

FLOTSAM MONTHLY

The Sounds of Spring are Awakening.

Membership renewal

Club membership renewals have been sent out, payable by March 31st.

Launch dates

The L&R have set nine provisional launching dates, April 8th, 9th, 10th, 13th, 14th, 17th, 24th, 28th and the 29th. These will only go ahead if there are Three or more boats down on that day. There will possibly be additional dates in May if required.

Important dates

Dates are subject to change due to evolving Covid rules and regulations.

March

Fri 05th Friday Eat in 19:00 for 19:30

Sun 07th L&R WORK PARTY 1 09:00

Sat 13th CLUB WORK PARTY 1 09:00

Sun 14th Warm Up 6 & 7 11:45

Sat 27th Fitting Out Supper 20:00

Sun 28th Warm Up 8 & 9 11:30

Dinghy Racing

We are hoping to get back to racing in some format the first Friday and Saturday of the Easter weekend (2nd/3rd April).

Please keep an eye out on

Hello everyone, hopefully as the weather improves and we start to come out of lockdown the sounds of spring at Up River (sanding, drilling, avoiding working, etc...) re-appear and we can have a normal(ish) season. I for one am itching to get my boat painted. It's an important time of the year for many of us dinghy and cruiser owners preparing for our respective seasons and checking the safety of our boats and moorings should be a priority. Please check your boats safety equipment and moorings and if you are unsure ask a fellow member for advice.



Marcus.

Cruiser Class Captains Words.



Dear All,

I hope that you are all well and have managed to avoid the dreaded virus, for those that have been unfortunate to contract it I wish you a speedy and full recovery.

As the end of the lockdown is in site, just in time for the new sailing season, we have plenty of rallies and cruises at Up river to look forward to. Within Flotsam are dates and plans for this season's events. There is no need to contact me if you intend going on any of the cruises, I will

be putting notices and lists to add your names to up on the club board at the end of March.

Whilst we are waiting to be able to get down to our boats from the 29th March you may want to spend some time looking at a couple of smartphone apps that are a really usefull safety tool for anyone going out on the water.



The first one is 'RYA Safetrax'.

This is an app run by the RYA in conjunction with the coastguard for all recreational boat users. It enables users to log and track they're on the water activity and raise an alert if they get into difficulty, do not arrive at a destination or back home when expected. It is useful safety tool for all boaters including Kayakers, Paddle Boarders, Windsurfers, dinghy sailors as well as cruiser sailors and is especially useful for those going solo. This system has already replaced the Coastguard CG66 small boat safety scheme and has been running since 2018.

Follow this link for more info [RYA SafeTrx | Keep In Touch | Safe Boating | Knowledge & Advice | RYA - Royal Yachting Association](#)

The second one is What3words.

This app has divided the surface of the planet into 3m x 3m squares, each with a unique 3 word address. When you open the app on a smartphone, it will give your precise location using just 3 words. This 3 word code can be given to emergency services to give your precise location if help is needed.

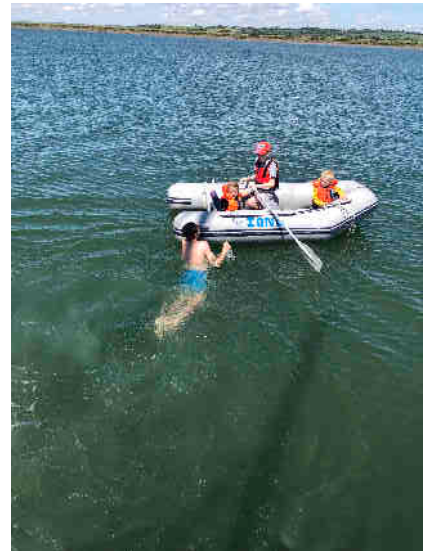
For example Up River clubhouse rear entrance door is 'coaster.trips.lawns', Useful in emergency situations on your boat, if you breakdown in a car or just out and about. Also in communicating your position when meeting with others or even login where you parked your car.

Follow link for more info [About | what3words](#)

Look forward to meeting up with everyone again both on and off the water.

All the best for the coming season,

Graham.



Cruiser rallies for 2021.

I hope that all are well and that you are not going to stir crazy in lockdown. Following the announcement of the roadmap out of lockdown, we should all be able to visit our boats again from March 29th when the club can reopen again for outdoor sports. We have a full season of rallies and cruises to look forward to as summarised below. I have confirmed visitor bookings at marina's etc for all cruises and rallies except foreign cruise.

Sat 1st – Mon 3rd May, Shakedown to Burnham. Leisurely rally to Burnham marina, to shake the cobwebs out of your boat and enjoy a weekend of outdoor socialising with fellow club members.

Sat 29th May – Sat 5th June, Foreign Cruise. (Visitor berths to be booked nearer the time, Although titled foreign cruise, due to foreign travel restrictions this year's cruise is destined for the Solent on the south coast. The plan is to have a full week on or around the Solent visiting numerous ports and

anchorage. To make the passage there and back it is intended to leave the Crouch on Wed 26 May stopping at Dover and Brighton, returning back to the Crouch on Wed 9 June.

Sat 19th – Sat 26th June, Summer Cruise. The plan this year is to turn right out of the Crouch and head over to the River Medway, Swale and Ramsgate. The start of week will see us head to Chatham marina on the Medway for two nights, with a visit to the Historic Dockyard. From there we will make the short hop over the river to Medway yacht club for a night from where a short walk allows a visit to Upnor Castle. We will then leave Tuesday morning heading out of the Medway via the Swale then along the Nth Kent coast to Ramsgate, arriving early evening. We will have 3 nights in Ramsgate allowing two days for sightseeing. Suggested visits include Ramsgate War Tunnels which is a 2-3 hour organised tour followed with a day out by train to the seaside town of Deal and another castle. Friday 25th will see us sail back to the Crouch, stopping overnight at Burnham before returning to Hullbridge on the Saturday afternoon tide.



Sat 31st July - Sat 7th August, Osea Island Bbq & Family cruise week. This is a leisurely week spent pottering around the River Blackwater with young families and the less experienced members in mind. The emphasis is on less time sailing and more time just relaxing on the boats with lots of opportunity for swimming, messing around in your tender, kayak or paddleboard if you have one. Leave Hullbridge early Sat morning on the ebb tide sailing around to Osea Island on the River Blackwater. Anchor off Osea Island for a swim followed by an evening Bbq on the beach, stay at anchor overnight. Sun 1st Aug, leave Osea 0600 heading the short distance up river to Heybridge Basin, locking in at high water Aprox 0710. Spend Sunday and Monday nights at Heybridge with a day out in Maldon and Maldon Park. Leave Heybridge Tuesday morning spending the rest of the week pottering around the Blackwater with options to stay at West Mersea, Tollsbury, Brightlingsea and Bradwell. Sat 7th Aug - Return to Hullbridge.

Thurs 26th – Fri 27th August, Clacton Air Show rally. Thurs 26th, Leave Hullbridge on the early morning ebb tide. Sail over to Clacton Pier via the Spitway and anchor off. Watch the afternoon air display and if conditions are settled stay for the evening twilight display where the aircraft are adorned with pyrotechnics and lights making for a spectacular night time display. Stay at anchor overnight, if conditions unsettled head for overnight stay at Brightlingsea. Fri 27th- Return to Hullbridge.



Sat 11th – Sun 12th Sept, Brightlingsea rally. End of season rally to Brightlingsea with an evening meal in the Clone Yacht Club. Sun 12th - Return to Hullbridge.

Sat 23rd – Sun 24th Oct, BradwellRally. For those looking for a late weekend away we have a rally to Bradwell marina with an evening meal in the Yacht Club. Sun 24th - Return to Hullbridge.

All rallies and cruises will be subject to whatever covid restrictions there may be at the time. The rally notices and lists to add your names to will go up on the club notice board at the end of March when the club will be reopening again.

All the best for the new season,
Graham.