



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

It really does begin to feel like spring, the birds seem to agree too. Our thoughts are drawn towards the possibility of getting back on the water. As things stand, we will start racing on Good Friday, 2nd April, with the first race at a very respectable 09:45.

The first Flotilla of 2021 will be on Easter Saturday at 10:15. Eleanor says you are welcome to sail, kayak, row or motor, whatever takes your fancy. The route and any meeting point throughout the whole year will be determined by the conditions, participants and restrictions – so much to consider!

WINTER SERIES

Despite not being able to visit local pubs to meet up for a meal, or just liquid refreshments, we have enjoyed a quiz run by Justin Plumpton and a Poetry and Prose Evening with contributions from Spike Milligan to Janet Harcourt. It was lovely to 'see' Sailing Club friends again and do the 50/50 Club draws and announce the winner of the February photography competition.



DINGHY PARK

The concrete paths have all been tidied up and a designated kayak, canoe, paddleboard & windsurfer area has been smartly roped off at the northern end with the chains moved to optimise space. Please position your kayaks etc in this area unless there is space BEHIND your dinghy. You are also encouraged to register your boats with the Parish Council so that you can be contacted in an emergency. You are invited to pay £5 per boat to cover costs of these improvements and on-going running expenses.

50/50 CLUB

In the recent draw of the 50/50 Club prizes of £50 each were won by Victoria Heyman, Jane Lewis and Dave Fairbrass. As they say, "You have to be in it to win it." Membership is £5/month or £50 / year. Half goes to the Club and half is given out at the quarterly draw. Please apply to Justin Plumpton
email:
justinplumpton@gmail.com



SIM POSTS

Thanks to generous donations from Diana Cooke, Jane Lewis, Sean & Trish Moore, Adrian & Paula Page, Roger & Dawn (past Ladies Race winner!) Thompson, as well as Blakeney Parish Council Community Fund, The Blakeney Hotel and The Blakeney Harbour Association we have been able to replace the Sim Posts. Simon Strong of Glaven Landscapes installed them and their new name/date plates will be fixed as soon as the weather warms up. Séan Moore did some research on their history which can be found on the BAHS website.



The following article was put in *Yachts and Yachting* by Alan Collett and I thought it well worth copying.

The Blakeney Sailing Club February Photo Competition was dreamt up on 6th February when the Wexford Harbour Boat and Tennis Club's Facebook page popped up on Blakeney Sailing Club's feed. In the lockdown, the Wexford club was encouraging a "February Steps Challenge", asking members to send in photos taken of what they saw, while out on their walks. The motivation to "stay active, positive and keep minds healthy".

The Leader Board listed who walked the greatest number of steps -aiming for week on week improvement. Week Two showed the leader, Phyllis Barry, having walked 281,566 steps with Gay Brennan coming second, some 2,000 steps behind.

Blakeney Sailing Club opted to encourage members to go for a walk and submit a photo in February. A maximum of three entries was one of the very few rules. Angela Harcourt, Commodore, led the way submitting the first photo: Aconites and Snowdrops. The Beast from the East Two then provided some wonderful backdrops of snow and the photos flooded in.

In total there were 74 entries from 36 people. The winner, another rule, would be the photo with the most number of "likes" at 12 o'clock, midday on 28th February on the [Blakeney Sailing Club Facebook page](#).

Two entries came in after midday and 30 'likes' were ticked after the midday deadline but, even if they had been counted, they would not have altered the outcome.

The winner was our Principal Race Officer, John Myers, with the picture of a barn owl (*Tyto alba*), resplendent on a post by the stone bridge at Wiveton, known locally as the 'bridge to nowhere'. John received a Blakeney Sailing Club engraved whiskey/water glass and the winning picture will be printed in the club's yearbook.

Congratulations also go to the runners up, Barry Howes, Flo Buckingham and Tom Green. Where to go to from here? Sailing hopefully.

2021 PREPARATIONS

During the Winter and Spring we have been making preparations for the season. The yellow race buoys have had the barnacles scratched off, the ground tackle of the buoys at the western end have been checked (others in hand) and Lapwing has had some tlc before she is taken out to her mooring at the end of March. Finally, the wooden race hut has had a much needed facelift.



With apologies for the poor Photography!

PROGRAMME

As usual we have a full and varied Programme of Events on the water. Racing and Flotilla Sailing will initially be back to last summer's restrictions, except overnight stays away from home are not permitted until 12th April and travel should still be kept to a minimum until 17th May. Group numbers will gradually be eased during the steps of the 'Roadmap'. The RYA has produced an excellent table detailing safe return to boating activity which I have taken the liberty of attaching to this email. The amended Sailing Instructions and Risk Assessment will be on the website and updated at each stage.

Discover Sailing (ex Push The Boat Out) has been moved to Fun Week in August, hopefully more people will join us and eventually become members of Blakeney Sailing Club.

We are also hosting The North West Norfolk Sailing Association for two days in July as well as running the Seafly Nationals and an International 14's Open Event over the same weekend in September!

We are really looking forward to running some social events during the summer but will wait to see how restrictions are lifted, you will be kept informed by email and Facebook.

Many thanks to everyone who has kept the wheels turning during the winter, running Zoom meetings and Social evenings, preparing the programme, managing membership, updating the Policies and Documents, maintaining and moving the equipment, handling the finances, posting photographs – the list is endless.

At the end of my previous report I wondered whether things would calm down during the winter – they haven't!

I look forward to seeing you all down at Blakeney soon.

Angela Harcourt
Commodore