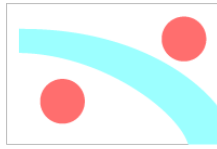


Wivenhoe and Rowhedge Yacht Owners' Association

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2011



WINTER EVENT REPORTS:

MARITIME TALKS

The Harbour

Bernie Hetherington, Brightlingsea Harbour Master and Chief Executive,
The Nottage Maritime Institute
Saturday 23rd October, 8pm

Bernie delighted the audience with an amusing illustrated talk about how Brightlingsea Harbour had developed since its Cinque Port days and in particular over the last 80 years. The talk included some interesting photo's of the waterfront dating back to the early 1900s, the '53 floods and a few slides and anecdotes about recent incidents in the Harbour including Ralph Merry's testing of "Bob the Loo!"

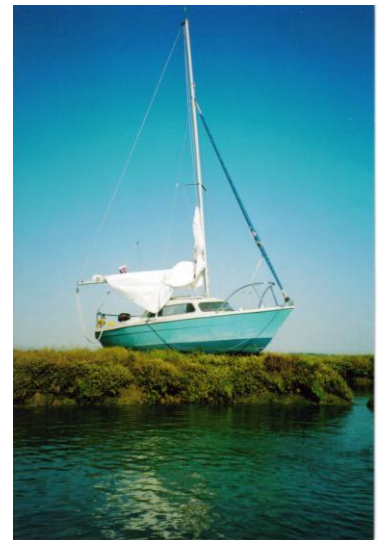
Baltic Cruises

John Worsp and John Wilson
The Nottage Maritime Institute
Saturday 13th November, 8pm

The two Johns presented a set of slides covering their times together and their separate cruises in the Baltic in 2010. We were treated to some fabulous sites which I am sure tempted many to seek out the Baltic on future cruises. Running through the show was a "heads theme" with some slides showing deep crew commitment in the face of adversity.

THE ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner went off with its usual splendour. Once again we were treated to delicious food by Caroline Bindloss and her team and to a set of fine wines, ports, and soft drinks chosen by John and Alison. Our guest speaker, Dave Selby, accompanied by Julie George, gave us a delightful after dinner speech filled with comparisons between the Colne and the Blackwater. He told us of his writing for Practical Boat Owner and of some of his adventures, including getting a little high and dry on the highest tide for 20 years (see photo). Dave summarised sailing with these words. "SAILING IS A WONDERFUL LEVELLER. WHENEVER WE GET TO FEELING A LITTLE TOO PLEASED WITH OURSELVES IT MAKES FOOLS OF US ALL. THE SEA ALSO BRINGS US TOGETHER AND ON THE BLACKWATER WE'RE PARTICULARLY LUCKY." Dave was followed by Richard Barnard who gave the members reply. Richard gave his usually witty response with a number of on the fly responses to Dave's speech. Many thanks to them both for providing wonderful entertainment.



REMAINING WINTER EVENTS

SWATCHWAYS

The Nottage Maritime Institute
Saturday 22nd January, 8pm

"The rivers, creeks and glistening mudflats, the soft murmur of a young tide making, and the lonely call of a curlew. A gentle breeze wafting the little ship through the Rays'n, or a horrible night flogging up the Wallet. The laughter of chums in the Butt & Oyster, the green Man or the Boyton Bell. You just can't sail this stretch without a memory to savour and a tale to tell."

We get together on a winter evening to reminisce about our wanderings amongst rivers, creeks, sands and ditches of the estuary between Orfordness and the north Foreland. This evening in January takes the form of a lighthearted and friendly competition, and we welcome entries from members who feel they could describe their experiences at an evenings meeting. The aim is to capture in some way the spirit of Swatchways – winding channels, the wind and tide, the mud and sand and the interesting craft and characters (both human and otherwise) that lie in wait round every corner. The competition is judged solely on the entertaining and informative content of the presentations given by participants.

The following have proved to be of interest in the past:

1. Illustrations by means of slides, photographs, PowerPoint presentations.
2. An underlying theme. For instance, exploration, local history, architecture, wildlife, folklore, or pub crawling.
3. Knowledge acquired, whether navigational or not, which may be of interest.
4. Seamanship and Watermanship acquired or practised, particularly in narrow or shallow waters.
5. Humorous situations. The audience is very partial to the smell of mud and weed! Especially when this results from accidentally stepping out of seaboots whilst struggling in that sticky expanse between the low water mark and firm ground.... It happens to us all!

The trophy is a miniature pram dinghy, beautifully crafted in wood. The winner, announced at the AGM, retains the trophy for one year. **Please let me know if you are going to present.**

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Nottage Maritime Institute
Sunday 6th March, 11.45am

See attached sheets

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVENING "Strange things happen at Sea"

Wivenhoe Sailing Club
Saturday 26th March, 8pm

SUMMER EVENTS 2011 (details to follow later in the year)

THE SPRING RALLY

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

THE GOOSEBERRY PIE RALLY

Saturday 9 – Sunday 10th July
Heybridge Basin

THE AUTUMN RALLY

Saturday 3rd – Sunday 4th September
Bradwell Marina

RIVER NEWS:

Colchester Borough Council has been involved in resolving issues arising from alleged unlicensed operations below MHW in the mud berths on Wivenhoe Waterfront.

The planned dredge of the North Channel of Brightlingsea Creek from the Hammerhead to Morgan's was completed before Xmas. This project will create a channel with a depth of 0.7m below CD from the hammerhead to the new fuel facility. Dredging has begun around the pontoon moorings in the South Channel. There is also the possibility that a new 70 metre mooring pontoon will be added to replace the line of moorings where Dracula lies.

A work boat belonging to Mr Kerrison sank at its mooring in the Pyefleet before Xmas. It has been marked by a buoy.

A new fuel barge has been established in Brightlingsea Harbour at the Pioneer Trust site known as Harker's Yard. Fuel should be available to the public from February 2011.

A new Harbour Master, Robin Cole, has been appointed to take over from Bernie Hetherington on 1 March 2011. Bernie will remain as Chief Executive until at least June 2012, but is threatening to sail more often as it is a part time appointment.

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 "Strange things happen at Sea".

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