



Up River Yacht Club Newsletter September 2015

The Lightning Open
Norfolk Week
Our Summer Cruise
Dinner and Dance Info
Fishing for buoys
Sailing in Holland

All inside this issue of . . .

FLOTSAM



Someone's going the wrong way!



Up River Yacht Club Newsletter

September 2015

Commodore's Report

As I write this, we have just had our dinghy work party and fun sail. It was a lovely day and a fantastic reminder of what being a member of Up River Yacht Club is all about. At the work party the members all pulled together to make a great team. The camaraderie is great, yet everybody works hard to make our club the great place that it is. After light refreshments at the bar (!), it was out onto the water for a fun sail. It was great to see our newest members trying out what they had practiced at the cadet sessions, and our youngest members trying out sailing on their own for the very first time.

I have been proud to be Commodore this year. We are a relatively small club but with a dedicated team of members, we have achieved so much.

Our dinghy sailors put U.R.Y.C. on the map when they competed at the Blackwater Icicle Race at the beginning of February. With 3 boats finishing in the top 6, it shows the high quality of dinghy sailors we have in our club. Needless to say that Ian and I won!!

On February 14th the House Committee laid on a superb Valentine's Dance. New to the calendar this year, it was really well supported and everybody had a great time. We will be hosting another next year so please put the 13th February in your diary!

In April we hosted the Lightning Open Meeting and we had a great turnout from club members and visiting yachtsmen. Simon tells you about the event elsewhere in Flotsam. Thanks go to all who put lots of time into organising the event.

The House Committee pulled their culinary skills together again in May to host the Fitting Out Supper. Another great event enjoyed by members and guests from other clubs. The following morning we had a member's boot sale which was successful for all concerned. It was a great way to buy/sell boat related items and other stuff! We have another one on the 18th October, so please start putting aside your unwanted things.

On 17th May we hosted our Push the Boat Out Event. This took a lot of hard work and organisation, but was a really successful day. Thanks go to our instructors who were on the water continuously, taking 117 people out sailing. Massive thanks also go to those who provided safety cover, manned the BBQ, provided tea and cakes and signed up new members.

Less than a month later we opened our doors to the public once again for another successful Regatta. The weather could have been kinder, but none the less we had lots of visitors. Along with the PTBO event, the Regatta was another great opportunity to raise awareness of U.R.Y.C. and whilst doing so, raising considerable funds for our club.



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In between all of these key events, the club has been busy with the 'day to day' activities that are what the club is all about. Our cruiser class is more active than it's been for a while with plenty of U.R.Y.C. boats enjoying the Crouch, going further afield up the East Coast, or venturing to foreign shores. Congratulations to Martin Sykes who has made his first trip abroad to France in Tarangini. Unfortunately the club cruise to Oostende was re-routed up the East Coast due to bad weather, but the main club cruise was successful and you can read about it elsewhere in Flotsam.

Unfortunately dinghy racing at U.R.Y.C hasn't been so well supported this year. We have lots of dinghy members in the club so please come and join in! Racing is open to everyone; so even if you haven't done it before, please come down and give it a go. I promise it's not as serious as it sounds! The cadet training has proved successful again this year and we were pleased to welcome back 6 cadets for their second year. We had an additional 6 new cadets and 3 adults joining in for their first year and the training has been enjoyed by all.

When you read what we have achieved so far this year, it's hard to believe that it's only August! By the time you read this article we will have hosted our first ever family fun weekend. Everyone is looking forward to it and fingers crossed it turns out to be a success! We still have plenty to come, including a club cruise to Brightlingsea & Burnham Carnival, the Autumn and Winter dinghy series, Bart's Bash, the R.N.L.I Quiz, Prize Giving, Fireworks and the Dinner & Dance. This year we are also holding an official New Years Eve Party which I hope you will support!

I would like to thank all of the committee members for their hard work and support. Thanks also to those members who volunteer to help, whether it be gardening, safety boat duties, galley or DIY, it's all very much appreciated. Without you the club wouldn't be what it is today.

Just one last note and a plea....As you may or may not be aware we do not have a Vice-Commodore to take over as Commodore of U.R.Y.C. in 2017. A lot of people tend to shy away from wanting to take on such a commitment, as they are 'too busy'. As you probably know, I work full time, have a young family, spend a lot of time sailing and still manage to undertake the position. The role of Vice-Commodore is to support the Commodore and so it's really training for when you take on the role. I promise with the support from committee members and other club members, it's not an onerous task, but one that is quite enjoyable!

On that note, and hopefully, with lots of potential Vice-Commodore's about to knock on my door, I will leave you to enjoy the rest of the season. I look forward to seeing you at the club.

Enjoy your sailing,

Alex Gore, Commodore



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Lightning 368 Open

With gales promised for Saturday training, a respectable 8 Lightning 368's turned up and went for a play on the river. Lee and Emma being fashionably late and watching from the bank. Chairman Simon set a triangle course with lots of gybes to make sure everyone tested the water temperature at some point. Being a spring tide the weary sailors discovered the saltings, just underwater at the top of the ride, was a great place to run ashore for a breather and watch the antics. As the fleet headed back to the club, upwind with the tide, they discovered you can get big waves on a small river! This was followed by the traditional take away, too much beer and wine.

Sunday was a complete contrast and 19 Lightning sailors sat over breakfast watching the odd zephyr of wind drift across the river. Ever hopeful, the fleet launched for the first of 2 races, back to back.

Race one started just as the wind turned off completely leaving most of the fleet wondering how you sail against the tide with no wind. It was locals Ian Gore, Mike Ince, Simon Hopkins and Penny Yarwood who showed them how, and John Claridge was the chasing visitor. On the long run down river with the tide, Ian Gore did the proverbial horizon job never to be caught. Penny put her new boat to work and sailed through Mike and Simon only to have it all undone when the wind arrived and bought a large portion of the fleet back together. In the resulting chaos of trying to get back up tide to the finish, Penny was the big loser whilst Mike Ince slipped through to second, ahead of Simon.



Race 2 was back to back and with a gentle breeze now blowing across the river, the fleet once again headed up tide to the first mark. Hot off the line were Ian, Simon and Ben Harris but made the mistake of staying too far out in the tide. Hugging the south bank, locals Graham Lazell and Nathan Beven found some private wind and surged forward hotly chased by the ladies Penny, Caroline Key and Sue Thomas. Penny eventually rounded first and Ian joined in the mix just getting ahead of Caroline and Sue. This was the order all the way to the finish with Nathan hanging on for fifth.

After a fine break with tea and cakes provide by Mrs H, the fleet launch for the final race against the flooding tide. The first beat was easy this time as 5 knots



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of tide helps your upwind speed. John Claridge was the man on a charge and rounded ahead of Simon, Penny, Ben and Ian. Unfortunately local knowledge paid at this point as John went to the south bank whilst all the locals headed for the North bank. As we drifted down the bank much credit was given to John for being the first boat to sail this particular leg all the way along the south



bank and still get a creditable sixth place! Meanwhile back on the 'right' side of the river Penny and Ben slipped past Simon and Ian by staying out on the tide for longer where there was a small bit of breeze, and Ian passed Simon for third. With nearly zero wind it was a seriously long run/reach/beat all the way back and several boats had enough and went home. Ian and Simon caught Ben at the headland as he drifted backward with the tide and demoted him to fourth before the wind arrived

and the whole fleet charged home, line abreast, and Ben again was unlucky to lose out to Paul White on the line.

With two wins, the Open meeting was won by Penny Yarwood, who had taken delivery of her Claridge boat hours before the start. Should we all be worried now? Ian Gore took second and Simon came home third. The fleet retired to the club house where team Hopkins had prepared a lavish spread to feed the weary sailors.

Simon





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DINNER and DANCE



Date: Saturday 31st October

Venue: URYC

Time: 7 for 7:30pm

Price: £25

Catering by “*Affinity*”

Dancing to “*Groovy Tunes*”

Full details and booking forms are included in this issue of Flotsam.

Please complete and return your form with full payment, to:

Alex Gore, 14 The Westerings, Hockley, Essex, SS5 4NX.

01702 204578

07771697755

alexandiangore@yahoo.co.uk

(Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis!)

Dress Code: Black Tie or Smart.

*Please note that there will be no access to the
clubhouse lounge before 7.00 p.m.*





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Dinner/Dance Menu

To Start

- A (V) FANS OF HONEYDEW MELON SERVED WITH A WILD FRUIT AND MANGO COULLIS DRESSED WITH A COMPOTE OF FOREST FRUITS
- B OAK SMOKED SCOTTISH SALMON AND JUICY TIGER PRAWN SALAD BOUND WITH LEMON MAYONNAISE SERVED IN A BED OF MIXED LETTUCE LEAVES
- C RILLETTES OF DUCK AND PORK SALAD – THIN STRIPS OF DUCK AND PORK SERVED WARM IN A LIGHT PLUM DRESSING SERVED IN ROCKET AND CHINESE LEAVES

The Main Event

- D BRAISED SHANK OF LAMB SERVED WITH A MÉLANGE OF ROASTED VEGETABLES AND MERLOT SAUCE
- E ROASTED SIRLOIN OF BEEF SERVED WITH ROASTED CHERRY TOMATOES AND RED ONION AND A RICH RED WINE SAUCE
- F POACHED FILLET OF SCOTTISH SALMON SERVED ON A BED OF SWEET POTATO AND POTATO MASH AND LEMON HOLLANDAISE SAUCE
- G (V) FINE RATATOUILLE STUFFED BUTTERNUT SQUASH TOPPED WITH MOZZARELLA

Extravagance

- H BAKED LEMON TARTLET WITH SERVED WITH WHIPPED VANILLA CREAM WITH SUMMER FRUITS BY A LAKE OF MILK CHOCOLATE
- I MARBLED STRAWBERRY AND CREAM CHEESECAKE SERVED WITH VANILLA CREAM
- J TRIPLE CHOCOLATE DESSERT – LAYERS OF RICH CHOCOLATE SPONGE, CREAMY CHOCOLATE MOUSSE AND DARK CHOCOLATE TOPPING SERVED WITH CLOTTED CREAM
- K ENGLISH CHEESE BOARD SELECTION OF THE DAY WITH CHEESE BISCUITS, SMALL SALAD SELECTION AND AN APPLE CHUTNEY

Tea or Coffee and chocolates to finish

UP RIVER YACHT CLUB DINNER / DANCE

Saturday 31st October 7:00 for 7:30pm

£25 per person

To be held at URYC, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge, SS5 6PA

Name:

Telephone No:

Email Address:

Please reserve me.....places for the URYC Dinner and Dance.

I enclose a cheque made payable to UP RIVER YACHT CLUB for
£.....

Please list names of all people in your group:

My/our choice of menu is: *please state (A), (B), (C) etc. for each course*

Name

Starter Main Dessert.....

Name

Starter Main Dessert.....

Name

Starter Main Dessert.....

Name

Starter Main Dessert.....

Name

Starter Main Dessert.....

Name

Starter Main Dessert.....

Please return this booking form **together with your cheque made payable to Up River Yacht Club** no later than **Wednesday 30th September** to:
Alex Gore, 14 The Westerings, Hockley, Essex, SS5 4NX
01702 204578 07771 697755 alexandiangore@yahoo.co.uk



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Welcome to New Members

On behalf of the Flag Officers and members, we wish to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members and wish them many happy years sailing with us at URYC.

Family Memberships:

Jane, Chris, James and Scott Berry. *James is a member of our Cadet training scheme.*

Elizabeth, Andrew and Stephen Green. *Stephen is a member of our Cadet training scheme.*

Tollon, Cara, Tarin and Eren Adkins. *Co-owners with the Bird family (see below) of Glide, a Kingfisher 20 sailing cruiser.*

Philip, Sharon, Lilly and Harry Bird. *Co-owners with the Adkins family (see above) of Glide.*

Mark, Louise, Thomas, Ben, Harry and Rebecca Maciver. *Thomas is a member of our Cadet training scheme.*

Cadet Memberships:

Noah Bodman. *Noah is a member of our Cadet training scheme*

Matteo Aylott. *Matteo is a member of our Cadet training scheme.*

We look forward to seeing you all at the club, enjoying the sailing facilities and joining us at the various social functions.

URYC EAT IN EVENINGS 2015

Fridays at 7pm - For food orders to be placed by 7.30pm



**11th September
9th October
13th November
4th December**





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Buoy fishing, a sport for all (*those watching*)

What a wonderful trip! Mark Riley in Hastaway and me in FootLoose, intending to sail up the east coast with hopefully, a bit of fishing thrown in.

We left the club at 1600hrs taking the young ebb to pick up a mooring at Burnham. With a north easterly, we tacked and fine reached up the Crouch, not wanting to get to Burnham too early, so as to have a free mooring. Mark called into Essex Marina to drop off his dog Saffie, while I continued on to pick up a mooring in order that Mark could come along-side for tea .

After watching Derek Underwood having problems picking up his mooring with wind against tide, due to a delayed launch, my single handed attempts made his efforts look like a walk in the park.

After about five tries at stopping along-side the buoy, the boat either sailed on with free board, canopy, and bare poles, or swept past by the tide. I finally managed to get into the right position to find out that my new snap-on boat hook wasn't big enough to go over the rope covered ring. I decided to go for the next buoy which had a couple of new clean ropes and pick up with the also new long-handled boat hook.

I tried twice with the same problems but on the third attempt managed to pick up the strops. The boat veered away and trying to get a turn on the cleat I dropped the boat hook which went straight over the side.

There was no way I was going to lose the new hook, so after over half an hour going round in circles I had to let go and give chase. Concentrating on picking up the hook, I hadn't noticed that I had drifted in between a large open boat and it's 20ft of rope tying it to a big buoy. I now found myself with a boat on one side and a buoy on the other. Fortunately, the rope had stopped at my keels so I was able to back off avoiding being tangled, bearing in mind that this is taking place in a maelstrom of wind, tide, and yacht racing from Burnham.

The story's not over yet. I managed to recover the hook and went back to picking up the buoy. This time because it had taken so long, the wind and tide were easing off, and I managed to pick up the buoy on the first attempt, but as I put the hook down to take a turn on the cleat, you won't believe it but the hook being wet, slipped straight over the side again!

This time, having seen it go, I ran to the back and fortunately it was lodged against the tender, so was able to grab it with the other boat hook. Finally I was tied up. Along potters Mark, unknowing of the drama that took me nearly an hour. I can only hope that if anyone was watching from shore they would have thought that I was doing a man-overboard exercise.

Half-way through the lovely home made chicken curry made by Mark, we had



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to move to another mooring as we had picked up the only occupied mooring around. Should have guessed [clean ropes].

Next morning, we set off at 05.00 to go fishing and had a lovely sail out to the Buxeyes. Eager to get fishing, we switched on our engines and motor sailed looking for somewhere to stop near the wind farm. We chose a spot and within minutes of anchoring we were into Dogfish (Rock Eel), and Skate. Mark caught about 12 and I had around 8.

Just before the end of the flood, we up anchored and headed for Pyefleet Creek opposite Brightlingsea. Mark came along-side and we enjoyed a Shepherds pie that I had cooked. If anyone is looking for a beautiful location to spend a night, there is nowhere better. Creep up Pyefleet about a quarter of a mile to find some excellent moorings, and in a sheltered spot go to sleep listening to lambs bleating, and wake to chickens clucking .

We woke at 05.00 to an early morning mist beckoning a beautiful day. We had a great sail out to the wind farm again. I went back to the same spot and within an hour I had 2 more Dogfish and 2 Skate, which this time I kept for the table.

Soon after the start of the flood, Mark sailed over and it was time to up anchor and have a brilliant fine reach home, to be back at the top of the tide.

P.S. Anyone who knows me down the club, would know that I bang on about men kneeling down when they use the toilet, to stop splashing over the bowl.

I learnt that if you wake up in the early hours half asleep and in the dark, it helps if you make sure the lid is up!!

John Luff-Smith

Prize Giving

At URYC on 17th October at 20:00

A Ploughman's Supper will be provided.

Please put your name on the list in the club house if you wish to attend.





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Norfolk Week, 1st - 8th August 2015

Our club members have again put Up River on the map by doing really well at Norfolk Week 2015. For those that don't know, Norfolk Week is a competitive dinghy sailing week held at different sailing clubs along the North West Norfolk Coast, from Kings Lynn to Blakeney.

Representing our club we had Penny Yarwood in her Lightning. Gerry Ledger was sailing his Streaker - this is the first year since 1978 that he hasn't sailed a National 12. Representing the 12's this year for URYC was Paul Pelling and daughter Freya. Unable to get a crew to sail the N12 this year, Ian Gore was sailing in the Allcomers class with Penny in a Lightning kindly lent by Simon Hopkins.

Norfolk Week also has a large group of club members who come to enjoy the social side to Norfolk and provide shore-side support. This year members included Alan & Sue Parker, Chris Staggs, Julia & Chris Hall, Steve & Patsy Harris, Rob, Liz Ross, Jane, Freya & Guy Pelling, Thomas & Harry Yarwood and Alex, Jack & Rosie Gore.

Penny started the first weekend off well by coming 2nd overall in the Lightning 368 Sea Championships held at Snettisham. Paul Pelling and Freya were doing really well in their National 12 until they had to retire due to their gooseneck breaking.

After a weekend of sea sailing at Snettisham it was off to Kings Lynn on Monday. Paul and Freya were looking forward to sailing their newly repaired boat and it was looking really good for them for the first lap until the goose neck broke again and that was the end of their sailing for the rest of the week. After sailing, many enjoyed a meal at the Weatherspoons, and the quirky auction held on the green at Burnham Market.

Tuesday racing was held at Wells-Next-Sea. It was quite a windy day so Gerry decided to have a lay day and lent his boat to Ian (who was keen to try out the Streaker). The Streaker proved to be Ian's cup of tea as he came home first in the Streaker fleet. The support crew enjoyed the morning on the beach with a great view of the sailing course. Other activities for the day included swimming, crazy golf and mud sliding at Brancaster Staithe.

Wednesday racing was held at Blakeney. Unfortunately the sailing couldn't be seen from the shore, but fun was had crabbing and swimming on the quay. After his taste of speed yesterday, Ian retired from the race, leaving Penny and Gerry to it. After sailing, all of the URYC members were invited to Alex and Ian's house for a BBQ.

Thursday was an interesting sail at Burnham Overy Staithe. It was quite windy



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and the race was held out at sea. This race was followed by another inside the harbour, a race called 'The Jenny Lee' just for the National 12s. Ian jumped into a 12 and sailed with Peter Miatt to come 2nd in this race. After this it was party time at the Jolly Sailor pub to celebrate Gerry's 70th and Liz's 60th. This was followed by more mud sliding!

Friday saw racing at Hunstanton for Penny and Gerry. Others started to make their way home and others visited Pensthorpe animal sanctuary and outdoor play centre. Back at Brancaster Staithe it was time for more mud sliding and meeting up at the Jolly Sailor pub for a meal.

Saturday and the last day. Ian had been promised a Streaker but he and the other sailors were disappointed when the racing was abandoned due to lack of wind. The weekly prize giving then took place and Gerry came 2nd overall in the Streaker class whilst Penny came 4th overall in the Allcomers class. Congratulations to them both!

Another great week enjoyed by all. If you are interested in hearing more about Norfolk Week and maybe joining us next year, please don't hesitate to ask any of the above members and they'll be sure to tell you all about it! The dates for next years event are July 30th to August 6th 2016. The week will be starting at Hunstanton as usual, this years starting at Snett was unique because of the tides.

Alex Gore



URYC members on the look-out for Streakers in Norfolk



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There seems to be a problem with a seal on my inflatable!



These photos were taken on Sunday the 9th of August on the river Stour opposite Wrabness, just down from the Royal Hospital School. The two of us then briefly called in at Manningtree where a beer festival happened to be in full swing as we clambered ashore, through the mud (not much water here, and it doesn't stay for very long).

The seal made itself comfortable for about ½ an hour but finally objected to being towed up river.



Tony Chapman, 'Casper'



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Up River Yacht Club

Saturday 3rd October

R N L I

Mini Quiz

&

FISH 'N' CHIP SUPPER

8pm

£5 per person

All profits to the RNLI



**RNLI Christmas Cards,
Calendars, Gifts etc.
will also be available to
purchase**

**Please put your name
on the list if you will be
attending**

"I enjoy cadets because I like sailing. We get set courses to different marks in the river. Our instructors are called Paul, Simon, Penny, Matt and Ian.

In cadets you get to go sailing in the river Crouch in Essex. Once before we sailed down the creek and had lunch on the marshes."

By Harry Yarwood, Age 9, at U.R.Y.C



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Holland and other places in Esmerelda

by Jack (7) and Rosie (6) Gore (*Excerpts from their log books*)

Jack: It all started when we bought Sir Henry from Portugal. On our first trip, we sailed up to Burnham on Crouch, with Ben, Bev, baby Sophie and Tim.

Our second voyage was up to Brightlingsea and we went to the town to get some chips for dinner. When we were there we saw Nicholas and Steve who had been sailing in their N12 dinghy. When we ate we saw a speed boat which was having a party. We called it a party boat!

19/20 June - Jack: Our third sail was to Holland. It took 23 hours. We went to Vlissingen first and moored up next to a catamaran. When we got there we had some Pringles and Seven Up to celebrate! Our biggest boat so far.

Rosie: We went to Holland and I played in the park.

21 June - Jack: Today is Father's Day. First we gave our Father's day presents to Daddy. After that we went to Arneplat Island. I was very excited because I blew my inflatable boat up and went for a row.

Rosie: We had a BBQ and fire and toasted marshmallows.

22 June - Jack: Today we went to Zierikzee and went to the toy shop in town. It took a very long time to choose a toy. In the end I bought a radio controlled car for 12 euros.

Rosie: In Zierikzee I bought Ellie the Elephant. We had ice creams and went to see an old windmill.

23rd June - Jack: Today we went to Stampersplaat Island and rafted up against a Dutch boat.

Rosie: We went to 'Horsey' Island and caught 28 crabs. I went swimming.

24 June - Jack: Wild horses came over to Esmerelda. In the evening we collected wood to build a camp fire.

Rosie: I went rowing in our dinghy. We caught 14 crabs and we saw wild horses.

25 June - Jack: Today I did lots, lots, lots, lots and lots of rowing.

Rosie: Today we caught 22 crabs. We walked around the island and went to see the horses.

26 June - Jack: Today we went to Brouwershaven. We moored up in town. In the evening we visited the yacht club.

Rosie: We saw lots of animals including a chicken, a goat, a deer, a peacock and an ostrich. We went to the windmill.

27 June - Jack: Today we went to Ossehoek Island. I flew my kite and did more rowing.



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Rosie: We caught a record 37 crabs and I went swimming.

28 June - Jack: Today is very sunny and I was first to swim in the lake. I played with my remote control lifeboat.

Rosie: In the afternoon we went to Center Parcs in the dinghy. We went down the rapids.

29 June - Jack and Rosie: We sailed to Scharendijke Marina and we went to have an ice cream.

30 June - Jack: We went to Archipel Island and I played on my surfboard.

Rosie: We went to the beach. I did lots of swimming. We went sailing and went to another island.

1 July - Jack and Rosie: We went through two locks and we anchored off a beach in the Veeresmere. I swam back to the boat. After that we went to Middleburg.

2 July - Jack and Rosie: It was Market day and we went shopping. At the market we got a Frikandel. This is a Dutch sausage. We went through lots of bridges to Vlissingen.

3 July - Jack and Rosie: Today we were leaving Holland. It was very sad to leave. I had a good holiday. I'm looking forward to coming next year.



Abandoned by parents, 20 miles off-shore . . . RNLI to the rescue.



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The Summer Cruise 2015

*T'was six o'clock on a summer's morn, when t'flotilla dropped their ropes.
To sail to the land of Gilling-ham was the highest of their hopes.*

*The breeze was fresh from the sou'sou west and the sun was shining
through,*

All sail was set and course laid down, so time for an early brew.

*A perfect start to the Summer Cruise with all t'other boats still in sight,
"If we should lose them over the horizon, at the end of the Crouch, turn
right".*

*Now crossing the Thames can be tricky sometimes, what with the size of
some craft,*

Deciding on speed and distance, and whether to cross fore or aft.

*All across safely, to Garrison Point the sky now turning light grey,
Time for lunch and a cup of tea, breakfast seems ages away.*

*The river is dull, at this end at least, but look just ahead is a seal,
There must be fish here for us to catch . . . alas, not with our rod and reel.*

*And so on to the marina where we sit by the lock, drop sail and wait for
the light,*

*It's green, off we go, "fend off", "take a rope". We're in, but my word it was
tight.*

*Finger moorings are narrow in this part of the world, to be approached with
caution, I fear,*

But at last we're all in, secure for the night, now where did I stow that beer?

A day or two to look around, to see the sights and shows,

*"You can get the 140 from that there bus stop, but no-one knows where it
goes".*

*The locals are helpful when asked of directions, of how to get far and near,
"Well, if I were you son, to get to Chatham, I wouldn't be starting from
here".*

*It's all worth the trouble, to visit the docks, if only for the rope-making
lesson,*

*A tour of the sub, then a nice meat pie, making sure that you get your
concession.*



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Back to the boats, it's been another long day, full of good humour and cheer.

A wash and a brush-up, a shower for some, now where did I stow that beer?

*Tuesday sees us off to the Colne, if only we can get out of here,
The moorings seem tighter, the wind blowing stronger, but at last we're all off and clear.*

*The taxi's not running at Brighlingsea after six thirty, is the harbour lad's tale,
So we nip across early to do what one does, and after we go for some ale.*

*Next day we set off for Heybridge, another lock to behold,
The keeper is helpful and funny, but we have to do as we're told.*

*We raft up as instructed, we're tidy and we're glad to be here.
Squared away down below, now showered and clean, but where did I stow that beer?*

*Ukeleles are played and the songs they are sung, trying to be John, Paul and Ringo,
But it all sounds the same, like that northern bloke George, when he's cleaning a window.*

*It's been a good cruise, now time to go home, after a great last night's supper,
A beer or two, farewell to our friends and three cheers for the class captain skipper.*

Money for . . .

A recently retired boat rigger from Romford happened to be in Hullbridge and wandered into the Club grounds asking whether members might be interested in buying "end of drum" rope.

'Frank' seemed to be the genuine article, and being recently retired is looking to clear out his garage and make a bit of money in the process.

His e-mail address & telephone number are:

Fred: 01708 726674

e-mail: fandfb@talktalk.net



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Hammerheads In The Third Age

This discussion arose between members at an impromptu gathering at the club a few months ago. It's a subject that has exercised many of us over the years.

"No one is getting any younger"

"Don't know how much longer I'll be fit enough to sail at Up River"

"I'm sure my dinghy is getting heavier"

"I only go out in my boat when I know I can get back to the slipway at high water"

"Perhaps it's time to give up my boat, I can't afford to move to a marina"

This informal chat at the club centred upon making it easier for, shall we say, the less youthful of us, to get out to our cruisers. Several said how good it would be if we had that nice floating landing stage at Fambridge – at least the part where people store their dinghies vertically and launch them into the river.

A smaller hammerhead for loading or picking up passengers also seemed ideal. Then there was lots of arm waving when suggesting where this floating jetty might go. The general feeling was 'behind those bushes' (about 10 to 20 metres down-stream of the existing slipway).

Several members warmed to this idea, then got carried away with suggestions URYC could have a boatmen manning a yacht club tender too. The topic then veered into steam launches, uniformed staff and how members should be addressed by this boatman. Until a lonely voice piped up "How much would it cost to be taken out to your boat... £5?" This was followed by a brief silence which, thankfully, was broken by someone getting a round in.

Those of us who race or have raced dinghies at the club, did point out that the proposed jetty would not make a down river dinghy start any easier! Especially in light airs when racers cheat the tide by sailing in the shallows along the south bank. Someone else chipped in that the race box could go on the end of the hammerhead.

Then there was a discussion about how many cruiser moorings would have to be shifted to make this more easterly start line viable. There followed some uncomfortable shuffling of chairs. Briefly there was almost a silence, broken by the welcome suggestion of another round. An awkward subject only narrowly avoided.

The group seemed to split into two at this point. Several wanted to return to steam launches and how the lowly cur who would be the club boatman should address members "Sir" "Skipper" "My lord" etc. The others, with possibly more beer remaining in their glasses, went into 'solution mode' and considered how to get planning permission and harbour authority approval.



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One suggestion got a half nod; put a case to the powers-that-be on grounds of health and safety and allowing access to the river for the less able (are we allowed to say 'disabled' these days?). Although most agreed that, because most of the traditional yacht club 'hards' on the Crouch were replaced with floating jetties years ago, why should Up River be treated differently? Much sucking of teeth was then audible across the room. Something akin to a dozen car mechanics about to give a quote.

What about the CHA, would they object? Well, compared to the massive construction at Paglesham, the URYC floating jetty would be very modest indeed. The thorny subject of paying for this was avoided, however driving piles into the riverbed for a captive hammerhead was unlikely to fall within the capability of a regular club work party. So it would cost a fortune and probably prove equally popular and unpopular among the membership!

I'm sure we will have the same discussion once more, and again, all will agree that it's a really good idea. Mind you, after all that beer, it was hard to say what exactly was agreed and the question of where the coal bunker for the steam launch should go is still unresolved... details, details.

My round!

Dennis Haggerty

... and raise your glasses to ...

Hi All,

Not sure if its Flotsam worthy, but myself and my dad have successfully got back from sailing Tarangini to France and back again over the past 3 weeks.

It was my first crossing and something I wanted to do and am happy to tick off my list. We enjoyed about a week in France: Boulogne-sur-mer, Dunkirk and then Calais, staying in Boulogne-sur-mer a few extra days while the storms past. We then headed back via Ramsgate then the Medway.

A few challenges as always to keep it fun and well, challenging, but enjoyed the trip as a whole and back safe and sound.

Thank you to all the club members who gave advice and helped out. Hopefully see you at Brightlingsea if not before.

Martin Sykes



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Order! Order! your favourite drink from the Bar at Up River.

The club bar is open regularly every Friday evening from 8pm until 11pm and on Sundays from mid-day till 2pm. It is also open when social events are taking place.

We stock a wide range of drinks, trying to cater for all. Over the years we have expanded on the choice of both wines and beers with the aim of keeping prices low for the benefit of members but still cover our staffing costs and make a profit for the club.

Of recent, we have introduced sparkling wines such as Prosecco and non-alcoholic grape juices and expanded the range of beers to include San Miguel and Guinness.

Up River Yacht Club is also available to hire for personal events to members only and arrangements can be made for the bar to be used. Should you ever wish to do this, please speak to a Flag Officer.

The bar always has a friendly atmosphere and we look forward to seeing you there!!

Steve Harris
Bar manager



Calling All Boat Owners!

Unfortunately it is not possible to access all areas of the club grounds on Work Party days. Would members please take responsibility for maintaining the area under their own dinghy, cruiser, tender, trailer etc.

Thanks go to Ken Letch and Chris Hall for keeping the grounds grass cut on a regular basis



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Happy New Year

New Year's Eve 2015
at Up River Yacht Club
Disco by: Groovy Tunes

**Please save the date to party on down
with your friends and family at U.R.Y.C.**
Tickets on sale soon

and another thing.....

Check out info about local waters etc. at <http://creeksailor.blogspot.co.uk/>
The list of articles under Labels in the right hand margin are useful shortcuts to areas members may be interested in.

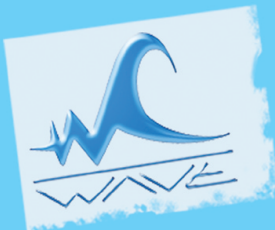
The detail regarding Havengore, photos and video are noteworthy.

Dennis Haggerty



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Attention any members with a loft full of Yachting Monthly mags!

Dennis Haggerty is seeking to borrow the July 2003 edition.

If anyone has a copy that they could lend, please contact Dennis on 01702 258651 or text 07899 891941.