

Blakeney Sailing Club summer briefing July 2013

Update on sailing

A working party faced very cold winds and rain to put Lapwing and the racing marks out just before Easter. The continued cold weather over Easter required participants to wear their best cold weather gear. Poor planning meant that your commodore was wearing last year's bottomless wetsuit which proved a bit nippy.

The early May holiday break saw some improved, but still cold, weather. Eventually during the Whitsun holiday we had some nice weather warmer with easier winds.

The launch of the "Hoy Lantern" St Ayles skiff was a great success, there have been a number of rowing outings since the launch and the Coastal Rowing Association of Blakeney (CRAB) will be taking her to the Skiffy Championships in Ullapool on the 8th of July. They have been recruiting new rowers and if you are interested in joining (you don't have to be fit) please get in touch with Victoria Holliday.

Stoical Social Sailing

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. So that meant eight boats and 10 sailors and a boatful of rowers took to the water in extremely gusty conditions (>30 at the hut) for the Blakeney Sailing Club's Social Sails on the penultimate Saturday in June. Four less competent (and thrill-seeking!) sailors who had turned up decided to stay ashore watch and learn (and laugh) as each boat sped off at terrific rate of knots down the cut and became shooting sails on the horizon. There were sharp intakes of breath when we could see the exhilarating time they were having. But we were all together to marvel at their tales of surf and waves and speed on their return. Their salt-encrusted eyebrows and eye lashes had to be seen to be believed. A marine mascara? The bring and share picnic which served twelve in considerable style on The Rock (by the slipway) was fabulous. Thanks to all for terrific culinary creations, sweet and savoury.

The following Social Sail on Sunday evening was just as windy and yet our sailors were there again. This time only two decided to face the elements. They were rewarded with a picnic again to replace their blood sugar. None of our photos, I suspect, will do sailing scenes we witnessed justice. It was an unforgettable couple of sails. Thanks so much to all for making it such a socially successful sailing weekend, whatever the weather. We have lots more social sailing in the summer programme so do check the dates and join in.

Blakeney Rowing Club (report from Victoria Holliday)

Blakeney Rowers have been out regularly despite the inclement spring. We haven't raced as much as last year due to the weather or to injury. Our next rowing event is the Rowing Camp at Blakeney Watch House from July 24th-27th. We will race, expedition, coach, fish, swim, eat, drink, talk, hopefully get sunburnt and generally have fun. Kayakers and other boaters also very welcome so sailors please do come along. There is some sleeping (camp beds, bring bedding) availability left. Otherwise you can come out for the day (morning and evening tides). It would be great to have rough numbers so please get in touch with me on 07557054629.

We've also been invited to row on the newly restored N Walsham and Dilham Canal on Sunday 28th July.

Also for your diary:

August 10th Blakeney Regatta rowing race

August 11th Wells Blakeney Row (unfortunately coincides with Blakeney regatta)

August 18th Wells harbour Day, where we will be exhibiting the skiff and whipping up enthusiasm to build a fleet up and down the coast, so any help much appreciated.

August 24th Morston Regatta rowing race (The Neptune Cup at stake!)

Forthcoming events

Fun week commences on the 4th of August with the usual mix of sailing and social activities including Cycling, Walking, Tennis and an evening in the White Horse. (please let Sean know if you want to go). The Marsh Marathon will be held again on the 17th August with the added complication of a Neap tide (precluding sailing/rowing across the marsh !)

Race week commences on the 19th and will be preceded by the provision of a race training day on the 18th of August. It has been suggested that one of the evenings of the race week we will hold a curry night, with a take away from Holt, in the Club house. We will also organise a working party to spruce up Lapwing during race week.

Safety

You will have seen in the press that there have been a number of high profile boating accidents this year. We all know the sea and sailing can be dangerous. Please ensure that buoyancy aids and kill cords (for power boats.) are used.

Blakeney Primary School

Following last year's successful and enjoyable day out for the pupils, the headmistress is very keen for the club to provide an introductory days sailing through Norfolk etc., for a group children from the Blakeney Primary school.

This is being arranged by James Cowan

Annual Club Dinner

The club is again going to hold its Annual Club Dinner at the Cley Village Hall on the Friday 23th August. As with last year we will start at 7.30 pm for drinks before sitting down at 8.00 pm. Your invitation to the 2013 dinner is enclosed. One of the most difficult parts of arranging the annual dinner is fixing the numbers, both last year and the year before we filled the venue to capacity. So it would be immensely helpful and would secure your place if you could let Ann know how many tickets you need as soon as possible anncleall@btinternet.com; Last year's success was partly due to the help from a number of volunteers with the myriad of tasks that goes into making the event such fun. Ann Cleall, who is leading this year's bash, is looking for volunteers to help with the preparation, please let her know if you can help.

Accounts Audit

Our usual Auditor is unable to continue auditing the sailing club accounts. The Treasurer and I would prefer the accounts to be reviewed by an external auditor and the Constitution and Rules of the club require this to be done 14 days before the AGM. We therefore are looking for a qualified accountant to audit the accounts for the year ending 31 Dec 2012. If you can help please contact Trish Moore or myself.

Agm

AGM Sunday the 24th of August at 15:00 at the Blakeney Hotel, please support your club and come and tell us what you want from it.

75th Anniversary

Next year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Sailing club, if anyone has any ideas how this might best be marked please get in touch.

There have been reports of speeding on the Carnser

I know we are all keen to get on the water as soon as possible, but the parish council have been in touch with me to ask if I could remind all of the members of the club to ensure that they drive slowly and with due care and consideration when they enter into the Carnser Car Park area heading to or from the dinghy park.

Be aware there has been a spate of thefts.

During June the Police had to respond to a number of incidents relating to reported thefts or suspicious activity at Morston Quay. As a result of one incident the Police are pleased to report that some thieves, who came into the county from the East Midlands and targeted Morston Quay stealing a small boat, were apprehended and the boat recovered. All those arrested have been charged to appear at court. This is the result of a call from a vigilant boat user at the quay in the early evening, The Police urge people to call in any suspicious activity.

It is important to be vigilant at all times and to know the details of your boat, trailer and outboard, (as suggested in the attached document) so you have the correct and accurate information to report to the Police if they go missing. As this incident shows it is all too easy for thieves to put a small dinghy in the back of a van and drive off. Fortunately, this time, they were seen in the act.

Club house

As you know we are keen to find ways of defraying the increasing cost of the rent for the club house and with the permission of the landlord, and building on the successful experience during 2012, the National Trust would like to rent the clubhouse for about 35 days again this year. They will have access, on a non-exclusive basis, at times when we have nothing in the sailing programme. This will not preclude members using the facility at any time. I have attached a schedule showing which days they will be using it. If anyone has any further ideas of how it might be used when club members don't need it please contact me.

Joe Carr

Commodore

