



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

As 2021 draws to a close I think back to this time last year when we had just come out of a short lock down, the C-19 vaccinations had started being administered and we were all hopeful of a family Christmas and the world returning to what we thought of as 'normal'. How quickly things changed again.

I really hope you all have a Very Happy Christmas and New Year and above all stay fit and healthy. I'm looking forward to getting on the water again already so maybe the proposed 'Frostbite Series' will tempt me – I did say 'maybe'!

FLOTILLA SAILING

17 Flotilla Sailing events were planned for the sailing season this year of which 12 took place and 5 were cancelled due to high winds.

An average of 7 boats went out on each of these 12 Flotilla Sailing days and we had the exclusive use of a patrol boat on 11 of the days.

REAR COMMODORE FLOTILLA SAILING

Eleanor Sidgwick stood down as Rear Commodore Flotilla Sailing at the AGM after 3 very successful years which have seen the popularity of Flotilla Sailing grow and develop. The most positive change is every event is now supported by a patrol boat. Our thanks go to Eleanor for her enthusiasm and dedication.

Séan Moore has very kindly stepped up and taken over so we are assured the Flotilla events will be led by a very competent and generous Commodore. For several years he has offered to take people out in his Wayfarer and regaled them with his tales of derring-do.

Séan would like to encourage everyone on the water to carry a radio, a link to a recommended model is below. It is the best way to summon help whether sailing or kayaking. (**Christmas Present Idea**)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held in November with reports being given on all aspects of the Club. Then followed the election of Committee and Officers, the only changes being that Eleanor Sidgwick and Roger Beavis have resigned from the Committee and Séan Moore has joined in his capacity of Rear Commodore Flotilla Sailing.

As the club is in a stable financial situation with sufficient reserves, no change to subscriptions was proposed but it was noted that they have been stable for a while and will be looked at again in 2022.

All members are very welcome to attend Committee Meetings of which there are about 6 in the year, dates and venues will be circulated when they are known. There are many ways to get more involved in the club and most don't require being on the water. Computer skills are always very welcome! If you would like to know more please give me a ring on 07790 631 760 or email angela@hardfarm.co.uk.

DISCOVER SAILING

We had a lot of interest for Discover Sailing and introduced some new people to the wonder that is Blakeney Harbour.

It was especially gratifying to be able to offer sailing to some younger guests through the experience and generosity of the Buckingham Family. Victoria dealt with the admin and Jamie took several children out and gave them a great fun time on the water. One even refused to come back to Blakeney until they had done capsizing!!

FUN WEEK

The usual flurry of activity on and off the water happened again in Fun Week .

We took Discover Sailing guests out in our boats on three days, but on the other two we managed a reverse Treasure Hunt involving depositing lolly sticks in milk cartons secreted around the eastern end of the harbour and the rather unruly tennis ball game. There was also a lot of cake eating!!

The walk, cycle ride and tennis tournament were all well supported and great fun, my thanks to Jane L, Eleanor and Séan for organising these events. It is always lovely to meet non-sailing members at these events.

SOCIAL EVENTS

It was felt that the Winter Series visits to local pubs would still be too difficult to plan so **A Winter Walk is being organised on Saturday 22nd January** more details will follow nearer the time regarding location and start time.

It has been such a difficult year for Jane Bassett to get us all together, but we have had a couple of opportunities to catch up latterly. In August Jane and Alistair invited us to take afternoon tea in their lovely garden. 35 of us pitched up with picnic baskets brimming full with delicious food and drink, it was a beautiful afternoon.

The last event of the season was a Fish Supper which was held at the Blakeney Harbour Room. This was attended by 30 members who enjoyed the hearty two-course meal and another opportunity to get together. The supper was followed by an RNLI quiz won by the Fish out of Water team, the presentation of the remaining racing trophies for the season and the 50/50 draw. We collected £115 in donations for the RNLI.

RACING

We have had great support for Club racing this year as well as for the Morston and Blakeney Regattas. Blakeney Regatta broke with tradition and finished at Lapwing rather than down the Cut, firstly to encourage boats from Morston and secondly with regard to the number of people in the water at the traditional finish line. The change seems to have been well received and will be reviewed next year.

We were fortunate to have John Myers as Race Officer for Club Races and he encouraged members to get experience setting the course and running races with him from Lapwing.

A successful Open Meeting was held in September when we welcomed 13 Seaflys and 7 International 14s. They are two groups of dinghy sailors who love coming to Blakeney again and again and this year we were able to offer them fantastic sailing conditions – Blakeney at its best.

Andrew also ran a Laser/Single Hander training event in July attended by 9 members with concentration on starting. This included an on-shore briefing focusing on starting techniques, signals etc. and practice starts afloat. In addition, an informal Race Rules talk was held on the Carsner during MWHS.

LAPWING

The Committee had become increasingly concerned about Lapwing's condition over the last couple of years and after taking her out of the water in October it became clear that repair would be very costly and time-consuming.

It was decided to look for a replacement and last weekend a Romany 21 was delivered from Essex. There are many advantages including being able to get her out of the water and move her ourselves which will mean winter maintenance is much easier and cheaper. She is completely fibreglass which will also drastically reduce the maintenance.

Below are a couple of pictures showing the complexity of moving her on arrival and safely tucked away ready to be prepared for the 2022 season.



50/50 CLUB

There have been 2 draws of the 50/50 Club since the last Newsletter, the August draw was held at the tea party in Jane & Alistair's garden and the winners were:-

David Woodcock, David Fairbrass, Charles Skinner, Victoria Herman & Steve Soanes with prizes ranging from £50 to the big **Annual Prize of £350**.

The final draw of 2021 was done at the Fish & Chips supper where Justin Plumpton and Steve Soanes won £50 each.

It is gratifying to note that the 2021 accounts show a net contribution of just over £1,000 from the 50/50 Club. If you would like to join in this fun way of supporting your club please contact Justin Plumpton by emailing justinplumpton@gmail.com. The cost is £5 per month by Standing Order or £50 per annum.

MINI MARQUEE – 6m x 4m, 2m walls, height 3.1m to ridge

We now have a mini-marquee which was generously given to us by Andrew Chapman. It was used for the tea party and Seafly supper. It is available for club members but they must be able to transport and erect it.

Angela Harcourt
Commodore

This is the hyperlink for the recommended handheld radios a lot of us use, including the club ones.

Control + Click to follow link.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/lcom-Waterproof-Handheld-Marine-Radio-Blue/dp/B015VWB4OC/ref=mp_s_a_1_1_sspa?crd=2L9HUH2R7PAV8&keywords=icom+vhf+radio+marine&qid=1638788338&prefix=icom%2Caps%2C105&sr=8-1-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEzNFFaUUU1M0lWSEc4JmVuY3J5cHRIZElkPUeWmzcXMTA0V09MRIRXVTZNTepJmVuY3J5cHRIZEFkSWQ9QTA0MDIyMTVPOU9YODAxRkRZUTAmZ2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9waG9uZV99ZWFyY2hfYXRmJmFidGlvbj1jbGlia1JlZGlyZWNOJmRvTm90TG9nQ2xpY2s9dHJ1ZQ==