

KESSINGLAND SEA SAILING CLUB

NEWSLETTER – Winter 2018

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

The cold weather is here and the boats are laid up but there is no sense of hibernation in the club.

Ian Winters and Arthur Riley helped by a few hardy people have been doing a lot of winter maintenance on Explorer. There is major work to be done on her rudder and the stern gland. The committee has agreed to install AIS this year and we have been very generously donated a chart plotter and radar by Rick and Debbie Asker who are currently enjoying the warmth of southern Portugal

Cliff is coordinating this year's extended cruise to the South Coast and possibly Channel Islands if you would like to join in please let him know.

Peter is organising the Ploes fitting out. Bookings for Ploes are down so far this year so the issue of moving to a new cruising ground is again under review.

The fitting out supper will be on the 14th April. Our guest speaker will be Claudia Myatt, an artist and cartoonist who has contributed to many sailing magazines. She even lives afloat!

The log and photo completion is being judged the winners will be announced at the Fitting Out Supper.

Recruitment of new members is hard work. We will again be going to a variety of local boat shows so if you can help at our stalls even for part of a day please do. Increasing our membership and usage of the boats is vital for our future.

Most subscriptions are in. If you want to be included in the year book but not yet paid up let me know ASAP.

Finally time is running out to sign the lobster pot petition. This is a really important issue for all using the sea. More on all of these below. Hopefully the warmer weather will be with us soon and we will be back on the water.

James Parnell
Commodore KSSC

Explorer

Arthur and I have spent an average of one day a week at the boat. We have had help from John Davie and Helen Davie.

We have concentrated on the interior due to the cold and wet weather. The rubbing down and painting of the ceilings and wet locker is nearing completion. We have tidied up the lighting and wiring and fitted LED bulbs. We have also fitted a fairlead to the starboard transom and started stripping and greasing the winches.

In addition the following projects have been worked on at home:

AIS – John Davie and Cliff Pountney

Cooker service - Cliff

Window repair – John Davie and Arthur Riley

As regards the rudder repairs, Wavetrade have been in touch with John Bird to apologise for the lack of progress to date. They advise they will start work soon The cutlass bearing will be replaced at the same time.

We have very generously had a donation of quite an advanced chart plotter and radar from Rick and Debbie Asker who are in Portugal. The equipment will be shipped to us in the next few weeks installation may take a while.

Lift in will be 6th April. She will be taken to Suffolk Yacht harbour at the end of May.

All bookings are on the website so you can check availability. Bookings can be made by using the form on the web page.

Ian Winters

Ploes

In late February we only have five weeks booked so far on Ploes this year, I have been checking back over the previous years and this is not necessarily worrying but we do need about 10 weeks booked to break even. I have queried previous users about bookings and we will evaluate this later in the year but we are now actively considering moving Ploes next spring to the Ionian. If you wish to have your last weeks of sailing in the Fethiye area then you need to look at booking sailing there this year.

The Ionian where we are looking to move to is busier and more expensive but maybe it is time we move? Levkas where we were considering moving to is full to capacity this year, the other options are Gouvia Marina in Corfu or the Cleopatra Marina near Preveza, we will investigate these options during this year. I suspect that they will not be as nice and relaxing as Fethiye, we have been spoilt recently. Ploes is booked for use in late April for a one week early trip and then in June and September for two weeks each, all other weeks this year are available.

We have a few minor items to purchase for Ploes this spring, we are looking at getting a new dinghy, replacing the out of date flares - good safety items. We also have a few minor electrical items to repair and two seacocks to replace during the refit in April but luckily no major expenditure is required.



Peter Girven

Day sail on Leila

David Beavan has generously offered KSSC a day sail on the traditional sailing boat Leila on the 5^h May 2018. Limited places are available so please secure your booking early on admin@kessingland-seasailingclub.uk

Or call James on 07766338423



Leila is a rare example of a gentleman's sailing yacht from the late Victorian era, built in 1892 by F Wilkinson of Charlton for a barrister who sailed with the Royal Temple Yacht Club at Ramsgate and won the 1904 Round Britain Race. She is one of the five oldest sailing yachts still sailing in the UK, and is included on the National Register of Historic Vessels.

Fitting Out Supper

The Fitting Out Supper will be on Saturday 14th April at the RN&SYC 7-30 for 8-00. Menus are being prepared and will be sent out in the next few days.

Our guest speaker will be Claudia Myatt.

DIARY OF A NAUTICAL HITCH HIKER

Marine artist and cartoonist Claudia Myatt has been contributing to Practical Boat Owner, Classic Boat Magazine and other nautical magazines for many years. She wrote and illustrated the Go Sailing series of children's books for the RYA and illustrated Julia Jones' 'Strong Winds Series'. She lives on a converted tug boat on the River Deben and spends her summers sailing and sketching on a variety of boats from pilot cutters to trawlers. Her talk will give us an insight into the precarious and varied life of an artist afloat, as well as inspiring you to take your own sketchbook along with your oilskins on your next cruise!



Remember that the Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club has 9 letting bedrooms. If you are interested to book one for the night after the supper, then contact the RN&SYC office, during office hours 01502 566726.

Explorer Summer Cruise 2018

Outline – Sail south until we can smell the cheese and turn right.

Dear All,

Following on from Explorers cruises to Holland in 2016 and the Northern French coast last year this year I propose we venture further west.

The outline may need a little work to make it a SOLAS quality passage plan but the basic intent is to take a return trip down the English channel. The details can be thrashed out once we have the interested parties and bookings identified.

If we have two weeks we should be able to get down to the mouth of the Seine or the Solent (or both) and back home. With more interest the Channel Islands or the near West country should be possible.

If you want to wet your appetites Google some of these harbours. Honfleur, Deville, St. Vaast. St Peters Port, Weymouth, Poole. We could even take her back to her builder yard in Lymington.

Logistics of meeting and leaving the boat away from home can be worked out and are usually not too arduous or expensive.

To sow the seed I will book Explorer for two weeks in late June / early July. The cruise can then be extended if anyone wants to book time before or after. Alternatively you could sail with me or take part of that fortnight yourself instead.

Who's interested?

Best wishes,

Cliff Pountney

cpountn1@ford.com

News from Rick and Debbie Asker

As many of you know ex-KSSC members Rick and Debbie Asker sold up and sailed away. We hope to keep in touch with them – a blog on Facebook called 'Travels of Farr Horizon' so family and friends can follow

Here is their Facebook post from 20th January



Travels of 'Farr Horizon' added [29 new photos](#) — with [Debbie Asker](#).

20 January ·

We've had a fantastic day today exploring. Our plan was to visit Silves castle and then go up to the top of Monchique have a look at the view and be back at the marina about 4pm. feet up, beer, supper etc..

...Anyone who lives on a boat will tell you that the best plan is... there is no plan.. everything is subject to change 😊

Today was no different, we were just leaving the pontoon to execute our days 'plan' when we had a chance meeting with Paul and Kate. They were also leaving the pontoon to go to their farm. (They are in the process of trading the boating life for farm life and are renovating their new home). So as a result of the conversation on the pontoon we added the idea of visiting them and seeing their farm during our travels today.

All I can say is what a fantastic addition to our day that idea was. It really has made our day extra special. We visited Silves castle, had a spot of lunch in the village, then we decided to see Paul and Kate on the way up Monchique. They have an idyllic spot.. when we arrived all I could say was Wow!

They gave us a tour of the building renovation, we then explored their land by quad bike, we got to pick oranges and lemons from the trees and we had a brilliant afternoon with them enjoying their company... Debbie tried to convince me we need a boat dog... (see photos, and no, we don't).. so by the time we left the farm it was late afternoon. This meant that we arrived at the top of Monchique in time to explore for a bit before being treated to an absolutely stunning sunset.



When we got back to Lagos we decided it was too late to start cooking or preparing a meal... so we finished our day off with a Chinese buffet meal.

As days go, this was a pretty good one 😊

I can honestly say that days like today make me really appreciate how extremely lucky we are to live the life we do.

Membership

For our wonderful club to survive we have to have sufficient numbers of members to use the boats during the summer. Ploes needs be booked for 10 weeks in order to break even. Explorer has been used for about 60 days for the last few years out of an availability of 5-6 months, clearly plenty of room for improvement.

Our membership will stand at approximately 40 this year (not all subs are in). Significant numbers have not renewed for various reasons, and a high turnover will be a feature in the future. So the importance of recruiting new members cannot be overestimated.

But its hard work, even though I do not know of a better deal for anyone wanting to get afloat in an affordable way - getting people to sign on the line proves elusive. We have no option but to keep trying. Word of mouth still remains the best possible method but we are also going to display at local boat shows this year.

Brundall Boat Show 9/5 Ian Winters
Suffolk Boat Jumble 18/3
Woodbridge Regatta 17/6 James
Norfolk Boat Jumble Possibly
Gt Yarmouth Marine Festival 8/9 Arthur

Please, if you can :

- Find one person who may be interested in joining
- Volunteer to help at one of the above events
- Display our leaflet and poster
- Talk us up to whoever, wherever.
- Point people to our website and Facebook pages.

Finally, a message from Jill Turner who thanks the club for electing her a Hon. Life member and she wishes everybody well.

Website and Facebook

Our website is proving very useful, it is a very quick way to get information about the Club. I find it very useful for things like how much the current subs are and the costs of making booking the yachts. It is also very useful to be able see the calendar, this is so we can all quickly see the availability of booking the Yachts

We have added a new page to the website at the right hand end of the menu bar, this is to hold logs of various trips the club members have and this saves us having to post large amounts in the newsletter. The amount of photos and logs will continue to increase, this gives interesting information for all club members. The website also provides a useful archive for previous newsletters, photographs and other information. <http://www.kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/>

Our Facebook site has started slowly, we do not have much chat to put on the site at the moment but it is useful as a pointer to advertise any new information that has been put on the website. Previous Club members like Rick Asker and Penny Walker also keep an eye on our postings and we can also see their postings.

The main Facebook site is a closed group to keep privacy from un-interesting postings that can occur on public Facebook sites. It also allows us to manage any postings that we may not agree with. We also have several public sites that can interest people, we can then invite them to join our closed group. The several sites all feed through to each other, and allow people who are searching Facebook for sailing clubs to find us.

The Closed Facebook Group is this address.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/402855803408838/>

One of the Public Facebook Group is this address, people searching can see this.

<https://www.facebook.com/kessingland.seasailing>

If anyone has suggestions on changes we can make or improvements then please contact us about these, we are open to suggestions on ways to improve.

Peter Girven

A trip up the London River

For some years I have managed to get a long weekend's sailing on the east coast with my friends Rick and Nick. Last year we took Explorer from the Orwell to Walton Backwaters via West Mersea and had a great time. This year we wanted more of a challenge. So whilst planning this year's trip over pints of ale in our local in East London, I suggested we do the London River. This was a trip I had done 20 years previously and was still a vivid memory. But that was a part of a week's cruise – could it be done in 4 days? Consulting tide tables and charts the answer was yes, just.

Needless to say it was not all plain sailing. After a calm start we had a nail biting time sounding round the Gunfleet Sand, squalls out in the wind farms, anchoring a mile off Southend, hectic and losing battle to get up the river on one tide, unexpected delights at Gallions Reach, a nasty brush with VTS, finally got to Tower Bridge and zipped back down river, missed the falling red ball at Greenwich, wonderful pastoral scenes in Sea Reach, seals basking on the mud, nightmare of the charging freighter, blasting up Barrow Deep in the dark and F6 only to mess up the tides at the top and make our life more difficult at the end.

The full account can be seen on the KSSC website on the new Log page:
<http://www.kessingland-seasailingclub.uk/logbooks/>



Rather than replicating logs in the newsletter in future we will put in a precis and put a link to the website where the full log will be posted. Members without internet access can phone me to get a print out.

James

Lobster Pots –Deadline 12th March -
message from the Cruising Association

The Cruising Association petition about small craft safety and the marking of static fishing gear

I'm writing to you as President of the Cruising Association. You may be aware of our campaign to persuade the government of the necessity for a consultation about the hazard posed by poorly marked lobster pots and other static fishing gear.

You may have seen our video featuring Tom Cunliffe which can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7m6bgyPs_U.

Our Parliamentary petition comes to the end of its six-month life on 12 March. When we set it up we had not expected to get anywhere near 10,000 signatures. However, we are now approaching the 8000 mark and perhaps, with one final push, we could pass that milestone. Achieving 10,000 signatures places an obligation upon the government to give a written response. Whatever that may be, and we're not naive about that, it will help us to establish this campaign as something that will continue. That is in all our interests.

I am therefore writing to ask whether you could email your membership with the link to our petition: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/200001> or perhaps put this link onto your organisation's website.

If your members would be good enough to sign, and perhaps encourage their friends and families to also do so, we might just get there.

We hope that this is very much a team effort across the whole of the boating community. The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations who have engaged positively from the outset. The same can be said of the British Ports Authority and the various statutory bodies. This encourages us to believe that by working together, we could improve the situation to the benefit of all concerned.

Your help would be very much appreciated.

Best wishes for the future.

Judith Grimwade
CA President

