

Wivenhoe and Rowhedge Yacht Owners' Association

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2011



SUMMER EVENT REPORTS:

THE SPRING RALLY

Royal Harwich Yacht Club
Saturday 28th – Monday 30th May

The Spring Rally started with strong winds taking the fleet beating towards Colne Bar, followed by a rolling run down the Wallet. More settled weather was found in the Orwell and by the time yachts arrived at the Royal Harwich Yacht club the shelter from the hill gave the impression of a sunny warm day. Memories of being at Royal Harwich revolve around lying on the grass, drinking beer with friends, having a pleasant group dinner in the Club House, and ... well more lying on the grass and drinking! There were a few discussions about the trip back and due to the prediction of fouler weather most yachts headed back to the Colne on Sunday.

THE GOOSEBERRY PIE RALLY

Packing Shed Island
Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th July

Fifteen yachts set out on the Gooseberry Pie Rally over a 10nm course out to Inner Bench and then around a tight course around some of the West Mersea racing marks. The weather and wind during the rally was variable leading to some of the smaller yachts retiring. The first three places went to Stingray (Paul Feasey and Yvette Hill), French Herring (Nick and Lorraine Baker), and Capriccio (John and Alison Forrest). Bolinda, who started the race with Ann, Paul & Carol Newman, and the gooseberry pies never made it to the Packing Shed. After starting the rally and pulling up the anchor, Bolinda was soon involved in heading to a Mayday call from a yacht in the vicinity of Inner Bench Head. After hearing the mayday call, which stated that the yacht, Oma (Ian Bartlett, ACBOA), had been holed by another yacht, Anthony and crew downed sails and started looking for the yacht. After a few minutes Oma was located and Bolinda tailed her as she limped back into Brightlingsea under jib and motor to heel her over to keep the holed side out of the water. Other vessels, including the inshore lifeboat and Offshore Provider were also soon on the scene. Fortunately Oma made it back to Brightlingsea and was lifted out that evening. Repairs over the Summer were rapidly carried out and Oma is now once again afloat. The photographs alongside shows the damage.

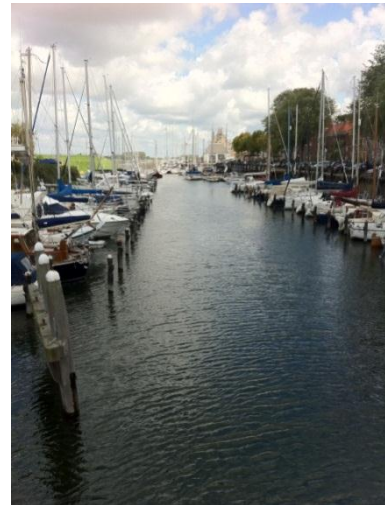


Anyway, back to the Gooseberry Pie Rally. After escorting Oma back into Brightlingsea Anthony decided to make it round to West Mersea by car. Once at West Mersea everything was transported to the Island via the Packing Shed launch which had been hired for the event. As afternoon passed to early evening the launch ferried crews from yachts to the Island and everyone set to enjoying multiple BBQs. The main meals were topped off by a choice of Gooseberry or fruit pie courtesy of Carol Newman. Surprisingly the evening continued without rain although black clouds and rain seemed to surround us. At one point Frank Thompson sailed by, enjoying his 90th birthday afloat!



THE OSTEND RALLY

The Oostende Rally is organised each year by Tim Dow and Bernie Hetherington. There is an open invitation to all clubs in the area and a number of yachts from our ranks took part this year. Here are four photographs from the event. Can you pick out any members yachts? Do you know the locations? Does anyone know the history behind the WRYOA burgee in the last photos which is displayed in Goes Yacht club? It looks as if it would fall apart if touched!



THE AUTUMN RALLY

Bradwell Marina

Saturday 3rd – Sunday 4th September

Ten yachts took what started as a gentle drift towards Bradwell but for some ended in quite a sail. Although the wind picked up it was a very sunny day which resulted in lots of lounging around cockpits in the afternoon. Before dinner members gathered aboard Bolinda. Ann and Anthony hosted, at one point, 23 people. Afterwards everyone gathered in the Club house restaurant to dine and partake of a few drinks. Yachts departed from very early morning, I heard them go, to later in the afternoon. Those who departed late were caught in rain and very strong winds.

UPCOMING WINTER EVENTS:

MARITIME TALKS

Normandy

Mike and Liz Taylor-Jones
The Nottage Maritime Institute
Saturday 22nd October, 8pm

Scandinavian Cruise

Chris and Jill Guy
The Nottage Maritime Institute
Saturday 12th November, 8pm

THE ANNUAL DINNER

(forms will be distributed approximately 3 weeks before the event)

The Nottage Maritime Institute
Saturday 3rd December, 7.00 for 7.30pm

SWATCHWAYS

The Nottage Maritime Institute
Saturday 28th January, 8pm

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Nottage Maritime Institute
Sunday 4th March, 11.45am

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVENING

"Weather"

Wivenhoe Sailing Club
Saturday 24th March, 8pm

RIVER NEWS:

Announcement – J J Prior Ltd. 23 September 2011.

A return to a bygone age is to be trialled on the River Colne between Fingringhoe and The Hythe in Colchester. J J Prior Ltd, the long established family owned ballast pit operator at Fingringhoe, are exploring opportunities to transport sand and gravel from their existing operation at Ballast Quay to the Hythe.

The Company are confident that despite this section of the River not having been used in this manner for a number of years and having become silted in some places, its craft will still be able to safely navigate the river and make the short round trip. Initially cargoes up to 200 tonnes (the equivalent of approximately ten eight- wheeler lorry loads) will be transported, but if successful could eventually increase.

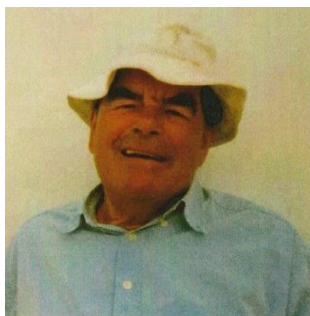
Trials will be undertaken during September and October to transport aggregate in the Company's motor barges up to the Hythe for offloading and collection. Currently all of the

Company's aggregate sales are loaded at Ballast Quay for shipment down river towards London. The trial will look to use approximately 3 miles of the River Colne upstream from Fingringhoe as it passes between Rowhedge and Wivenhoe.

The trials will be undertaken during normal, weekday working hours on appropriate tides. If successful, it would help to relieve the current number of lorries transporting aggregate in and around Colchester and potentially bring a small amount of traditional commercial activity back onto this part of the River Colne.

For any queries or more information please contact Andrew Hack, General Manager at J J Prior Ltd, Ballast Quay Road, Fingringhoe. Colchester. CO5 7DB

OBITUARY - RICHARD JOEL (1927 - 2011)



It was in the summer of 1976 that Richard with his wife Lesley got their first taste of Wivenhoe. They sailed up the river, in MacTurtle, and after anchoring the crew came ashore to enjoy the local hostelry. They met George and Jane Milton, who offered them bathroom facilities and amongst other things they ended up talking about river front properties. Eventually Trinity House came on the market, and after being informed of this by George and Jane, Richard and Lesley came the next day, the purchase was agreed and in 1977 they moved in.

They soon embraced Wivenhoe and as for Richard, his infectious personality soon won him many friends, especially in the environs of the Rose and Crown and the Black Buoy. It was in the latter he was able to discuss his many interests, and it is also fitting that the idea of the WRYOA was conceived there because Richard became not only a very enthusiastic supporter but also voluntary recruitment officer! MacTurtle used to attend most rallies, albeit usually at the back of the fleet, but she was a source of much enjoyment for him and Lesley. However, Richard, in his assumed role as captain, did expect to just step aboard and sail regardless of the amount of preparation work needed. The social side was his forte, the sailing a means to an end. He also gave full support to the RNLI and other organisations where his personality enabled him to extract donations from people; Richard was always the man for that job!

For a few summers the family sailed further afield on the infamous Golden Sheaf, an old MFV belonging to Peter Brooks. Each voyage was an adventure, no one knowing what fate was going to befall them. Probably one of the most serious problems was when she developed a leak necessitating her to be beached. The crew was mustered to help to replace part of a plank and the job was finished by tacking butter tin lids (from Harrods, of course) over the repair. Richard was then despatched on his bike to let the lockkeeper know they were ready to go back into port. Although latterly he did not sail himself he still got great pleasure in seeing Macturtle in good fettle and in Jonny's capable hands.

Fair winds Richard!

LOG YOUR ACTIVITIES: Can I ask everyone to think about logging their sailing experiences both local and afar this year with the Newsletter, the Maritime Talks, the Swatchways and the Photographic Evening in mind. I would love to see more contributions from members. The theme for the Photographic competition this year is "Weather".

RALLIES 2012

Spring Rally 2nd - 5th June
Gooseberry Pie Rally 30th June - 1st July
Autumn Rally 8th - 9th September

Anthony
chair@wryoa.org.uk
www.wryoa.org.uk