
Flotsam

Club Newsletter Spring 2018



Editors words

Hello, hopefully by now you are all getting ready for the new season and planning your adventures. The winter months have seemed to have flown by and spring is definitely in the air. I love this time of year, things seem to start to wake up and generally I feel energised and excited for the coming months. I am always actively looking for articles and photos from members to put into Flotsam, so please don't be shy.

Sadly we have had the passing of three of our members, Ken Letch who was a prominent figure within URYC for many years who kept the club looking nice with his grass cutting and entertained with his tales of his adventures. Gordon Cottrell, I have fond memories of Gordon and his dog Toby when growing up, a real gentleman who always seemed to be tinkering with his beloved yacht 'April Breeze'. And very recently Adrian Reynolds, who as an ever present member who put considerable time and effort into the club. His

enthusiasm for URYC, his sailing and racing is an example to us all.

All nice guys sadly missed.

Sail fast live slow
Marcus (or Duncan as Ken called me!)



In The News

Its bright, its orange and our new safety boat TANGO was christened and launched on Sunday 4 Feb 2018

Champagne launch

Great turn out at the Club on Sunday 4 February .for both the dinghy racing



and christening/official launch of our new safety boat Tango. We raised a glass offering a traditional toast, and then Graham treated many of us, not quick enough to move out of the way, to a soaking in champagne (Ok, it was Cava from the south slopes of Asda).

Did you Know?

The river Crouch runs entirely through the county of Essex.

The distance of the Navigation between Holliwell Point which is north of Foulness Island and Battlesbridge is 17.5 Miles, i.e. 15.21 Nautical Miles.

The river was once known as the Huolve or Wholve and this name is the basis of the name of the town of Hullbridge.

Commodore's Column

2018 promises to be a great year for our club. So much of the



hard work members have put in developing the dinghy coaching programme for over 3 years is really paying off. We are seeing a big increase in boats on the water. Adults and cadets have progressed from sailing club dinghies to buying boats of their own and our dinghy park is bursting at the seams.



Our dinghy racing programme is once again looking strong and well supported, especially as our newer members emerge from our coaching programme and develop their skills and confidence to join the racing fleet.

I'm also pleased to say our website has helped with the recruitment of new cruiser members, it generates a steady stream of enquiries. You will see new faces skippering cruisers that have been at the club for many years, as well as new boats arriving on our moorings. Planning is going ahead for both the club continental cruise and the summer cruise which promise to be even more popular this year.

Building and renewing our membership has also enabled us to reintroduce some old favourites, such as the planned combined dinghy and cruiser day trip/race to Cliff Reach in July - details to follow by email (of course!).

We are looking forward to Push The Boat Out on 19th of May and the opportunity to attract more new members. This event does showcase the club and is only made possible by the fantastic support from across the whole membership. It is also really valued by the local community, as is the Regatta that takes place in on 9th of September.

The Up River Yacht Club has a real buzz about the place. The support of committee members and enthusiasm of the membership for sailing, work parties, club projects and our social events make Up River stand out. Oh, and did I mention the job of being Commodore, (and Vice Commodore,) is fun to?

Enjoy Flotsam, and fair winds for 2018.

Ian.

Cruiser Class Captain's Words.

Hi to everyone from your Cruiser Captain and welcome aboard for hopefully what will be another memorable year at Up river.

As I write this short piece for Flotsam, it is with great sadness to hear of the passing of one of our most loyal, hardworking and active members of the club, Adrian Reynolds. Adrian was, up until recently on the Sailing and executive committees as well as being joint chair of the Launch and Recovery syndicate. He will be fondly remembered for his enthusiastic and competitive streak on the club racing scene. I think we all remember those prize giving evenings when Adrian used to leave at the end of the night with a substantial haul of trophies. As a tribute to Adrian I would like to propose we at the club get as many boats together for this year's Paglesham Oyster race weekend on the 11 & 12 of August. This was one of his favourite events and one he often used to win. I think he would appreciate that. I think I speak for us all in sending our condolences and very best wishes to Pauline and the family at this sad time.

On a more cheerful note hopefully we have seen the last of the 'Beast from the East' and we can look forward to some fine spring weather for fitting out ahead of launching for the new season.



As thoughts turn towards planning our time afloat this year, now's as good a time as any to bring everyone up to date with this year's planned club cruises, rallies & races.

Things get underway with the shakedown to Burnham on the early Spring bank holiday weekend of 5th-7th May. As well sailing and socialising we are planning a game of cricket on the Sunday afternoon on the playing fields. The invitation is open to all club members and with plenty of parking nearby why not drive down to Burnham and join in the fun.

This season's Foreign rally is a week long cruise to Holland starting Sat 26 May. The plan will be to leave the Crouch and for those that would like to experience an overnight crossing head straight for Vlissingen, Sth Holland. Those that would like a more relaxed crossing can head up the east coast to Harwich, staying overnight before making a daylight crossing. Once we have locked in to the inland waters at Vlissingen we will then head up

to the town of 'Middleburg' before moving on to explore the 'Veersmeere'. The inland waterways of Holland provide some of the most idyllic, relaxing and safe sailing grounds you could wish for, so hopefully this may inspire some of you who have not been along on any of our foreign cruises to join us knowing that there will be safety in numbers. Although we can't guarantee the weather, although we pretty much nailed that last year, the thing we can guarantee is that no matter what a thoroughly good time will be had by all.

For the July Summer cruise a few people have suggested heading over to Ramsgate for a few days, then via the river Swale head up the river Medway visiting Chatham and Upnor before returning back to the Crouch. Other cruises planned are Osea Island Bbq in August, Rally to Brightlingsea end of September with a meal in the Colne yacht club and for those who fancy a late season weekend away in October a rally to Bradwell again with a meal in the yacht club.

As well as cruising why not add a competitive edge to your sailing by joining in with some of the cruiser racing both on the river and on some of the rallies. One event we would like to reinvigorate in memory of Adrian is the Paglesham Oyster, a race from Fambridge to Paglesham, A Saturday night at Burnham followed by a race back up the Crouch on the Sunday.

Don't forget to let us have any stories of mishaps both on and off the water so you or they can be nominated for this years 'Slip Up' trophy.

Whatever you do or wherever you go this season I wish you fair winds and happy sailing.

Graham



Meet a member

Club Member and Boat

Terry Sumerfield, Westernly Berwick "Bernice"

What's your profession?

Retired Jewellery maker.

When did you start sailing?

1970's, my first boat was a Snapdragon Invader which was cramped for a family of four, I slept on the floor.

How long have you been a member of URYC?

Since 1976/77.

Biggest achievement on the water?

Winning the Buxley three times.

Most embarrassing moment on the water?

Hitting the lock at Woodbridge Tidal Mill, everyone who was on the Rally was waiting for me to get in as they wanted to go to the pub, they all cheered.

Why does URYC appeal to you?

It appeals because it's a good club and has a good social scene, it covers all your needs.

What do you see yourself doing in 2018?

More east coast and Thames cruising.

Visiting Bradwell?

Bradwell marina is a club favourite for many years but there is a lot to see around Bradwell other than the marina bar.



A pleasant walk you can find **RAF Bradwell Bay**, the site of a former military airfield, now partly occupied by Bradwell Nuclear Power Station. The airfield was initially built in 1936, reopened in 1941 and closed in 1946. The airfield had begun in 1936 as a landing ground built to support a pre war ground to air firing range (Denghie Flats). It was subsequently developed and upgraded from 1940-1941 as a fighter base with concrete and tarmac runways, hard

standings and fighter pens. There was a Bellman aircraft hangar for maintenance use and 12 blister hangars. Initially in 1942 it was used by 418 (Canadian) Squadron for attacks on airfields and transport routes in occupied Europe, as well as propaganda leaflet drops. Later in 1942 29 and 264 Squadrons flew from Bradwell as escorts for allied bombers. The role of the base changed in June 1943 after which a number of units used the airfield for attacks on shipping off the Dutch coast. In September 1943 aircraft from the base were involved in "Operation Starkey", a diversionary "invasion feint" designed to mislead axis forces. In 1944 278 Squadron with an air sea rescue role also flew from Bradwell. Bradwell also provided air cover over the English Channel for the Allied D-Day invasion. When Germany began the "V-1" rocket attacks Bradwell was used by fighters preventing the rockets from reaching London. Later in 1945 Bradwell was home to a number of ground based support units, and post war returned to its original role supporting the firing range. There were plans to reopen the the base in the 1950s with the onset of the Cold War, but these were not realised partly because of the derelict state of the base. A few buildings and



the runway can still be made out, there is also a memorial for those who paid the ultimate price.

A bit further afield you can find **Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall**, Although it is a fair walk from the Marina, St Cedds is a Grade I listed building and among the oldest largely intact Christian churches in England; it is the 19th oldest building in the country and is still in regular use. It dates from between 660–662.



Failing this there is a very good club house at the marina serving food and boasting great onsite facilities. There are three pubs locally **The Green Man** in Bradwell waterside and **The Kings Head** and also **The Cricketers** a little further away.

The Sauce of the Crouch

One mans great adventure by John Luff Smith. *(Since re-walked with club members)*



A few weeks ago I had a spare day so I got my ordinance survey map out and followed the Crouch inland to find the source, it appeared to go under a bridge and disappear to a woodland known as The Wilderness. It was a cold and bright day so wrapped up well, donned my boots, put the coordinates in the Sat Nav and took off. I found the river [now a dried up ditch] travelling under the bridge and was pleased to find a parking space across the road to the Duke pub at the entrance to Laindon common [most things in Laindon are common] country park. I walked back down the road to the bridge, climbed under a fence, and jumped [or was he pushed?] down into the dried up river bed, the river now is no more than 2ft wide but about 4ft deep, I followed the river as far as I could till

fallen trees made me take to the seldom trod path that runs alongside. I followed the path and noticed a tributary going off across a golf course but continued to follow the main stream, this lead all the way through the park just to be piped under the front gardens of a small Hamlet of houses, so that was it, apparently, bit disappointing to say the least, such a ignominious end to a great river. I walked back along the river and followed the smaller tributary as it seemed to be heading towards a small forest in the distance. I had to avoid golfers as they can be a funny lot but stuck to my guns and followed the ditch, it did indeed lead to the woods and I wasn't disappointed with the small pretty natural lake, this must be the Wilderness! I took pictures and noticed a tiny tributary leading off on the far side of the lake, so now my curiosity was wetted decided to follow to the bitter end. This led to a hollow, surrounded by trees and I could see yet another small ditch on the

other side, the hollow looked dry as had most of the other ditches and it was covered in dry leaves, so rather than walk all the way around and as it was getting dark I decided to march straight across. I got a few feet away from the bank and realised I was going nowhere apart from down ...Slowly....I had stepped into a bog much the same as you see in films like Hounds of the Baskerville on Bodmin moor. for a few seconds I thought I'd touch bottom but by now I was still going down, any attempt to raise a foot just made the other sink quicker, I realised that all the golfers would now be wetting the 19th hole and I had told no one where I was going, my last thought was for my phone and which by now was close to going under as the goo was close to the pockets of my trousers, luckily an old log was just visible near by, so I threw myself over it, and very slowly pulled myself on to it [still got my boots] and crawled back to the bank, I emptied my boots out threw my socks away, scrapped my jeans off and squelched my way back to the car, the Saucy "B" I thought!



Meet a member

Club Member and Boat

Jamie Cornwell-Stevens, Lightning 368 'Alfonso'

[What's your profession?](#)

I'm still at school

[When did you start sailing?](#)

I started sailing aged 9, Southend Marine Activity Centre (SMAC), where they offered an activity day for water sports. My mum, regarding this made me do it again, as she knew I would enjoy it. Over time, through occasionally going there, a passion grew for sailing and I started doing some RYA courses. My Mum (who helps run Milton Youth) arranged an event with the Beach Club who took over. Going with my own friendship group to the Beach Club, more often, at affordable prices, I started to become addicted. My friends from SMBC encouraged me to go to a Push the Boat Out Day, theory and practical lessons. I came to Upriver after going to visit lots of clubs and was drawn to it immediately

[How long have you been a member of URYC?](#)

Nine months, and in this time, developed more than I ever dreamed. I have learnt how to drive a safety boat, worked through the cadet course, receiving a certificate, medal and the Cadet Service Trophy, which I would of never imagined getting, it was such a nice surprise!

[Biggest achievement on the water?](#)

This is a tough one... My first sail on a Topper Topaz, at the Beach Club, comes to mind, as I sailed independently on the sea, recovering a dinghy from a capsized.



Another achievement with the help of members and my Nan, is getting *Alfonso*, my Lightning, joining the social aspect of the group, unlocking many new doors for me, as now with a road trailer, there will be more locations to race on open meetings, meaning, I will be able to visit places, and meet new people, even if socialising isn't a strong point for me.

Most embarrassing moment on the water?

On a Day Sailing course, last year, at Tollesbury, I was sailing in a mk.2 Wayfarer with my instructor, when he decided that we needed to start heading back, as it was getting late, so we referred to the map we had, which showed us we had to pass a spit in the river.

We passed the point, we thought the spit would end at, but it carried on going....My instructor pointed that we would have to sail for a while. Coming to what he eventually thought was the end, we tacked across to find the centreboard and rudder kicked the entire way up, and the boat to stop moving. I asked my instructor, what should we do, he suggested pushing the boat, as we didn't have time to stay here because the tide was rapidly going out. After a while we were free, but as the tide was so low, the centreboard had to stay up for a while, making sailing very difficult. We got bogged down head to toe, in all of the mud. On returning we found out the map was 20 years out of date!

Why does URYC appeal to you?

The Up River Yacht Club, is a truly amazing place, with lots of community spirit and passion about sailing, the atmosphere is such a positive one, everyone contributes and supports each other. Having looked for so long for a boat the club members rallied round to help me chose a boat and find one I would be comfortable with, getting it to the club, showing how to care for it.

What do you see yourself doing in 2018?

In 2018, I want to be sailing all the time on my lightning 368, *Alfonso*, which is amazing, having another boat would be unimaginable. In July, I hope to attend a course to qualify as an assistant dinghy instructor staying on the Lighthouse boat, Tollesbury, FACT. As sailing is without a doubt my greatest passion, and over the years I have been doing it, it has brought me some of the best memories, qualifying would be my dream ;as I will be able encourage, share knowledge and support others learning to sail This year my GCSEs are finishing, I plan to be at the club as frequently as it is possible, not just on fun sails ,racing, cadet days, mid-week sailing etc but helping out in the club community. Anything to do with water and sailing!



Events coming up

Eat in Evening first Friday of every month

On the usually the first Friday of every month suggest arriving at the club for 19.00 for 19.30 start, next dates are April 6th, May 4th, June 8th, and July 6th, so please come down for a nice takeaway and a drink in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Cruiser launching

Various dates throughout April, please see notice board for information.

Lightning 368 & Comet open meeting

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th April, Saturday is always a lightning dinghy training sail followed by a takeaway and drinks in the evening, Sunday consisting of 3 races, all club members welcome to join the lightning and comets for food and drink.

Shakedown Cruise to Burnham / Anchor Trophy

Saturday 5th - Monday 7th May, first club cruise of the year with a cricket match on Sunday 6th Burnham Green, all welcome weather by sail road to join in, please contact Graham Lazell for details.

Club Work Party 2

Saturday 12th May from 0900.

Push the Boat Out 2018

Saturday 19th from 1330, great event which is well received by the local area, the club is actively looking for volunteers to help run this event, URYC has seen several new members because of this so please if you can get involved.

Cruiser Foreign Rally

26th May - 3rd June. A huge success in recent years, well supported and enjoyed, please contact Graham Lazell for details and itinerary.

Dinghy Work Party

Sunday 1st July

Club Cruise

Saturday 7th - 14th July, Another well loved and participated club event, cruise the east coast in company, please contact Graham Lazell for details.

Work Party 3

Sunday 22nd July from 0900

Dinghy and Cruiser Racing and Cadet Sessions

Various dates, please see notice board for details.



Cruiser Owners

Please lock up your ladders! An unsecured ladder poses a security threat to other people's boats as well as your own.

Please secure your halyards, So that the noise they can make against a mast does not disturb our neighbours. Thank for your cooperation.

Mid-week Sailing.

There is a small but active group of club members who enjoy meeting during the week and going for a sail in their dinghies. Sometimes with the odd yacht joining them. Dates are varied throughout the year so please keep a eye on the Facebook pages as it is usually published when they are meeting on there

Social Media

If you use social media please follow our social media pages. Facebook is particularly good for up to date gossip, photos, and there are a handful of videos on the YouTube channel.

Facebook:- [Up River Yacht Club](#) Twitter:- [@UpRiverYC](#) YouTube:- [Up River Yacht Club](#)
Club website:- <http://upriver.org.uk/>

19 MAY 2018



TRY SAILING with RYA PUSH THE BOAT OUT

Up River Yacht Club

invites YOU to try sailing for FREE
on Saturday 19 May 2018, 1:30pm - 4.30 p.m.

People of all ages are invited to come along and have a go at dinghy sailing at Hullbridge on the River Crouch. Whether you're completely new to the sport, looking to get back on the water or sail regularly, why not come and visit us.

Places are allocated on a first come first served basis
Buoyancy Aids are provided – spare clothes / towel are advised
Membership info, BBQ and refreshments available
For more info call Ian: 0789 087 6957 or e-mail info@uryc.org.uk

Pooles Lane, Hullbridge, Essex, SS5 6PA / website uryc.org.uk
(Parking available in the free public car park next door)

www.rya.org.uk/go/PTBO

