



## REMAINING WINTER EVENTS

### **AGM and Fitting Out Lunch, Sunday March 1st, 11.45 for 12.00 prompt, at the Nottage Institute**

The meeting will be followed by the traditional and delicious buffet lunch. The agenda for the AGM together with booking form for the Lunch – and request for help in providing the food – is enclosed herewith.

### **Photographic Evening, March 28th, 20.00hrs at Wivenhoe Sailing Club**

**Food at Sea** - the theme at our Photographic Evening this year. We would welcome submissions of printed photographs, slides, or electronic presentations. However the photographic competition will be limited to **printed** photographs only. Any photographs entered for the competition should be no larger than A4 (210x297mm, or 8x12ins). The judges will award marks for relevance to the theme, artistic quality, humour, and presentation. Slide projectors, video projector, laptop and a screen will all be provided. The Bar will be open and food will be available at a small charge. For further information contact Anthony Vickers on 230293 or vicka@essex.co.uk

## SAILING EVENTS for the 2009 season

### **Spring Rally, Spring Bank Holiday, May 23, 24 and 25 May. Walton Backwaters**

Saturday at Titchmarsh Marina with an evening meal at the Harbour Lights, and a barbecue on Sunday.

### **Gooseberry Pie Rally, July 4 and 5, West Mersea.**

A race in the Blackwater followed by a barbecue or seafood on Packing Shed Island

### **Autumn Rally, September 12, Heybridge Basin.**

A passage race, perhaps, and an evening meal in one of Heybridge's pubs.

Full details of these events will be distributed later.

## NEWS

Review of the 41st year.

It was a tempestuous season: the Spring Rally, on the May Bank Holiday weekend, was to the Crouch, dining at the Corinthian. The forecast was appalling. Hazebra-Too and Tambaroo wisely set out on the Friday; Dipper was already on station, leaving Music Man the only yacht to sail in on that stormy Saturday. Many others made the long journey by road and, I am told, 30 – 40 of the Association enjoyed the welcome and meal at the Corinthian.

Hazebra-Too reported having successfully navigated the Raysn Channel, using the information presented by Mike Shepherd at the earlier Swatchways evening.

The Gooseberry Pie Rally was to Levington, the Race to Harwich Harbour. A strong Sou-Westerly and the tide bore us down the Wallet quite quickly, with Richard Barnard in Perfect Freedom disappearing into the distance. Whilst leading the wooden fleet, Rose of Arden went Lobster fishing. Capriccio took advantage of this and, in a fresh breeze, took first place and the Noctiluca trophy; Rose of Arden was second, and Tambaroo third. Levington provided a cosy venue for the traditional barbecue. The strong Sou-Westerly persisted for the return journey, and those of us who returned on Sunday had a rough passage.

Despite the wind, it was a great event, with fourteen yachts taking part: Music Man, Pirouette, Girl Janet, Torgunn, High Spirits II, Rose of Arden, Capriccio, Tambaroo, Kes, Samphire, Saga of Colne and Perfect Freedom, and Aquilegia as Committee Boat.

The weather relented for the Autumn Rally, held at East Mersea Stone. with a race in the afternoon and barbecue on the beach in the evening. The weather was beautiful - one of the warmest days of the summer - though, frustratingly little wind for the race.

Eleven boats started the race, but without wind and down tide of the outward mark all but three retired. Rampage and Freedom II would not give up, despite taking time out for swimming. This diversion allowed the Mitchell's in the pretty Madrigal to make the mark almost un-noticed. However, the race was declared a draw. It was a glorious evening, many

of us becoming quite lyrical about the beauty of the place: from the sunset over the Blackwater, the glistening mud of Pyefleet and the sensual sweep of the shell and shingle Stone: well, the barbecue was accompanied by much wine and - the Tippetts delicious pink fir potatoes! In total, sixteen boats took part: Rampage, Freedom II, French Herring, Samphire, Madrigal, High Spirits II, Girl Janet, Tambaroo - who acted as Committee Boat; Music Man, Capriccio, Hazebra Too, Mac Turtle, Mersea Memsahib, Kentish Plover, Dipper, Kia - and a cameo appearance of the Harbour Master!

### **The Forty First Annual Dinner**

Without the extra delights introduced for the fortieth Dinner the year before, last autumn's Annual Dinner was nevertheless a great event and well attended. The atmosphere created in the Nottage with the additional festoons of lights and flags - and table decorations - is unique.

Our guest this year was Paul Winter. Paul, chairman of the Sailing Smack Association, bemused us with his experiences of buying, transporting and restoring the Rowhedge-built smack Maria: a cautionary tale!

Replying for our Association, Nick Baker – one of the syndicate that owns Maldon smack William – spoke of the positive influence on sailing yacht design derived from the development of working boats.

Prizes were awarded to the following:-

Admirals Cup, winner of the Gooseberry Pie: Capriccio – John Forrest and Alison

also the Noctiluca trophy as first wooden boat over the line.

Committee Boat Trophy: Aquilegia, John and Jackie Worsp

Cruising Trophy: Highland Lass, Tony and Mary Williamson, who eventually finished with the welder and got to sea in their home-built boat. Well done.

Capriol Seamanship Trophy: Tickety Blue, Ralph Merry - for his life-saving action earlier in the year.

The Wooden Spoon, Tail-end Trophy: Pirouette, Ken and Desi Green who managed to slip unnoticed behind the competition.

Earlier, the Swatchways Trophy had been presented to Ralph Merry for his presentation of marine archaeology, and the Photographic Competition had been awarded to Anthony Vickers.

### **The Future**



Planning for this year's **sailing events** is well in hand, and full details of each event will be distributed nearer the time. We may need an alternative start line whilst the turbine bases are being assembled off East Mersea Stone!

The **website** is now 'on line', and will prove a most useful asset in disseminating information about our events and activities. Log on at [www.wryoa.org.uk](http://www.wryoa.org.uk) We apologise for some continuing shortcomings with conventional distribution of Newsletters - we hope that we are on top of the problem now.

**River Patrol:** many will by now have heard that continuance of the River Patrol out of Brightlingsea is likely cease due to Colchester Borough Council having withdrawn financial support, ironically, just as plans to expand the scope of the patrols were being made. To leave those inclined to abuse the amenities of the estuary free reign is an abhorrent prospect: we should consider how we may best support Brightlingsea Harbour, perhaps lobbying CBC to reconsider their decision in order to preserve the quality of the estuarine environment.

**Subscriptions:** for those who may not yet have paid, please send your subscriptions as soon as possible to our Treasurer Jonny Joel at 18 Admiral's Walk, Wivenhoe, CO7 9SZ. And do please keep us up-to-date with any changes of address, email address - or boat.

### **Finally –**

This is my last Newsletter as Chairman of WRYOA. I would like to thank all of those, committee past and present, and the many others who have helped make what at first seemed a daunting responsibility into a very pleasant and useful experience. Thank you all. And I am sure the Association will continue to prosper under the chairmanship of Anthony Vickers.

Happy Sailing - Mike