

HOLLOWSHORE CRUISING CLUB



Commodore's Winter Newsletter

January 2017

By the time you read this newsletter you would all have had Christmas with family and friends and hopefully it all went well. As a club, we finished the social part of the year with the beheading of Sir Walter Raleigh back in October, an evening of fancy dress of the Tudor period. Everybody who attended dressed the part (I have never seen so many men in tights), the Hollowshore players once again performed to a script written by Jean Davies. This involved good Queen Liz 1 with Drake, Walter, Baldric and a Spanish Captain. It started with the queen stepping in a puddle, followed by the adventures of Drake, Walter and Baldric sailing in search of spuds and tobacco. On their return, a battle with the Spanish took place with plastic cannon balls going everywhere. All gifts were presented to Liz who not liking the smoking part sent Walter to the Tower. In the final part of the play, poor Walter loses his head and Liz dies of a broken heart and the smoking of a po-tat-toe.



The cast were as follows: - Queen Elizabeth – John Webb, Sir Walter Raleigh – Phil Davies, Sir Francis Drake – Chris Lovering, Baldric and the Spanish Captain – Mark Sanders.

Next came the laying up supper provided by Angela Holness and a host of lady helpers, and was an excellent meal of shepherd's pie followed by apple pie. The apple pies being provided by Jose who peeled, sliced and cooked for the 48 members.

The final business of the year was the AGM, this was well attended by 40+ members. The Treasurer started the meeting by informing all that we were in profit with a surplus of £2,400 this being up on the previous year, due to having a few more members and a refund from the Energy Company. The bar that we all enjoy using on a Sunday lunch time plus other events that are organized for the membership totted up another £2,000.

I then gave a résumé of what the club had achieved over the year with the various trips to Medway, St Kat's and the East Coast as well as those who ventured further to France and Holland. There were those who went on the local trips like the BBQ at Conyer, here Paul Smedley played host to members with fish and chips in their club room on the Friday night and a bring your own food and cook on the Saturday.



St Katharine's Haven

In conclusion, Vice-Commodore Phil Davies award prizes to the following members for their achievements in 2016: -



Mark & Beryl for the most ports visited + logged miles, David Welch for the most miles sailed single handed and to Steve Keeler for Member of the Year.



A special award was presented to John Kerr for organizing the sailing trips at the beginning and end of season to the Medway Yacht Club and Chatham and for the trip to St Katherines Dock in London.

Those wanting to go to Medway will be leaving the creek on Thursday 13th April, MYC meal on Sunday 16th and St Katharine's will be leaving on 8th May arriving there on 9th May. These have all been booked and confirmed by John. (Put your names on the lists on the notice board)

After the AGM, there were plenty of praise for the buffet meal thanks going to Janet Webb. Then we had a small gathering for the Xmas nibbles where those who attended bought along a plate of food to share, the same was done on New Year's Eve where an evening of sing-along was organized by Mark and Beryl.



Could somebody point us in the right direction we should not be stuck here on the mud! Could you bounce it up and down Mary, are that's better now which way is Conyer Creek and the BBQ? Put the kettle on Mary!! Janet wants some tea and cake.

For those of you who would like to attend a pleasant evening at The Dog & Bear Hotel, The Square, Lenham, the Cruising Association are arranging talks after supper at 2000hrs if you want to eat before you need to order your meal before 1700hrs. There are three talks coming up: Thursday 9th Feb “*a then and now approach*” about Chatham Historical Dockyard by the Curator Scott Belcher. Next is on Thursday 9th March about Captain James Cook RN given by Nigel Rigby and finally Thursday 13th April is a member evening where they talk about their experiences, mishaps, confessions, new ideas and anything else anybody wants to make comment on.

Finally, a few words from Dick Holness about East Coast events plus other happenings: At Maldon the collapsed section of Hythe Quay has been repaired and at the upstream end is a very nice visitor pontoon, which sadly lacks much depth of water except at top of springs.

The marina at Brightlingsea has been dredged, there are some who won't set foot in there as it's a bit bleak, but if staying a few days and don't want to use your dinghy it's cheaper than the pontoon and access is at least HW+/- 3 to 4 hrs on springs.

Heybridge Basin is currently having the lock gates renewed and revamped this should all be finished by the end of March. I hope the prices don't shoot up to pay for it all!!

As for Kingsferry Bridge there are still major problems. The work in replacing the winding gear has stopped as contractors could not meet the costs, so there are two Engineers working in the base to make it active when a lift is required. MSBA (Medway and Swale Boating Association, of which HCC is a member) took the SE Area Network Rail Engineering Manager through the bridge on a boat last year and established a good relationship with him.....he went and got moved on!! Hence, contact has been made with the new manager and the uphill struggle has started again so watch this space. If you do get really messed about there, make a note of the date, time, a brief of what happened, then pass it all to Dick or myself, as boaters we are entitled to a decent service from these people.



Sunset at Harty Ferry



An evening at Ramsholt

Don't forget that as club members, you can buy red diesel at Swale Marina (Conyer) if you turn up by road with a can, just ask in the office and say you are an HCC member. Similarly, at Ramsgate the fuel barge now sells white as well as red diesel, but not to anyone with a can and no boat. Finally, as a New Year Resolution if you use the internet and email, sign up for the occasional free ECP email newsletters (www.eastcoastpilot.com/signup.html) these give you all the information of what's occurring on the East Coast. Dick Holness.

Well thanks Dick for the pictures and information, don't forget if you want to make any comments with pictures just email me. **John Webb (Commodore)**