



WIVENHOE SAILING CLUB

MAINSHEET

2016/17 WINTER EDITION

Editor: Roy Crookes

Contents

in this issue:	page
commodore's seasonal greeting	1
profile: Albert Scott	2
Ostend Rally	3
lifting group	4
wsc AGM minutes & accounts	5
2017 AGM	12
membership renewal form	14
new membership fees	15
2017 sailing/ social programme	15
nature review, the robin	17
social whirl	17
wsc: prize-giving	19
Sinterklaas returns	20
seasonal scary-story	21
looking back	23
stop press; small ads.	24

editor's note:

I would like to extend warm seasonal greetings to all club members and readers in this winter edition of *Mainsheet*. Inside are regular features: membership renewal and reports of club meetings and business, special events and news, the nature feature and next year's calendar. We also have the sailing race results and award of trophies at the Annual Dinner. There is an encouraging profile of one of our mature sailors, a report of the latest Ostend Rally and mention of a local cryptid.

First, as is our custom:

Commodore's Christmas Message:

It's customary for the Commodore to write a Christmas message for Mainsheet but as I'm more of a heathen than a Christian let's call it a Winter Solstice message, which is still good with lots to celebrate,

as it means the days are getting longer and Spring is on its way.

Whereas, as everybody knows, some of spring, all of summer and a bit of autumn were invented for sailing, winter was designed specifically for the contemplation of sailing. For example, time can be spent in thinking of ways in which you might be able to make your boat go just that little bit faster, or be slightly more comfortable, or for planning a major assault on a race series next year, or for planning a summer cruise, or, if you're really clever, all of them at once. Personally, my cruise planning knows no bounds up until the New Year, after that reality kicks in a bit, but ambition is a great thing; to quote the well known philosopher, author, and motorcyclist Guy Martin 'When you dead, you dead'.

This year, it is intended to leave the club's Hunter 19 in the water for much of the winter, so that any member who feels the desperate need for a sail can arrange to borrow her. This can be done by contacting Steve Hart or Alan Tyne. Details are on the web site at:

www.wivenhoesailingclub.org.uk .

We have lots of club events planned for you all to look forward to next year, the first of which is the Row and Ramble on the 2nd January. Viking will be on hand to ferry the ramblers across the river. I hope to see you at the Row and Ramble, and I wish you all a great Christmas holiday and a successful, enjoyable, satisfying and very happy New Year.

Bill

profile: Albert Scott



Albert first became involved with boats in 1958, when a friend of his, a fishmonger with some 10 shops, bought a part-finished ex-naval *Pinnacle*, from the Medway yacht basin, at a boat yard on the Medway. They worked on it up until 1961, when it was towed round to Ramsgate, to have two engines installed and all new electrics fitted.



fitting out almost complete

After this Albert decided to go down from London to Ramsgate to live and was accommodated on the boat. It was at Ramsgate that he really became involved in the yachting world and, while living on the boat in Ramsgate harbour, he joined the Royal Temple Yacht Club and attended various navigation courses. There he started to deliver and skippered boats to France, Holland,

Germany, Sweden, Norway, Belgium and the Mediterranean. Kath, now his wife of over 50 years, then his girlfriend, visited him in Ramsgate, on the weekends he was there. In 1964 they decided to get married and, rather than stay in Ramsgate they returned to London. Albert took a job with a flat, in one of his friend's fish shops in Finchley where they lived until 1970. Then they moved to Waltham Abbey, Albert changed jobs, remaining in the fish trade and joined a trawler company, with boats in Fleetwood, Grimsby, Whitby, Aberdeen and Lowestoft, 'introducing fish counters into supermarkets'. In the 70's supermarkets hadn't their own fish counters, so he worked all over the country, for major chains. After four years, he joined one of them, in Hainault, as 'fish buyer' till he started his own fish shop in East Finchley in 1983 and eventually retired twelve years later. His son, Trevor, took over the shop in 1995 and in that year Albert decided to buy a boat. He bought a new yacht, a 28ft *White Silk*, being moulded at Martham Ferry, in Norfolk, where she stayed for a year, before being moved to Tollesbury, in 1996, where it was moored for the next ten years. During that time they were active sailors and completed many return voyages to the continent on their yacht, named '*Good Timin*'. In the early days, these were mainly using compass and charts and so Albert took refresher courses in navigation, where he joined and befriended Dave Matthews a neighbour in Chigwell [now a wsc member, also living in Wivenhoe] and joined the Maldon Little Ship Club and Tollesbury Sailing Club.



Good Timin' alongside the next moulding

Albert and Kath bought a property in Spain and decided to sell their boat, since they were

constantly away. They had visited Wivenhoe a good few times on *Good Timin'* and decided to buy a house on the new riverside development. In 2006 they moved here and joined WSC, already knowing quite a few members. Having frequently sailed out of Tollesbury in his boat with Albert, Dave and Glyn visited them and bought a *Leisure 23* at the club and a house near the club. They sailed together in the *Leisure* and now in the *Hunter*, 'Diva'.

And the rest, as they say, is history!

Albert is also known as a performer, with or without spoons and takes part in 'olde tyme music hall' events. He has also been a key player in the christmas draw at the club.

Ostend Rally - 5th August, 2016

The aim of the Ostend Rally is to encourage yachtsmen-and-women of varying experience to make a North Sea crossing in company. It is intended that the Rally will be sailed with the enjoyment and safety of the participants paramount. It is expected that those of a competitive nature will sail keenly and in a sportsman-like manner. Use of engines is permitted as deemed necessary by the skipper of each individual yacht.

Crews gathered at Colne Yacht Club for the traditional short briefing at 20.30h and an opportunity for some to eat their last square meal for 24 hours before taking to their bunks for a short sleep! There were sixteen boats in the fleet, some of whom represented several clubs in the area. Seven boats represented WSC, four represented WRIOA, two represented ACBOA, one represented HPYC and last but by no means least, ten represented CYC. 43 people sailing on the 16 yachts set off in the dark at 03.00h in a gentle south westerly wind. They were rewarded for starting at that ungodly hour with a wonderful sunrise as they headed up the Wallet.

Spinnakers were the order of the day for some and iron topsails for others. The breeze became variable as the fleet rounded the Long Sand Head buoy and a few boats persisted with sails whilst others decided that the flesh-pots of Ostend needed to be visited earlier than would have been possible under sail alone! One boat decided that a catch of mackerel was more important than an early arrival in Ostend, whilst for others, the usual

variety of decisions concerning the angle of crossing and closeness of ships in the shipping lanes presented a challenge and one boat even decided that Nieuwpoort would be a good waypoint en route to Ostend! The wind freshened towards evening and all boats were snug in their berths at the Royal Yacht Club of Ostend between 16.00h and 21.00h. Crews entertained themselves as were their wonts (and stamina!) that evening, with the less energetic satisfying their needs in the RYCO bar.

Saturday was a bright but windy day spent at will, recovering from the events afloat and ashore on Friday. On Saturday evening we all gathered together for the traditional Rally prize-giving and meal in the RYCO club room, followed by a very sociable evening with the very welcoming RYCO club members. At the prize-giving all entrants received an engraved glass marking their successful participation and, following a gentle but public humorous ribbing by me, they also received an appropriate fun prize for their small errors or personal foibles during the event.

On the Rally a record eighteen people lost their North Sea crossing virginity and received a certificate to that effect.

Rally trophies were awarded as follows:

First Overall-

Scrimshanks: Brian Turner and Dave Barnett

First Fast Handicap-

Flyer: Robin Impey, John Burnell, Chris Beech

First Slow handicap-

Kotick: Brian Clough and Andrew Obst

Best performance by a Newcomer-

Shazam: Alan Lee & Karen Everett

Smallest boat-

Kotick: Brian Clough & Andrew Obst

The meal which followed the prize-giving was an excellent repast washed down with huge quantities of good company, good humour and good alcohol, and a good time was had by all as the Rally officially came to an end in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Sunday dawned still very windy but some crews were determined to leave and seven boats left for home and a thorough pasting en route (one of these returned to Ostend after five hours with a very wet forepeak). Seven boats sailed the short downwind route along

the coast to Vlissingen in the Netherlands to extend their cruise. Three boats including mine, Desire, with myself and Barry Moss on board, stayed until Tuesday with the crews spending a lovely sunny Monday visiting the ancient and beautiful city of Ghent by train. On Tuesday, a short but super sail to Dunkirk was followed by an excellent meal in a beachside restaurant and on Wednesday by a good sail to Ramsgate in gentle beautiful weather. We had a day off in Ramsgate on Thursday where I was met by Midge in the car and drove to Welwyn Garden City to visit my new grandson, born there on Wednesday evening, a novel interlude on an Ostend Rally!



homeward bound

On Friday, we saw Midge off in the car and set off for Brightlingsea in very light conditions which became fresher during an exciting crossing of the banks in the Thames estuary at low water, with a slowly increasing westerly wind. We arrived at Brightlingsea after midnight to lie to anchor until the following morning, a great end to a great trip. This rally was my last as organiser and it was a good one to finish on, knowing that its future is secure in the capable hands of Robin Impey and George Wright. Thank you to everyone who took part in this and all the other rallies, it works well because of the spirit of its participants. The Ostend Rally under the burgee of WSC was a great idea way back in the nineteen eighties and it is good to know that its purpose still has a value which will continue to be met, even though it may no longer be under the WSC burgee, without a club member as one of the organisers.

Bernie Hetherington

winter haul-out – lifting group

It was a record year for cruiser winter storage. There are some 45 cruisers either laid up in the yard or tied up at the club pontoon; around 37 and 8 respectively. An activity totally planned and managed by club members, carried out by them on a voluntary, self-help basis and funded by the participants. All they ask for in return are some nice cakes.



the scene this winter - with cruisers and dinghies laid up in fine order.

Minutes of the 90th AGM, 4th March 2016 19:30 at the clubhouse

1. **Apologies for absence** received from Mike & Carol Mitchel, Richard Barnard & Libby Armstrong, David Cannel, Tia Reddish, George Brown, Pat & Dudley Lean, Phil & Naomi Thompson, Jan Sinclair, Guy & Julie Ward, Ivan Frost

2. **The minutes of the 2015 AGM** were noted

3. **Commodore's Report** on the year

"This is not just the usual end of the year round up but also the end of my period of being Commodore. There is still a lot to do but I will be passing on to the new team a Club which is financially secure and which continues to provide a wide range of services to its members and offers excellent value.

I don't think it will come as a surprise to members that the composition of the General Committee was not a match made in heaven when I took up the role as Commodore. For the good of the club we pulled together and learned how to work with each other. This pragmatic approach has meant that very little innovation has taken place, much less than I would have liked, but any that has occurred has been through a thorough testing process.

You will also be aware that for a large part of my two years I have also operated as Rear Commodore. That meant dealing closely with the running of the club in very hands-on way and did not leave a lot of time for being Commodore but it did allow me to spend lots of time with members from across the club. I said this at the Annual Dinner and it is worth saying again, that we don't necessarily share the same values and we certainly don't all share the same politics but we do share a love of boats and particularly sailing boats. If there is something which members have strong views on, in addition to this love of boats, it's how they want the club to work for them. And it's at this point I begin to see the similarities between being a Commodore and a Vicar. So I would like to ask members to think not just about what they want from the club but to also to think about what other members might want too. If we focus on giving our fellow members the space and time to pursue their boating activities, we will have a much happier club. There are some real issues around space and storage but on the whole we manage to rub along, though there are hotspots which arise which need not.

A year ago the most pressing issue facing the Club was how to halt the financial decline, which has been achieved. This has largely been done by the raising of fees and, in the last year, a focussed effort on making the bar work better for the club, as it is the main earner of additional income. Raising subs. can only be done so many times and maintaining an active social calendar requires a lot of commitment and participation from members. There is no guarantee that the income achieved can be maintained as the clubhouse use, by members, is not increasing.

The club does not make clear to members, what the status of the club is and what they are signing up for, in terms of responsibility and it certainly does not put in writing, what the responsibility is on the officers themselves. In legal terms there is no club. Anyone who signs a contract or lease for the club is the leaseholder or accountable person and these only change if they re-assign it. Any action taken against the club can either be against all members or individual officers, which means, as an officer you are putting your house, savings, and in extreme cases, your childrens' funds at risk, as they may be pursued post mortem. As an individual member the risk is possibly less but does not go away. At the information meeting before Christmas, much confidence was placed in insurance, which may pay out in some circumstances, eventually but will not for events that are foreseeable or if there is negligence involved. My personal liability and the other officers is actually unlimited. This is not the time to debate this further and while there is a good chance it would never be tested, it is not something that I think officers should be risking. It is down to you whether this is taken on by the GC and I would recommend that this be looked at afresh by the new committee.

You are all probably keen to hear why the GC updated the rules last summer. It would be fair to say that it came as a surprise to many Club members and communication could have been better but at the same time most members would have been surprised to learn that the previous rules, before they were updated, still permitted smoking in the building. There was a particular incident which triggered the rule change. Either we have rules or we don't have rules but selective bending of the rules, depending on

who you are, is something we should not be putting up with as a club. Ideally we have as few rules as possible and avoid the temptation to impose personal preferences on the club. As members, you are free to recommend whatever you feel is right to the GC for rules but, since we made the rule change, we have not received any complaints about dogs or e-cigs.

To return to why we are here and our love of sailing and boats: this year saw us build on the success of Sail 14 last year with 2 picnics, also involving our growing membership base, including the Wivgigs and Canoe and Kayak club. We have had the first Sailing Saturday which will complement race days for those who just want to get out on the water and would like the security of having other club users and safety boats around them. WODS have dropped in number a bit this year but still provide the dinghy racing fleet of the club, a position which, if anything, will be more pronounced this year. We have a bigger demand than ever for keel-boat space and had a good turnout at the Wallet Shield this year with the best individual effort, even if we didn't win the shield.

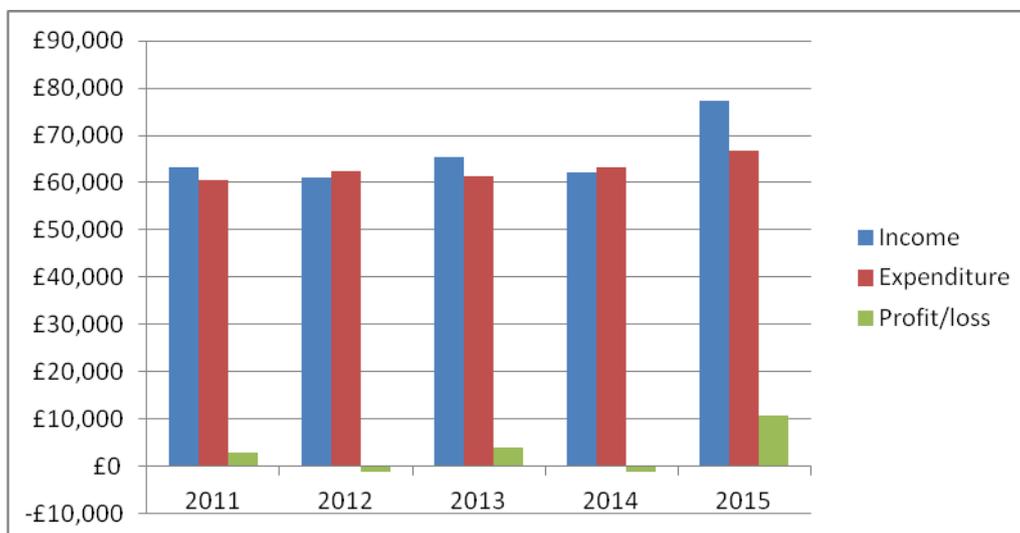
Our treasurer will deliver his report later but one of the things we promised the membership was a capital spend plan. This is still emerging but it is an urgent priority, as the club is now holding substantial funds and some of this needs to be invested back in the club in a planned way. I would have preferred to see this process well underway but without an agreed plan this is not possible. There are a number of plans that have been drawn up in the past and not carried forward. The clubhouse is not well designed with an intrusive staircase and no proper lift. The upstairs has a major storage problem and, although it provides the best views of the river, is seriously underused and the toilet and changing facilities are not what would be expected in a sports clubhouse. There have been plans to put all of these things right but there appears to be little appetite for change amongst the membership. More pontoons and covered work space on the hard would also be very useful as would a dolly to recover boats up the hard. If you like the sound of some these ideas or you have ideas of your own, then bring them forward. Nothing will happen however without the desire to see change happen.

It will be the new team who will be looking after you after tonight but it has been a pleasure and a privilege to be your Commodore for the last two years and I look forward to seeing you on the water. I would like to thank you all for your support and goodwill over the past two years and I'm sure you will extend the same to the incoming officers. There will be an opportunity on the 8th April to join me in a cocktail on the upper deck, for the President's reception and I look forward to seeing many of you then."

4. Report of the Treasurer and Independent Inspector of Accounts.

"I am pleased to report that 2015 was a strong year for the Club financially. After making a nominal loss in 2014, our operating surplus recovered to £15,063 in cash terms or £10,680 when depreciation is included. On a like-for-like basis (that is, adjusting to allow for moving clubhouse event costs from income to expenditure side of the accounts), income grew 18% year-on-year; while costs were flat compared to the previous year.

Wivenhoe Sailing Club, income, cost and net profit/loss, 2011-2105



WIVENHOE SAILING CLUB – ACCOUNTS 2015

1. Profit and Loss Account for year 2015 showing details of previous years

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Subs/Joining Fees	19422	15696	16123	15261	15065
Mooring Fees	9253	8053	7905	7061	6609
Dinghy Storage	3195	2649	2298	2084	1945
Cruiser Hardstanding	4083	5272	3186	4336	3332
Cruiser Lifting Group	1744	2152	1130	503	881
Sailing Events	-109	-369	-294	-267	-545
Clubhouse Events (incl of costs)	4243	-685	406	277	-735
Lettings	6999	6662	6760	3867	5306
Sundry Income/Donations	376	412	597	606	1259
Bank Interest	781	502	1050	437	663
Cadet Funds	1405	982	1159	400	775
Bar	25979	20786	24972	26558	28797
Total Income	77371	62111	65290	61122	63351
EXPENDITURE					
Rates/Water	3989	3597	3563	3401	3524
Electricity	4422	4303	3728	3627	3415
Insurance	4213	4157	4105	4432	4642
Clubhouse Events	3834				
Repairs/Renewals	3261	8162	3775	7879	3255
Cleaning/Wages	9484	8856	7909	6478	5297
Tractor/Hoist costs	1080	972	785	817	365
Moorings	5946	5622	5622	5463	5194
Boats/Engines	1694	2468	2343	1553	2413
Alarm/Security	2819	1907	3031	1326	2337
Phone Print Post Stat'y	1448	1754	1831	1257	1561
Donations/Subs	475	615	630	595	430
Sundry/Flag Officers' Exps	748	1099	902	1497	666
Bar Costs	18895	14978	17427	16632	21824
Total exp before depr'n	62308	58491	55651	54956	54924

Depreciation	4383	4794	5808	7329	5566
Total cost	66691	63284	61459	62285	60490
Net Profit/Loss	10680	-1174	3831	-1163	2862

2. Balance sheet at 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
Property	874	920
Rescue boats including outboard	1455	1940
Cadet boats	345	1614
Furniture and fittings	191	285
Lease	16532	16666
Tractor	25	50
Stair lift	1494	2230
Plant and machinery	66	99
Tractor shed	5997	6313
Crane (hoist)	1726	1918
Boat shed	9058	9535
Cycle and mast racks	160	214
Projector and screen	178	266
Canoe and kayak racks	928	1237
Topaz dinghy rack	382	509
Total fixed assets	39413	43795
Reduction in assets in 2015	4383	
Stock		
Bar	2245	2351
Clothing	0	0
Petty cash		
House committee	320	632
Cadets	1671	547
Bar till	200	271
Bar cage	87	121
Bank & investment	73173	57635
Total current assets	77695	61558
TOTAL	117108	105354
FUNDED BY:		
Profit and loss	10680	-1174

Reserves	89582	90756
Lottery grant	14678	14678
WOD fund	2169	1093
Total	117108	105353
3. Notes/management accounts	2015	2014
Bar revenue	25979	20786
Gross profits	7084	5808
% profit on sales	27.27%	27.94%

Note regarding depreciation of assets:

The assets are depreciated over 3 to 20 years depending on the type of asset.

Generally equipment is depreciated over 3/4 years, buildings over 20 years. The lease on the clubhouse over 125 years as per lease.

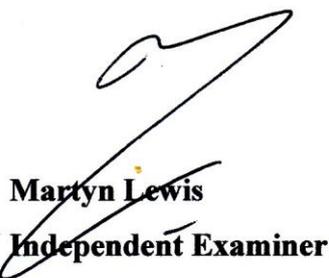
Signed on behalf of the General Committee of Wivenhoe Sailing Club.



Richard Bowyer

Hon. Treasurer, Wivenhoe Sailing Club

I have examined the records of the Wivenhoe Sailing Club for the year ended 31st December 2015 and confirm the above statements are in accordance therewith.



Martyn Lewis
Independent Examiner

4/3/16

Membership income grew strongly in 2015, as did fees relating to dinghy storage. It was particularly pleasing to see a robust recovery in bar income, which reached its highest level since 2012. This reflects well on the hard work of the Rear Commodores, House Committee, staff, volunteers and willing drinkers of the Club. Members will be aware that every penny we bring in through bar takings and lettings

income (which increased to a record high this year) is money we don't have to raise through members' subscriptions and usage fees.

On the expenditure side, the upward pressure on rates/water, tractor/hoist, alarm/security and bar costs was offset by constraint in other areas of spending. However, not all reduced costs are necessarily good for the long-term health of the Club. Members will note that we spent only 40% of the 2014 total on repairs and renewals (that is, approximately £3,000). This is at a time when the Club has almost £74,000 in our bank accounts (at the end of 2015), or 120% of the entire cash costs of a typical year.

In my view, this is beyond prudent. While we should clearly maintain some reserves to deal with contingencies, members have a right to expect our funds being invested in the Club rather than sitting dormant in our accounts, earning (low) interest rates. I will be encouraging the Sailing and Buildings/Maintenance committees to bring forward plans for investment over the next 24 months to improve the member experience. Finally, I would like to thank those volunteers whose accurate record-keeping makes the job of Honorary Treasurer that much easier: particularly those involved with Cadets, House & Bar activities, the Sailing Committee and the Lifting Group."

Questions and comments about the accounts

Jane Valentine asked about the cruiser fees . Tony Highbee explained that lifting fees are for launching & recovery of yachts and storage during the winter. The treasurer added that the club membership fees are kept as low as possible, with charges for use of specific facilities.

Anthony Vickers: Asked about the current level of reserves (120%) and whether the fee increases were justified. It was explained that the club had decided to raise fees rather than use reserves to balance the current account. Treasurer noted that there had been an under spend on repairs, that 80% is prudent and a planned investment program should occur.

Bernie Hetherington stated that the club had received a windfall of £1800 in Small Business Rate Relief. Tony Higbee mentioned increase in membership fees also because of WivGigs and Canoe group memberships

Robert de la Rue asked if the trend of declining membership continued and the Secretary confirmed that we continue to have a slight decline.

David Reynolds asked about the "Donations" heading in the accounts. It was explained that the income was from various sources including people stay on pontoons and the expenditure included the RYA and Essex Wildlife Trust subscriptions.

Alan Tyne commented that the accounts show that cost and expenditure is quite balanced. The accounts show an effectively run club, and reflect a tremendous amount of work members put in. Brian Sinclair commented that we are the envy of other clubs who struggle to run in a similar way, with affordable membership which motivates a volunteer run club

The accounts proposed by Ian Hunter and seconded by Peter Goldsmith were adopted by an overwhelming majority.

6. Nominations for the Election of Officers

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded by
Commodore	Bill Kippen	Ted Reddish	Nigel Cook
Vice Commodore	Gary Jobber	Nikki Robinson	Tony Higbee
Rear Commodore	Myrna Ekeroth/Carole Newman	Bernie Hetherington	Eric Strudwick
Hon Treasurer			
Hon Secretary	Eric Strudwick	Guy Ward	Ken Jordan
Hon Membership Secretary	Midge Hetherington	Libby Armstrong	Eric Strudwick
Hon Sailing Secretary	Rob Maloney	Tony Higbee	Bill Kippen

The election for club Officers was taken en bloc and approved by a significant majority of the attending members.

7. Nominations for the election of General Committee members .

Nominee	Proposed	Seconded by
Rob de la Rue	Robert Dovell	Stuart Bannerman
Nikki Robinson	Kevin Hosking	Bob Hollis
Bernie Hetherington	Libby Armstrong	Eric Strudwick
Tia Reddish	Dave Peck	Stuart Bannerman

The election for General Committee Members was taken en bloc and approved by a significant majority of the attending members.

8. Resolutions.

Resolution 1.

“Dogs are not to be allowed in the clubhouse. House Rules to be amended accordingly. Guide dogs are to be exempt from this rule.”

Proposed by Kevin Hosking and seconded by Brian Sinclair. There followed contributions both for and against the resolution with members saying why dogs should (or should not) be allowed into the clubhouse, depending on their point of view.

After considerable debate, the proposal carried by majority of approximately 5 people, with 5 abstentions. (No tellers were appointed – Hon. Sec.)

Resolution 2.

Proposal to amend the Constitution. After rule 16 Byelaws, add two additional rules:

17. Abandoned Boats and/or Trailers

In this section the term GOODS refers to a boat, its trailer if any, and its mooring gear if any. If, at any time, any fees payable to the Club by any member or former member (whether by way of arrears of subscription or facilities fees, dinghy park fees, mooring fees or otherwise) shall be one month or more in arrears and goods the property of a member or former member remains upon the Club premises, or a Club mooring, then the member or former member shall remove the goods from the Club or Club mooring immediately. If the member or former member fails to remove the goods then the Committee may:

(a) Move the goods to any part of the Club premises, or any Club mooring, without being liable for any loss or damage to the goods howsoever caused.

(b) Give three months’ notice in writing by registered post to the member or former member at his last known address as shown in the Club Register and thereafter sell the goods and deduct any monies due to the Club from the net proceeds of sale before accounting for the balance (if any) to the member or former member.

(c) Alternatively, if the goods are unsaleable, after giving notice in writing as aforesaid, dispose of the goods in any manner the Committee may think fit and deem the cost of doing so and any arrears as aforesaid to be a debt owing to the Club by the member or former member.

(d) the Club reserves the right to charge storage for the goods until such time as the owner collects the goods or until notice has been served under Rule (b) above.

PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT:-

Proper evidence is available to show that all reasonable steps have been taken to trace a member or former member and that, when and if the goods are sold, if the Club is unable to account to the member or former member for the balance of the proceeds of sale pursuant to Rule (b) above then

the balance of the proceeds of sale shall be placed upon bank deposit account and retained against the eventuality of a claim by the owner (whether he be the said member or former member or otherwise) for a period of six years.

18. Lien

In this section the term GOODS refers to a boat, its trailer if any, and its mooring gear if any. In addition to Rule 17 (Abandoned Boats and/or Trailers) the Club shall at all times have a lien over members' or former members' goods parked on the Club's premises, or a Club mooring, in respect of all monies due to the Club, whether in respect of arrears of facilities fees or subscriptions or otherwise and shall be entitled to retain possession of the goods until such time as all monies due to the Club have been paid in full.

(End of proposed amendment)

Proposed by Bruce Anderson, Vice Commodore and seconded by George Brown, Sailing Secretary
The Vice Commodore explained that the proposed amendment was based on an extract from the RYA Model Constitution. He said that it clarified the situation for members and the club.
Passed by unanimous vote.

9. Appointment of Independent Inspector of Accounts

The Secretary noted that the 2015 accounts were reviewed by Martyn Lewis accountants and asked the membership to delegate the appointment to the GC.

Proposed by Jane Valentine, Seconded by Tony Higbee. Passed unanimously

10. AOB

1. Ted Reddish asked where minutes of the GC can be viewed, apart from online.

The commodore thanked Ted for his contribution and suggested that the new committee to consider making a copy available

2. Steve Hart informed the AGM that there will be a cadet supper on March 10.

Meeting closed 9.05pm

ooo000ooo

Note:-

At the time of the 2016 Annual General Meeting nomination deadline, our Honorary Treasurer, Richard Bowyer, was not eligible to stand for the post because he had not been a member for two years.

At the AGM there was no nomination for Treasurer and the General Committee held an emergency meeting immediately after the AGM to co-opt Richard as the Honorary Treasurer.

Eric Strudwick

ooo000ooo

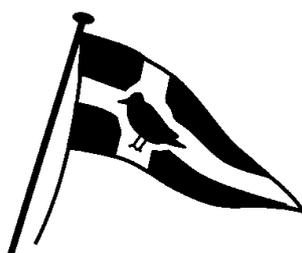
2017 AGM Announcement:

Our next Annual General Meeting will take place on March 3rd @ 19:30. At the AGM, the accounts for 2016 will be presented for approval and the Officers and General Committee members are elected. Members may submit motions for debate. The last day for nominations and for motions is February 3rd. All club Officers are elected annually and GC members serve for two years. At the next AGM, there are four GC vacancies to be filled. Any club member may stand for election. Nomination forms available on the club website or printed copies from the clubhouse foyer.

Hon. Sec: Eric Strudwick

ooo000ooo

Wivenhoe Sailing Club



Walter Radcliffe Way
Wivenhoe
Essex
CO7 9WS
Tel. 01206 822132

Membership Renewal 2017

Dear Member, December 2016

After careful consideration the General Committee has decided to hold membership subscriptions introduced in 2016, for 2017.

Annual membership fees are due on 1st January 2017. Please pay promptly. As an incentive to get your cheque to me as soon as possible, you will receive a discount if your payment reaches me by the end of January. If you decide not to renew, it would be helpful if you could let me know so that I don't bother you with unnecessary reminders.

You will appreciate that it is important to keep records up to date so could you please complete the attached form and return it with your payment. During the year, if you move house or your circumstances change then please let me know as soon as possible. Our constitution requires that we keep a list of the names and addresses of current members in the clubhouse.

What makes WSC special is that it is run by the members for the members, and to keep this up we need everyone to help in whatever way they can. Can I therefore

please ask you that you sign up to help with the bar, in the galley, in the rescue boat, as a race officer, or in any other way that will assist club activities.

Email is by far the cheapest way of communicating with members. If you are happy to receive WSC communications and newsletters by email, please enter your current email address(es) on the form. For family memberships you might find it helpful to let me have email addresses for both partners to ensure that you know what is going on.

Cadet membership is managed by the Cadet leader, Steve Hart, who should be contacted direct at the same address as above but by the following email:

hartcraft@hotmail.com.uk

Thank you for your co-operation, and good sailing in 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Midge Hetherington

Membership Secretary.

01206 825639

midgeheterington@gmail.com

Membership Subscriptions 2017	Before end of Jan	After February 1st.
Family	£85.00	£95.00
Single Person	£68.00	£78.00
Young Adult (18–25 years)	£25.00	£30.00
Cadet (non-family member)	£22.50	

Note: for BACS, please quote: WSC-MEMBERSHIP - sort code: 08-92-99; account number: 65704736

WSC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2017

Family name: Title: Forename(s):

Tel:

Email address:

Additional Email address:

I would like my mail addressed as follows:

NAME(S).....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

.....

Membership: Family Adult

Young Adult

Payment enclosed £

**Cheques made payable to Wivenhoe Sailing Club
Please complete and send with payment to;**

Midge Hetherington

Brown Oaks

Alresford Road

Wivenhoe CO7 9JX (or to the Clubhouse)

[Note: if you use BACS please do so at WSC-MEMBERSHIP –
sort code: 08-92-99; account number: 65704736]

I would like to volunteer for the following duties;

(Please tick at least one.)

Bar duty: Race Officer: Rescue Boat:

Help in Galley: Gardening: DIY:

Anything else?

(For Race Officer and Rescue Boat please indicate your experience/ qualifications. The club may be able to arrange/ provide training. Please indicate if you would be interested in this.

Training can also be provided for helping behind the bar.)

For family members:-

Partner's name:

Children's names and ages (if under 18 yrs.)

.....

WSC MEMBERSHIP & FEES 2017 (late fees payable 28 days after due date)	FEE/ CHARGE	LATE FEE
Membership, January 1st – December 31st payment due January 1st		
Joining Fee (Single member and family membership)	£35 (includes door key)	
Annual Subscription, Family	£85.00	£95.00
Annual Subscription, Single Person	£68.00	£78.00
Annual Subscription, Young Adult (16-23)	£25.00	£30.00
Annual Subscription, Cadet – Club members	£6.50	
Annual Subscription, Cadet – Non club members	£22.50	
DINGHY HARD FEES, April 1st – March 31st payment due April 1st		
Canoe, and Dinghy up to 3m Old Hard & Clubhouse (per boat)	£15.50	£21.50
Canoe, and Dinghy up to 3m inside Pontoons (per boat, senior members)	£25.00	£31.00
Trailer only charged for trailer not usually stored under boat	£17.50	£23.50
Dinghy Storage – Over 3m Old Hard & Clubhouse (per metre).	£9.50	Add £10 per boat
WOD Summer storage (per boat)	£25.00	Add £10 per boat
MOORINGS April 1st – March 31st payment due April 1st		
All moorings (per metre), late fee per boat.	£19.00	Add £19.00 per boat.
WINTER STORAGE, October 1st – April 30th payment due October 1st		
WOD Winter storage (per boat)	£25.00	Add £10 per boat
Cruiser Winter Storage – Ashore (per metre)	£16.50	
Cruiser Winter Storage – Pontoons (per metre)	£16.50	
Penalty Fee for cruiser overstaying (per day)	£2.00	
Haul out and launch (per metre)	£6.00	

wsc calendar of events 2016-17:

Mon 2 Jan 2017	12:00 – 15:00	ROW & RAMBLE
Sat 21 Jan 2017	19:30 – 22:00	Burns Night
Sun 29 Jan 2017	08:00 – 15:00	Wivgigs Gig Regatta HW
Sat 4 Feb 2017	19:30 – 22:30	Old Time Music Hall
Sat 11 Feb 2017	19:30 – 23:00	Valentine Barn Dance
Sun 9 Apr 2017	10:00 – 12:00	GLOZIER FITTING OUT RACE
Mon 10 Apr 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Tue 11 Apr 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Sat 15 Apr 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Sun 16 Apr 2017	14:00 – 16:00	SAINTY MEMORIAL CUP
Wed 26 Apr 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Thu 27 Apr 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Sat 29 Apr 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Sun 30 Apr 2017	14:00 – 16:00	CAN RACE

Calendar continued:

Mon 1 May 2017	14:30 – 16:30	BANK HOLIDAY CUP
Sun 7 May 2017	09:00 – 11:00	MAY MUG 1/SYKES 1/SCALY CAPSTAN
Tue 9 May 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Wed 10 May 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Thu 11 May 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Sun 14 May 2017	13:00 – 15:00	STUART PAWSEY CUP/LADIES RACE
Wed 24 May 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Thu 25 May 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Fri 26 May 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Sat 27 May 2017	All day	Cruiser Launching
Sun 28 May 2017	13:00 – 15:00	MAY MUG 2/SYKES 2/HALFWAY CUP
Sat 3 Jun 2017	All day	ROUND THE GUNFLEET RACE
Sat 10 Jun 2017	All day	Rowhedge Regatta - River Colne
Sat10 & Sun 11 Jun 2017	All day	ALDEBURGH CLASSIC DINGHY WEEKEND
Fri 16 to Sun 18 Jun 2017	All day	Cadet Camp
Sat 24 Jun 2017	13:00 – 15:00	WIVENHOE TOWN REGATTA
Sat 1 & Sun 2 Jul 2017	All day	CRUISE IN COMPANY
Sun 9 Jul 2017	11:30 – 13:30	UPSTREAM RACE
Sat 15 Jul 2017	All day	WSC CRUISER REGATTA
Sun 16 Jul 2017	All day	WSC DINGHY REGATTA
Sun 23 Jul 2017	11:00 – 13:00	MAY MUG 3/SYKES 3/BOSTOCK CUP
Sat 29 & Sun 30 Jul 2017	All day	CRUISE IN COMPANY
Sat 5 - Fri 11 Aug 2017	All day	PYEFLEET WEEK
Sun 6 Aug 2017	10:30 – 12:30	MAY MUG 4/SYKES 4/FARRAN CUP
Sat 2 Sep 2017	All day	DINGHY AND CRUISER RELAY RACE
Sun 10 Sep 2017	13:30 – 15:30	HAWARD CUP
Sat 23 Sep 2017	All day	OPEN DAY
Sun 24 Sep 2017	13:00 – 15:00	MAY MUG 5/SYKES 5/CAPRIOL CAPSTAN
Sun 8 Oct 2017	12:30 – 14:30	RAT RACE
Sat 14 & Sun 15 Oct 2017	All day	CRUISE IN COMPANY
Sun 22 Oct 2017	12:30 – 14:30	LAYING UP RACE
Sun 5 Nov 2017	10:30 – 12:30	WINTER SERIES 1
Sat 18 Nov 2017	All day	Annual Dinner
Sun 19 Nov 2017	10:30 – 12:30	WINTER SERIES 2
Sun 3 Dec 2017	09:30 – 11:30	WINTER SERIES 3
Sun 17 Dec 2017	09:30 – 11:30	WINTER SERIES 4

the season's bird – the robin (not the turkey!)

Remember, according to Essex folklore, it's unlucky to destroy a Robin's nest:

*The Robin and the Redbreast,
The Robin and the Wren,
If you take out their nest
You'll never thrive again.*

Only a tiny number of birds can be heard singing in your garden on Christmas day and robins are the most likely ones. This is because they hold their territory all year round. They often sing at night and in May and June can be mistaken for nightingales! The robin's large eye, in comparison to the size of its head, gives it the ability to see well at low light levels. Hence you can see them feeding on the ground beneath street lamps etc. Both the male and the female robin hold their own territories in the winter, so both sexes sing the same song.

Until the early 20th century, robins were known as redbreasts and the early postmen because they wore redcoats, were nick-named 'Robins' or 'Redbreasts'. Oddly at the end of the Victorian era robin skins became popular adornments for ladies hats! – especially at Christmas-time!

A few more 'robin facts':

1. The robin is a member of the thrush family, as are chats. It seldom moves far from where it was hatched.
2. The average lifespan of a robin is 13 months. However, the longest lived – a ringed bird – survived until it was over 8.
3. Robins have 3 to 5 broods a year and can breed as early as January. They nest almost anywhere – plant pots; pigeon hole in a desk; engine in a WWII 'plane; in the body of a dead cat; underneath a bible in a church; above a clock in an occupied house – as examples.
4. Ringed recoveries of 'british-ringed' robins have shown that the most frequent cause of death is being 'killed by a cat'.
5. Robins can fiercely defend their territory from other robins, sometimes to the death.
6. Robins are omnivorous, eating everything from fruit to spiders.

7. If you choose to feed them, they love meal worms best of all!
8. Robins in Britain are famous for their tameness - Continental ones are shy and unapproachable. In winter, resident birds are joined by immigrants from continental Europe, mostly from Scandinavia.
9. The robin in your garden has a sweet tooth, so your christmas cake crumbs would be very, very welcome and very much appreciated!
10. The robin is officially Britain's 'national bird'.

Tim Denham



Illustration Gill Malone

the robin

social activities at WSC

It's been a busy year for the 'House' group. We hit the floor running with Burns night which included all the usual things - addressing the haggis, a fine meal and of course Scottish dancing. Many thanks, to Stuart and Lynn, for keeping us on the Scottish straight and narrow.

Following this, we've had the 'Fitting Out' lunch to get the sailing season off to a start, the Club Open day, with lots of visitors enjoying scrummy cakes and tea, a Halloween visit from the Colne Cruising Club, for Sunday lunch (and they're looking forward to coming back next year), the Annual Dinner, with 75 diners who enjoyed a good meal, prize-giving then boogying the night away to Ooh La La. For the Ladies we held two Friday events. Firstly Midge Hetherington held a jewellery-making session, then in December Sally Lewis did a christmas centre-

piece-making demonstration. On both occasions, all attendees went home proudly clutching their creations. As usual Lynn Button ran the Children's Christmas party, with games, face-painting, a magician and of course a visit from Santa, so lots of happy children. The year ends with the popular Christmas Gathering on 23rd December, with nibbles, christmas carols and Paul & Carole's fun christmas draw (ably assisted by Albert). 2017 starts with the 'Row & Ramble' on 2nd January (details in the recent alert), so look forward to seeing you there. We are planning more events during 2017, so keep up to date with the alerts. Can we also take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the small band of volunteers, without whom these events couldn't take place. However, more importantly, we need you, the club members, to support the club, by attending these events and, as importantly, coming in and socialising on a Friday evening, when the bar will be open. Sad to say but *'use it or lose it'*! We would welcome any ideas you may have for different events or improvements we may make. Other things planned for next year are the continuing reorganisation of the galley and replacing the chairs and tables on the lower deck.

Finally, we wish you all Happy Christmas and all the best for 2017.

Myrna & Carole - Rear Commodores

season's decorations:



fruits of table centre-piece workshop

A group of members (OK mainly, OK totally ladies) joined a very much appreciated workshop on making decorative christmas centre-pieces, for tables and such. The workshop, organised by Myrna and held upstairs in the club house on Friday evening, 9th December was given by Sally Lewis and attended by about a dozen people.

wsc annual dinner and prize-giving 2016

The annual dinner was, as usual, a great success, with good food and music provided and a festive atmosphere created, for the bumper turn-out of guests and members.



top-table guests taking a toast



that bottle looks empty



hands-up for seconds

RACE RESULTS 2016			
TROPHY – DINGHIES	1ST	2ND	3RD
GLOZIER FITTING OUT	A.GREEN - NONAMEE	N.COOK – ALCYONE	S.HART – BUBBLES
SAINTY MEMORIAL	N.COOK – ALCYONE	R.MALONEY – ELISE	A.REED – LASER
STUART PAWSEY	N.COOK – ALCYONE	A.REED – LASER	R. DE LA RUE – MIRACLE
HALFWAY CUP (MISSING)	R.GORDON - TOPAZ	N.COOK – ALCYONE	R.MALONEY – ELISE
MOSS CUP	N.COOK – ALCYONE	R.MALONEY – ELISE	A.REED – LASER
COUSIN JACK TANKARD	N.COOK – ALCYONE	R.MALONEY – ELISE	
MAY MUG	A.GREEN – NONAMEE	R.GORDON – TOPAZ	
LASER CUP	A.GREEN – NONAMEE		
FARREN CUP	A.GREEN – NONAMEE	N.COOK – ALCYONE	R.GORDON – TOPAZ
HOWARD CUP	A.GREEN – NONAMEE	A. OJ – BRUNETTE	E.APPLETON – TOPAZ
BOSTOCK CUP	A.GREEN – NONAMEE	N.COOK – VOYAGER	N.BLOWER – CORETTA
CAPRIOL CAPSTAN	N.COOK – ALCYONE		
WOD CUP	N.COOK – ALCYONE	R.MALONEY – ELISE	S.BANNERMAN – OSPREY
CAN RACE CUP	A.GREEN – NONAMEE	S.JONES – TOPAZ	R.MALONEY – ELISE
WOD CHALLENGE CUP	N.COOK – ALCYONE	K.MILES – DOROTHY	R.MALONEY – ELISE
GEOFF BAILEY TROPHY	K.MILES – DOROTHY	A.OJ BRUNETTE	N.COOK – ALCYONE
THELMA WORSP PLATE	N.COOK – ALCYONE		
SCALY CAPSTAN	S.JONES – TOPAZ	N.COOK – ALCYONE	S.BANNERMAN – OSPREY
ROSE & CROWN BOWL	A.REED – LASER	E.APPLETON – TOPAZ	
RAT RACE TROPHY	S.HART – BUBBLES	N.COOK – VOYAGER	N.BLOWER – CORETTA
MIK GOODY TROPHY	N.BLOWER – CORETTA		
WSC DINGHY REGATTA SLOW/FAST H'CP	S.HART – BUBBLES	E.APPLETON – TOPAZ	D.STOKER – TOPAZ
WSC DINGHY REGATTA WODS	K.MILES – DOROTHY	A. OJ – BRUNETTE	N.COOK – ALCYONE
<u>CRUISERS</u>			
ISSAC STOKES	T.TAYLOR- JONES-CHANCHULLO		
HAROLD MEADOWS MEMORIAL	M.DOW - DANA DA		
SPINNER TROPHY	M.BAKER - TORGUNN		
RANGER CUP	B.KIPPEN – EDITH KATE		
GUY HARDING TROPHY	B.KIPPEN – EDITH KATE		

Robin Malone



members anticipate the next course



pass the cheese please



wake up when I'm singing to you

The Master of Ceremonies, Richard Barnard guided the proceedings, with guests Vice Commodore, Paul Hebert and Brenda Herbert, of Millbeach Marine Club and Ralph and Jenny Spence of Ivy Farm, East Mersea, the site of our annual cadet camp, warmly welcomed. The music was ably provided by duo, Ooh-la-la! featuring Chris and Caz West.

Sinterklaas is coming to town - (again)



Sinterklaas is greeted by the minister

A very important visitor made a surprise stop at Wivenhoe quay on Saturday 3rd December. Fortunately quite a crowd were there to

witness the sighting, including civic dignitaries and the local resident vicar. His helpers were seen to be distributing goodies from small sacks. Then he disappeared as quickly as he had appeared and was sighted shortly afterwards in Rowhedge by a sizeable crowd.



who's a big hit with the public?



that takes the biscuit!



all in a days work for Santa's little helpers

Crew members of SCV *Viking* were at hand to assist with water-bound transport should it be necessary, in the event of a sleigh malfunction or a reindeer injury.

-o0o-

it's the festive season:



from *the scream* by Edward Munch

so beware, you don't want –

an encounter with *Black Shuck!**

Black Shuck, a ghostly black dog, is said to roam the coastline and countryside of East Anglia. The name *Shuck* may derive from the Old English *scucca* meaning 'demon' or the

local dialect word *shucky* meaning 'shaggy or hairy'. Throughout the British Isles, a ghostly black dog is often regarded as a portent ranging from ill-luck or death, to something quite agreeable and may be classed as a *cryptid*, ie. to be unsubstantiated or questionable, like the *yeti* or *Loch-ness* monster. Its reported appearance, in 1577 at Bungay and Blythburgh, is a particularly famous account, and images of black, sinister dogs have become part of the folklore of the area and have appeared in popular culture. In England folk have spoken of a large black dog with evil, burning, 'saucer-like' eyes (in some cases only one) coloured red or green. This animal can vary in size and build, from that of a large dog to that of a calf or horse. On some occasions it is said to have been headless and on others to be '*floating on a carpet of mist*'.



*

*source Wikipedia

But here in East Anglia, it is thought mainly to haunt the coast-line, grave-yards, side-roads, cross-roads, bodies of water and dark forests; so *Wivenhoe* should be quite safe.

One account¹ tells:

'he takes the form of a huge black dog, and prowls along dark lanes and lonesome field footpaths, where, although his howling makes the hearer's blood run cold, his footfalls make no sound. You may know him at once, should you see him, by his fiery eye but such an encounter might bring you the worst of luck. So you will do well to shut your eyes if you hear him howling; shut them even if you are uncertain whether it is the dog fiend, the voice of the wind you hear or that his story is

nothing but the old Scandinavian myth of the black hound of Odin, brought to us by the Vikings’.

¹[part extract from Dutt,WA, (1901), *Highways & Byways in East Anglia*, on Wikipedia].

Some legends maintain the dog's appearance ‘bodes ill to the beholder’ – as in the Maldon and Dengie area, a sighting portends virtually immediate death for the victim. In other stories *Black Shuck* only terrifies his victims, leaving them to continue normal lives; in some cases the vision happens before close relatives die or become ill. In others the dog is thought of as almost benign and to accompany women as protector, on their way home. Black dogs have also been said to aid lost travellers to find the way home, more helpful than threatening.

Apparently a large dog was excavated at Leiston Abbey in May 2014 and linked to the legend, while carbon-dating ‘indicated a date of either 1650-1690, 1730-1810 or post 1920’ it was thought likely that it had been interred when ‘there was no surface trace of the original building remaining’.

Wivenhoe’s Martin Newell related some of the stories he heard from locals, while preparing his epic poem, *Black Shuck: The Ghost Dog of Eastern England*², with illustrations by James Dodds: finding that even today they claimed sightings of a black dog and was surprised at how seriously the story was taken, particularly in the north of this region, being told to ‘be careful’. He heard of sightings near Chromer ‘early one summer morning in the 1950s’ and another near Felixstowe ‘one evening on the marshes’. His account from an old newspaper of a midwife cycling home on a winter’s night after a delivery in the 1930s is more chilling. She apparently was followed along lanes near Tolleshunt Darcy ‘by a huge dog and no matter how fast she pedalled it seemed to effortlessly keep up with her, remaining silent before suddenly vanishing’.*
(Shades of *Tam o’Shanter*?)

²‘And Shuck, the Hound of Odin
The black dog of the fens
Who pads across the shadows of the years
Will spring out on the traveller
With burning ember eyes
To haunt the ancient roads where he appears’

With permission, verse from *Black Shuck*²:

²[Martin Newell - Jardine Press, (1999)]

I don't suppose we'll ever see *Black Shuck* on the Wivenhoe trail; best not to anyway!

Anon

-o0o-



“thanks for helping out; i really appreciate it – what’s your name?”

-0o0-

reflections:

there was a bit of space left at the end, as this edition was just about ready for printing, so it was possible to include a few unused images from sunnier days, earlier in the year, when we were taking advantage of the weather and getting afloat here on the River Colne.

Wivenhoe in sail: looking back on 2016

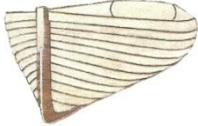


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Contact me on:
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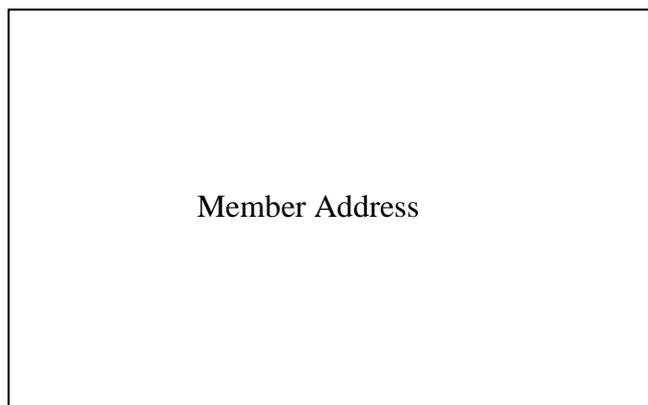
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WSC: MAINSHEET



Member Address

stop press:

reminder – details inside

Mon: 2nd Jan: Row & Ramble
to **Albion**, Rowhedge

Sat: 21st Jan: Burns Night

Sun: 29th Jan: Gig Regatta

Sat: 4th Feb: Olde Tyme Music Hall

Sat: 11th Feb: Valentines Barn Dance

Fri: 3rd Mar: AGM

Sun: 9th Apr: Fitting-out race

Mon: 10th Apr: Cruiser launching starts

Next mainsheet: April 2017

Ed. Roy Crookes
Tel: 01206 824098
WSC Walter Radcliffe Way Wivenhoe