. One marina dries to mud and the second, which is managed by BHC, has a sill which dries 1m above Chart Datum and retains a wet basin which can accommodate a few visiting vessels.

The harbour has a bar at the entrance with 0.7m depth at chart datum and therefore offers virtually all tide access to one of the best leisure boat cruising grounds in the U.K. With the large number of resident boats and many visitors from other local boating centres and the near continent (four thousand boat nights per year), the harbour is a lively and interesting place especially in the summer season and at weekends, when it is buzzing with activity. It has something for everyone, dinghy racing from Brightlingsea Sailing Club, yacht racing from Colne Yacht Club, a boat park and ride launching service over the town hard as well as yachts and motor boats arriving and departing frequently.

Four permanently employed operational harbour staff, working in a shift pattern, meet the needs of the harbour and its users. The staff take great pride in providing a warm personal welcome and a professional service, which is highly valued by both resident berth holders and visitors alike. Operational staff are present every day in the harbour from 0800 – 1600 in the winter increasing to 0800 – 2000 at the height of the summer. Strong administrative support is provided in the harbour office by one full time and one part time member of staff. During the summer season additional staff are employed to provide support for the permanent staff at busy times and to deliver extra services, such as a patrol on the River Colne, which is externally funded by Tendring District Council and a community supported foot ferry, operated by BHC across the harbour to Point Clear and across the River Colne to East Mersea, daily from Easter to the end of October.



anyone for Mersea Island?

There is a private water taxi service, operating under licence from BHC, which offers a

weekend service between 0900 and 2300 from Easter to the end of October and a daily service during the school summer holiday between 0900 and 2200. Access to toilet and shower facilities for visiting boat owners is provided by arrangement with the Colne Yacht Club, which also has a bar and restaurant. The needs of boat owners are met by the specialist businesses around the harbour and by the shops and pubs in the town, as well as a small launderette facility run by BHC.



quick follow that boat!

There is a public access floating jetty, which is used by the ferry, charter fishing boats, small commercial and leisure craft, Thames Sailing Barges and by the general public, including many local youngsters (of all ages!!) catching crabs. Historically the harbour had a large fishing fleet many of which were built locally. This fleet is no more, but some of the old boats, known locally as Smacks and Bawleys, which fished under sail, have been lovingly restored and are sailed from and berthed in the Harbour. The last vestiges of the ship building industry ceased in the 1980's but there is a growing GRP boat building industry remaining. Commercial vessels up to 120 metres LOA and 3000 Gross Tonnes visit the private commercial wharf just to the east of the town hard in the harbour. Their current cargo is the export of wood chips to Sweden for burning in power stations to generate electricity. Because the berth dries, vessels arrive and depart at high tide at any time of day or night. The number of vessels visiting the berth varies, with eighty vessels being the greatest number per annum to visit in the last ten years.

A new commercial activity in the harbour has developed from the construction of the Gunfleet Sands Windfarm, which used the harbour as a base for the small commercial

vessels involved in its construction. Brightlingsea has now become the onshore base for the operational management of the windfarm and two vessels will operate from the harbour providing the necessary marine support for the Windfarm for its lifetime, which is expected to be in excess of twenty five years.

Bernie Hetherington.

Club news

It seems strange to be writing this before the summer is over (mid August) but hopefully you will all be back from your travels by the time you receive **Mainsheet**. In here you will find details of our Dinghy Regatta and 85th Anniversary party, but more about that later.

First of all, a big thank you to my 'all male' committee, who have coped very well having a girlie in charge and been very supportive. We are fortunate as a club to have so many people giving up their time. With so many skills between them, it's not often that we have to get outside help in to fix things.

Also, many thanks, to those of you who have helped with Officer of the Day at races and on the safety boats. Races will be cancelled if we don't have volunteers for these jobs and I am pleased to see the chart in the lobby gradually filling up for the rest of the season. If you haven't done either of these jobs and would like to know more then please get in touch with me. If you're land based and can help in the starting hut it's really not as difficult as it sounds.

We've had a few more boats on the water this season with new members joining in, some of whom have never sailed before. It has also been good to see a bigger WOD fleet out this year.



WOD's that? (photo: courtesy Mike Downes)

Although there is a healthy competitive element to the sailing at Wivenhoe, there is also a huge emphasis on family and fun so it's important that we retain our title of being one of the friendliest clubs on the East coast (it's on our web site!).

We revived the 'Boat Owners Meeting' in April this year and questions have been raised about reviewing the handicaps that our boats are sailing on. I'm please to report that Mike Mitchell, Clive Walker and Bruce Anderson have formed a working group to look at the results at the end of the season and will report to the Sailing Committee and Sailing Secretary with their findings. If necessary, we will amend the handicaps before the start of the next sailing season. If you have views about this or would like to know more then please contact any of the above. I intended to run the Boat Owners Meeting earlier in the new year and before we start sailing in March.

Our lifting group are already planning the haul out dates for cruisers so make sure you get your name down early as time and spaces are limited. This is a huge task organised by few and enjoyed by many. If you are able to haul your boat out on the designated week days this would free up weekends for the poor unfortunates who are still working 9 to 5 (or more) and have to take a days' holiday or lose money. It would also be a help if you could arrange for at least one other helper on your haul out day and to let Ted Reddish or Peter Cobbold know.

In relation to this if all dinghy owners could please make sure their boats are 'moveable' - tyres pumped up, wheels would be good - and not full of water! Many thanks.



Sprite - Wallet Shield Race

Wivenhoe won the Wallet Shield Race this year, with most of the fleet being made up of WSC cruisers; we've not had this presented to us yet but will make plenty of noise when we do. Thanks to everyone for emailing and phoning to get very last minute information.

The cadets are going from strength to strength with more adult helpers and parents getting involved during and after sessions. Cadet camp was cancelled due to finally being caught red handed camping at Mersea Stone last year (after 25 years on and off). We did ask if we could camp this year and were told 'no'! Instead we had a day sail to Mersea Stone and, although windy, it was enjoyed by many of all ages.



an evening cadet session up river

Rob Gordon proved he could mud slide better than most of the cadets, all of whom spent ages in the mud and water - no change there! We had a great day and sailed back up behind the Old Gaffers just in time for hog roast. Steve Hart and team have plans afoot to try and get a camp sorted for next year.



day trip to Mersea Stone - typical British Summer

This year is the 85th Anniversary of Wivenhoe Sailing Club and the 75th Anniversary of the Wivenhoe One Designs (WODS). Our regatta will be the start of a whole day of celebrating to which all members are invited on Saturday 25th September - details in the middle of mainsheet. Why 85 years?, someone asked, Why not - any excuse for a party.

During the afternoon we have slow and fast handicap racing, a WOD race, the Ladies Rowing Race (competing for the Black Buoy Rose Bowl), crabbing competition and our Cadets will round off the water events with some crazy fun for your entertainment - last year it was the Vikings - what will happen this year? Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

I will also be putting a call out for volunteers! If you can help - please let me know - I shall start nagging people early September.

After the prize giving there will be some time to wash and clean up before the party starts at around 18.00. Colchester Hog Roast will be providing a BBQ, all you need to do is buy your main meal from them, we will provide salads and dessert at no extra charge. The Committee has also booked 'Itchy Feet' for a barn dance for later on the upper deck. Although there is no ticket price for this event we have asked for an RSVP to give us an idea of numbers for catering.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I hope to see you at the club in the near future.

Nikki Robinson: Vice Commodore

lifting news

It seems that hardly have we got the last cruiser launched from winter hard-standing storage, than we have to start making preparations for hauling 'em all out again. This last session we dealt with a total of 32 boats, in spite of our efforts to cut-down the over-all number to 26. It is planned that this reduction will be achieved by natural wastage and hardening our hearts to new applicants, so in future there must be a waiting list, similar to that for moorings.

The annual inspection of the lifting equipment, required by our insurers has been carried out by J. D. Lifting and no major faults were found. However, due to a fatigued weld on the pivot-pin of the tow-bar attachment, we are re-vamping this and have purchased a heavy

commercial fork coupling and drop-pin, thus making everything simpler and, we hope, completely foolproof. This also involves a heavier tow-bar. All this is in hand and will be ready for the end of the season. The hoist haul-up wire is nearing the end of its life as several members will testify after spragging their hands on the odd broken strand in spite of wearing gloves. We are getting new wire which is 13 mm. dia.: 7/19 construction which, although not so flexible, has heavier strands, which should give longer life.

Ian Hunter, who does the lion's share of the tractor driving for mid-week lifting sessions, is recovering from a hip replacement. Fingers crossed, he will be fully operational before the haul-outs begin. Ian tells me that analysing the tractor driver's register, he finds there are some people who haven't contributed their required number of attendances. We will be writing to these miscreants to remind them of the rules. I would remind these people that Ian doesn't even have a boat and the time and good-will he contributes should not be abused. So play the game you chaps!

Ted Reddish.

NB:

[Members' mtg: WSC 10.30, Sun 26th Sept. and trailer-sorting day: Sat 2nd Oct.]

Proposed lifting-out dates

OCTOBER		HW	Ht/m
6	Wed	11:25	3.91
7	Thu	12:15	4.13
20	Wed	11:15	3.67
21	Thu	11:50	3.77
22	Fri	12:30	3.81
23	Sat	13:05	3.82
NOVEMBER			
5	Fri	10:45	4.04
6	Sat	11:35	4.16
19	Fri	10:10	3.59
20	Sat	10:50	3.69
21	Sun	11:30	3.78
22	Mon	12:10	3.86
23	Tue	12:45	3.92
25	Thu	14:10	3.96
DECEMBER			
4	Sat	10:25	3.86
6	Mon	12:05	4.03
7	Tue	12:50	4.03
8	Wed	13:35	3.97

Ian Hunter

WIVENHOE SAILING CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday November 20th 2010
At Wivenhoe Sailing Club, Walter Radcliffe Way.
6.30 Reception for 7.15pm

The Dinner will take place on the Upper deck.
 Music on the Lower deck after the prize giving and speeches
 Tickets £28.00
 Dress: Gentlemen blazer or suit, Ladies lovely as always.

Chicken and Duck Liver Parfait
 Served with Mixed Leaf Salad, Red Onion Marmalade and Toasted Brioche

Seafood Tian Smoked Mackerel & Apple Rémoulade topped with Salmon and Smoked Salmon Cream topped
 with pickled Cucumber

Roasted Root Vegetable Soup

Crackling topped Roast Pork Loin stuffed with Apricot on a bed of Apple Roast Potatoes and Seasonal
 Vegetables

Chicken Leek and Mushroom Fricasse served in a Puff Pastry Case
 Herb Mash and Seasonal Vegetables

Roasted Red Pepper, Avignon Blue Cheese and Thyme Jalousie
 With Herb Mash and Seasonal Vegetables

Chocolate Mousse Cup with Fruit Compote

Glazed Apple Tart with English Custard and Crushed Berry Cream

New York Cheesecake with Blackcurrant and Baileys Cream

Cheese board & Port

Coffee & mints

Please return this form and cheque, payable to Wivenhoe Sailing Club, by 5th November 2010 to The Rear Commodore, Wivenhoe Sailing Club, Walter Radcliffe Way, Wivenhoe, C07 9WS (or put in the box provided at the club).

I/We would like to come to the Annual Dinner and wish to reserveplaces

I enclose a cheque for £.....

Please print all your names and your choice of menu.

FULL NAME	1 st course 1, 2 or 3	2 nd course 1, 2 or 3	3 rd course 1, 2 or 3	Cheese yes/no

I/we would like if possible to sit near.....

Please return this form by 5th November 2010 to

The Rear Commodore,
Wivenhoe Sailing Club,
Walter Radcliffe Way,
Wivenhoe, C07 9WS
(or put in the box provided at the club).

Thank you.

W.S.C
DINGHY REGATTA
Saturday 25th September 2010

Water Event Start Times
(High Water 14:07)

12:00	Slow Handicap
12:15	WODS
12:30	Fast Handicap
13:00 - 14:30	Crabbing Competition
13:45	Ladies Rowing Race
14:00	Cadet Fun
16:00	Prize Giving

Bar open from 12:00, light refreshments and BBQ available throughout the afternoon

Entry forms and programme available in the lobby nearer the time

And afterwards.....

W.S.C 85th ANNIVERSARY PARTY
18:00 onwards

The Commodore and Flag Officers invite WSC Members to an
Anniversary Party.
Colchester Hog Roast are providing the BBQ (please buy on the night)
Salads & desserts provided by WSC
Followed by entertainment & barn dancing with
'Itchy Feet'
on the upper deck

Other than purchasing drinks & BBQ, there is no charge for this event but please would you RSVP by Monday 20th September to help us cater for all of you. We look forward to seeing you there.

Louise Woods, Rear Commodore
01206 827014

Nikki Robinson, Vice Commodore
01206 305043

House and Wines

I have had a very enjoyable start in my role as 'Rear Commodore' and we have had some very successful events already this year. The Sunday lunches continue to be popular, especially in the cold winter months, and have been well supported, both by members volunteering to help in the galley, as well as members taking the opportunity to enjoy a hot meal with friends. The St. George's night fish and chip supper was well attended, and Carole's quiz was brilliant! I look forward to the next quiz! Any quiz theme ideas?

The 'Old Gaffers' event was hugely popular and it was lovely to see the sailing club full with cadet families, sailing club members and sailors from the 'Old Gaffers' themselves and with the sunshine out, a wonderful afternoon was had by all! As part of the Sailing Club's 85th Anniversary celebration this year, it was decided that the Upstream Race was to be finished at the Sailing Club Hut on the 'old hard' with pasties and a pint available at the hut upon the return of those racing. A team effort ensured that the afternoon went smoothly and Carole Newman even provided puds!

House and Wines have purchased a set of outdoor chairs, which have been perfect for enjoying the lovely weather we have had recently. They are extremely light-weight and are stored under the stairs, for the use of members during club nights; so enjoy the lovely view of the river from outside while we can!



here, have my seat Denis!

The sailing club has continued to be a popular venue for parties and gatherings, with Carol Mitchell doing a fabulous job of ensuring that sponsors of events are clear of their responsibilities. Thank you Carol!

Tim, our bar manager, has continued to do a brilliant job behind the bar; we are now the proud owners of a new cooling system for the cellar and the ice-maker is working effectively once again! So hopefully no more trips to *Co-op* to clear them out of bagged ice! Don't forget the Friday night and Sunday afternoon bar openings are run by volunteering members- if you have not done the bar in a while please sign yourself up for a session. If you are a new member, doing the bar is one of the best ways to meet other members too. If you want 'training' to run the bar speak to Tim during a Monday night club night and he will happily teach you everything you need to know!

We have some key events coming up:

- Open Day- Saturday 11th September. Donations of home-made cakes and help on the day will be well received. ☺ *Please e-mail me if you can make a cake or can offer help on the day. Thanks!* louisewoods2006@hotmail.co.uk
- WSC Dinghy Regatta & 85th Anniversary Party- Saturday 25th September. Barn Dance and BBQ in the evening.
- Caribbean night- Saturday 16th October.

More information to come nearer the time. Thank you for the continued support from everyone on the House and Wines Committee, Tim Dow and anybody who has helped with sunday lunches or an event!

Louise Woods: Rear Commodore.



....well it says here
'Bateman's tower'?

for your diary:

WSC Calendar 2010					
Date	HW	start	finish	food	
September					
1	Wed	19:30			WSC committee
1	Wed	10:00	12:30		Yoga
2	Thu	20:00	22:00		Carpet bowls
2	Thu	10:00	12:30		art
3	Fri	19:48	17:30	20:00	Cadets
3	Fri	20:00	23:00		Sailing
4	Sat	19:00			Fri club night
5	Sun	12:00	14:30		40th Birthday party
6	Mon	20:00	23:00		Sun club bar
6	Mon	19:30			Mon club night
8	Wed	10:00	12:30		WSC committee
9	Thu	20:00	22:00		Yoga
9	Thu	10:00	12:30		Carpet bowls
10	Fri	20:00	23:00		art
11	Sat	14:56			Fri club night
12	Sun	15:39	13:30		Open day
12	Sun	12:00	14:30	Tea & Cake	May Mug/Sykes (5)
13	Mon	20:00	23:00		Sun club bar
15	Wed	10:00	12:30		Mon club night
16	Thu	20:00	22:00		Yoga
16	Thu	10:00	12:30		Carpet bowls
17	Fri	20:39	17:30	20:30	art
17	Fri	20:00	23:00		Cadets
18	Sat	12:00	18:00		Night sail
19	Sun	12:00	14:30		Fri club night
20	Mon	20:00	23:00		90th Birthday party
22	Wed	10:00	12:30		Sun club bar
23	Thu	20:00	22:00		Mon club night
23	Thu	10:00	12:30		Yoga
24	Fri	20:00	23:00		Carpet bowls
25	Sat	14:04			art
25	Sat	14:04			Fri club night
26	Sun	14:35	12:30		Wivenhoe Dinghy Regatta
27	Mon	20:00	23:00		BBQ
28	Tue	10:00	11:30		WSC Dinghy Regatta: 85 th Anniv Party
29	Wed	10:00	12:30		May Mug/Sykes (6)
30	Thu	20:00	22:00		Mon club night
30	Thu	10:00	12:30		Philosophy
October					
1	Fri	20:00	23:00		Yoga
3	Sun	12:00	14:30		Carpet bowls
4	Mon	20:00	23:00		art
5	Tue	10:00	11:30		Fri club night
6	Wed	10:00	12:30		70th Birthday party
7	Thu	20:00	22:00		Rat Race
7	Thu	10:00	12:30		Sun club bar
8	Fri	20:00	23:00		
9	Sat	12:00	19:00		
10	Sun	14:30	12:00		
10	Sun	12:00	14:30		

11	Mon	20:00	23:00		Mon club night
12	Tue	10:00	11:30		Philosophy
13	Wed	10:00	12:30		Yoga
14	Thu	20:00	22:00		Carpet bowls
14	Thu	10:00	12:30		art
15	Fri	20:00	23:00		Fri club night
16	Sat	19:30		Supper	Caribbean Night - Please sign up
17	Sun	12:00	14:30		Sun club bar
18	Mon	20:00	23:00		Mon club night
19	Tue	10:00	11:30		Philosophy
20	Wed	10:00	12:30		Yoga
21	Thu	20:00	22:00		Carpet bowls
21	Thu	10:00	12:30		art
22	Fri	20:00	23:00		Fri club night
23	Sat	19:00			Wedding party
24	Sun	12:30		Lunch	Glozier laying Up Lunch-Please sign up
24	Sun	12:00	14:30		Sun club bar
25	Mon	20:00	23:00		Mon club night
26	Tue	10:00	11:30		Philosophy
27	Wed	10:00	12:30		Yoga
28	Thu	20:00	22:00		Carpet bowls
28	Thu	10:00	12:30		art
29	Fri	20:00	23:00		Fri club night
30	Sat	09:00		Lunch	Hard-working party
31	Sun	12:00	14:30		Sun club bar
November					
1	Mon	20:00	23:00		Mon club night
2	Tue	10:00	11:30		Philosophy
3	Wed	19:30			WSC committee
3	Wed	10:00	12:30		Yoga
4	Thu	20:00	22:00		Carpet bowls
4	Thu	10:00	12:30		art
5	Fri	20:00	23:00		Fri club night
7	Sun	12:25	10:30		Winter Series (1)
7	Sun	12:00	14:30		Sun club bar
8	Mon	20:00	23:00		Mon club night
9	Tue	10:00	11:30		Philosophy
11	Thu	20:00	22:00		Carpet bowls
12	Fri	20:00	23:00		Fri club night
14	Sun	12:00	14:30		Sun club bar
15	Mon	20:00	23:00		Mon club night
16	Tue	10:00	11:30		Philosophy
18	Thu	20:00	22:00		Carpet bowls
19	Fri	20:00	23:00		Fri club night
20	Sat	18:30			WSC Annual Dinner & Prize Giving
21	Sun	12:00	14:30		Sun club bar
22	Mon	20:00	23:00		Mon club night
23	Tue	10:00	11:30		Philosophy
25	Thu	20:00	22:00		Carpet bowls
26	Fri	20:00	23:00		Fri club night
28	Sun	16:41	14:00		Winter Series (2)
28	Sun	12:00	14:30		Sun club bar
29	Mon	20:00	23:00		Mon club night
30	Tue	10:00	11:30		Philosophy
December					
1	Wed	19:30			WSC committee
2	Thu	20:00	22:00		Carpet bowls
3	Fri	20:00	23:00		Fri club night

5	Sun	11:24	09:30
5	Sun		12:00 14:30
6	Mon		20:00 23:00
9	Thu		20:00 22:00
10	Fri		20:00 23:00
11	Sat		19:00
12	Sun	16:25	13:45
12	Sun		12:30
12	Sun		12:00 14:30
13	Mon		20:00 23:00
16	Thu		20:00 22:00
17	Fri		20:00
17	Fri		20:00 23:00
19	Sun		12:00 14:30
20	Mon		20:00 23:00
23	Thu		20:00 22:00
24	Fri		20:00 23:00
26	Sun		12:00 14:30
27	Mon		20:00 23:00

Winter Series (3)
Sun club bar
Mon club night
Carpet bowls
Fri club night
Cadet Supper & Prize Giving- t b cfmd
Winter Series (4)
Children's Christmas Pary
Sun club bar
Mon club night
Carpet bowls
Christmas Gathering & Grand Draw
Fri club night
Sun club bar
Mon club night
Carpet bowls
Fri club night
Sun club bar
Mon club night

stoat in the Pylfleet

Early one morning in late May, while indulging in a little cockpit sitting, watching the wild world go by, Gill and myself noticed a disturbance on the edge of the saltmarsh. A number of gulls were agitated and mobbing something. Out nipped a stoat! It ran across the soft mud to the waters edge. Dipped its toes and scurried back to the bank and the safety of the saltmarsh. The stoat, still pursued by the gulls disappeared for a while.

A little time passed. The stoat and the gulls reappeared and this time the stoat ran down to the water, across the mud flat, swam strongly across the fleet to the opposite bank, ran tirelessly up the mud to the marsh with the gulls mobbing it and then fled over the sea wall. The stoat was raiding the gulls' nests for eggs and chicks.

As observed, stoats are excellent at climbing and swimming and tracking-down a victim to the finish. Should a stoat be cornered it makes an unpleasant spitting 'bark'. They usually hunt at night, using their excellent hearing and

sense of smell, as their eyesight by comparison is poor. They hunt vermin such as mice, rats, voles, small birds, eggs and chicks. They are rat killers first class! But rabbits form the main part of the stoat's diet, killing them with a bite behind the neck. Rabbits and hares hate stoats so much that they often lie down and scream just before the kill. Stoats store food and will gather eggs for a cache.

Stoats are about 43cm in length (17 inches) and always have a black tip in their tale. Their summer coats are red-brown and white underneath. They have spring and autumn moults and in northern latitudes turn white for winter. The white fur is called ermine and is used to trim the gowns of royalty and lords.

Stoats make dens in or near wooded areas, in hollow trees, old rabbit burrows or crevices. They have one litter in spring of usually six young. They grow up learning about life in family parties. See one cross a road and it is usually followed by others! They are preyed upon by owls and hawks. Tim Denham.

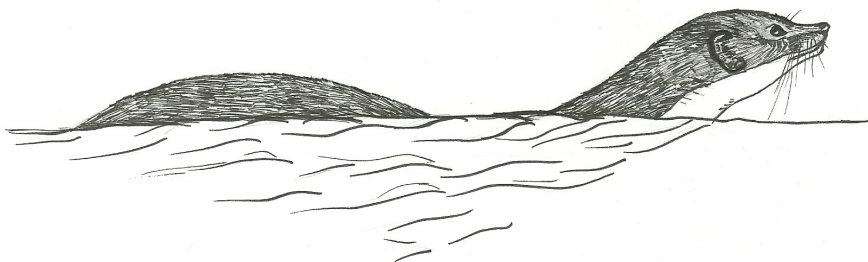


Illustration: Gill Maloney

Ostend Rally 2010:

This year's Ostend Rally has just been successfully completed with, from what I hear, a good turn out, with the participants finding a warm welcome at their destination. WSC featured in the trophy places, particularly in the fast handicap. Hopefully details will emerge for the next **Mainsheet**.

Results

1 st fast handicap:	<i>Mischief</i>	WSC
	Simon Bacon	
2 nd fast handicap:	<i>Edith Kate</i>	WSC
	Bill Kippen	
3 rd fast handicap:	<i>French Herring</i>	
	Lorraine & Nick Baker	CYC
1 st slow handicap:	<i>Saphir</i>	HPYC
	Marilyn & Rody Kickham	
2 nd slow handicap:	<i>Freedom</i>	CYC
	Barry Edwards	
3 rd slow handicap:	<i>Alize</i>	WSC
	Jack Jennings	
1 st over start line:	<i>Shearjoy</i>	CYC
	Barbara Summerfield & Steve Walmsley	
best performance	<i>Puffinn</i>	
by newcomer:	Bill Parsons	CYC
oldest participant on rally:	Ray Hall	WSC

day tripper

If, for whatever reason, you've been unable to get out 'under your own steam' as much as you would have liked, to enjoy the charm of our Essex/Suffolk coast-line from the water, then you might be able to consider another way.



all aboard the Balmoral

For example the 1949 MV Balmoral picked up sightseers from Clacton pier, en route from Southend to Southwold this summer, as part of an operating programme between the Thames and Yarmouth, reviving the Victorian fascination with steamers and piers, so popular along the east coast in the 19th century.



sails – old and new

The now familiar wind-turbine array off Clacton is soon passed, as is the tower at the Naze and a much closer view of the 2nd world war sea fort, later to become the 'Principality of Sealand' is afforded, 6 miles off Harwich (see eg. *Essex Coast Walk*, Peter Caton, 2009).



the principality of Sealand

With a good pair of binoculars or a telephoto lens, you can see Orford castle and just about make out the *Scallop* shell sculpture on the beach at Aldeburgh and the *House in the sky* at Thorpe Ness. Passing Sizewell and Dunwich before docking at the end of the pier at Southwold, you face a bus ride back to where you boarded!

Viking

Viking continues to be a great success and thanks, as ever, are due to Arnold Handley and Peter Cobbold for fulfilling their role as Godfathers to the boat. I would like to remind new members that any club member may use the boat but must first have a familiarisation session with one of the Godfathers and then, only after they have received their O.K. as to when and where it is required. All it needs is a phone call.

This has proved to be a control system of the lightest touch and has worked very well so long as people comply. It breaks down if someone who has obtained use is confronted by some other person who says, "Oh, while you've got the boat out, can I just use it to pop down the river" etc. etc. This is when the system fails. It is also when the boat isn't left clean and tidy, for the 'pop down the river' man will leave the boat as it was handed to him and not expect to clean-up after the first guy.

I would also draw users' attention to the mooring-up of the craft. Please be aware that she should not be drawn-up tight against the pontoons making no allowance for the boat to drop-down to at least a foot below the pontoon decking. (eighteen inches in one place) as the tide drops and the boat takes the ground. I recently found her hanging up so tight on her mooring ropes that we were lucky the cleats weren't torn off or the side ripped out. Leave at least a foot of slack – she won't go anywhere. One other reminder, the Sailing Committee has ruled that Viking may not be taken out of the River Colne.

Finally, we would like some input from users, in the maintenance of Viking, i.e. cleaning-out, painting, hauling-out and scrubbing, fitting winter-cover, anti-fouling etc. - Did I hear someone say something about sailing?

Ted Reddish.

obituaries

Patrick (Pat) O. Ellis.

The afternoon of the 16th of June saw a crowded crematorium at Weeley, filled to 'standing room only' for the final farewell to

one of the 'old club's' members. Pat had been a member ever since he decided to take up sailing back in the seventies and he sailed with his old mate, Joyce Blackwood in *Poecheng* till both were well into their eighties. And they enjoyed every minute of it, even though the matter of boarding the boat from the shore was always, in the later years, fraught with groans from protesting knees and joints; once safely aboard however, they rattled on down river like two twenty year olds! That is what the sport of sailing does for one. The aches and pains are no more and the mind retires into the appreciation of sailing a good boat and what there is to be seen on our river.



Pat and Joyce prepare for a day's sailing and boarding was never easy

Pat was born in the village and went to school there. He began working for *P & O*, as an apprentice engineer and in due course, with thousands of sea miles under his belt, he became a Chief Engineer for the Company. I knew Pat from the 1980's, when I became a member; he was sailing *Poecheng* at that time and I thought the name was reminiscent of the Poecheng River in South Korea but Pat laughed at that idea. *Poecheng*, he told me, was for his initials (POE) and with chief engineer, (ChEng) tacked on to it!

Whichever way it was, he and Joyce used to make that boat sing and he was very saddened when a stroke in 2008 urged him on to sell her and retire to the foreshore and his favourite seat on the lower deck of the club.



.....but it was worth it!

He is missed, and our thoughts and sympathies go to his family, Joyce and his friends.
Peter Cobbold.

Maureen Pettit

Mo grew up in a large old farm house in a tiny farming community in Croft, Lincolnshire. At the age of 16 she went to Grimsby and during this time met Gordon; they married and moved to Scunthorpe - Katharine arrived in 1973. While Kate was still a baby, they moved to Dubai. Mo returned temporarily to the UK to have Liz in 1978 in Skegness. In Dubai Mo got her first taste of Gilbert & Sullivan when the Mikado was performed at the British Council.

The family came to live in Wivenhoe in 1981, moving into the Falcon, the old pub next door to St Mary's church. Mo quickly became engrossed in the social whirl that was the sailing club above the British Legion and the Falcon became the after-hours sailing club. Family holidays revolved around sailing and included trips to London as well as to France and Holland and even up the Rhine.

After the end of her marriage to Gordon, Mo threw herself into many activities, including serving for a spell as the WSC honorary secretary. She joined the G & S Society and during this time met David and they were married in 2001. His premature death was a cruel twist in Mo's life.

In early February this year she was in good health and talked excitedly of her forthcoming adventure to China in May. A brief illness led to her own untimely death on 6 April this year. **Midge Hetherington.**

WSC: MAINSHEET

Member Address

stop press:

Autumn 2010 hard-working party: Sat 30th Oct, 09:00 start -lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Autumn 2010, WSC boat lifting: Sun, 26th Sept: members' meeting; Sat, 2nd Oct: trailer day- getting 'em sorted; Wed, 6th Oct: first lifting; Wed, 8th Dec: last lifting.

Nottage 2010, course registration: Sat, 18th Sep, 10.00 – 13.00, at the Nottage Institute.

Next Mainsheet: Dec 2010/ Jan 2011

small ads:



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