
Flotsam

Club Newsletter Winter 2019



Editors words



So a new year is already flying by and I'm long overdue a Flotsam. We have had a lot going on down the club in recent months and we have a new commodore and vice commodore at the helm steering the URYC ship, so I would like to say a big thanks to our outgoing commodore Ian Dawson for his hardwork and dedication over the past few year's and welcome Dennis

Haggerty and Gerry Ledger into their new roles respectively.

Personally I've been making the most of sailing when I can and enjoying getting down spending time getting involved in the winch project when time allows. I've also enjoyed the odd Sunday afternoon drink at the club bar.

As always I am always looking for material for Flotsam to try and make it a worthwhile and a enjoyed newsletter, so please if you have anything interesting or a different idyou think I could add to Flotsam I would really appreciate it. Hope you enjoy.

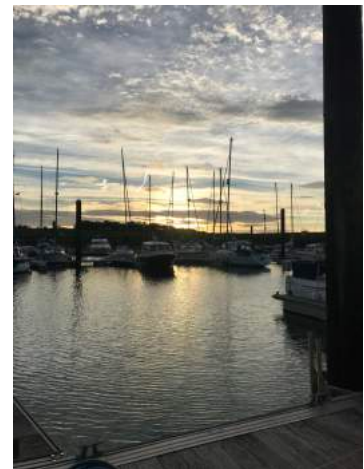
Sail fast live slow
Marcus

In The News

Project winch nearing completion.

URYC join the new age... WhatsApp!

Penny Yarwood and Bob Bourne win Icebreaker.



Commodore's comments

What does the new Commodore have in mind for the next two years?

I would like to promote a strategy over the next two years that steadily builds upon the existing strengths of the Club. We have done exceptionally well attracting people into sailing, principally through Push the Boat Out and our Cadet Programme. This was only achieved due to fantastic support from our membership.

After several years of hard work, we have seen a renaissance of dinghy sailing. There are now more Up River YC sails on the river than all the other local clubs combined.

Who are we looking for to join Up River as new members?

I would like us to continue to appeal to younger people, principally families, to join the Club bringing enthusiasm and vitality to dinghy sailing, whether it's racing or just being on the water for fun.

The challenge for the next two years is to appeal to prospective and existing members who want to actively use their cruisers. We should look to attract owners of small yachts who can moor their boat at Hullbridge. That way they become part of the Club and build an affinity with the existing membership.

How much room do we have for more cruisers?

We have laying up space for up to another 10 'pocket cruisers' so we don't seek new members who have large boats based elsewhere and only lay up over winter at Up River. Regarding moorings, I have been in discussion with Hullbridge Moorings (previously HMHA) who will prioritise their first 10 moorings immediately to the East of our Club moorings, for Up River Yacht Club members. Same price as URYC moorings.

What about our existing cruiser owners?

The Club Cruise to the continent is going from strength to strength. This is another great success that the Club will continue to build on. Whereas the East Coast and small boat weekend cruises have not been as well supported compared to previous years. So, we are starting by running a Navigation and Seamanship class primarily aimed to help our members new to cruiser sailing.

Furthermore, this year the Summer Cruise is to the River Blackwater. It's close enough to tempt more cruiser members with smaller boats to take part. I hope this will appeal to all members. We will then start seeing more cruisers on the water as well as significantly increasing the number of yachts on the East Coast Cruise.



Events coming up

Launch and Recovery Work Party 1, 24th Feb starting at 0900.

Warm up series, Race 5&6 10th Feb 1400, Race 7&8 24 Feb 1415, Race 9&10 3rd March 0900, Race 11&12 24th March 1300.

Eat in Evening, March 1st, 1900 for 1930.

Club Work Party 1, Sunday 17th March starting at 0900. This is the first one of the usual four. All club members are required to attend at least one work party each year.

Fitting Out Supper, Saturday 30th March starting at 2000. Please add name on list on notice board if attending.

Cruiser Launch Dates. Please see club notice board for dates arranged.



Getting involved by Jamie Stevens.

I was asked to join the committee as for a while I have felt more measures could be made to influence people in my age group to take part in this sport and have a voice.

This is the perfect club to entice a new generation of sailors too. We are constantly active with sailing throughout the winter, which most clubs do not offer, along with a range of club boats available for our members to use and a great racing series considering all abilities.

Before I joined the committee, I spoke to some of our current cadets on what they would like to do and at my first meeting, I forwarded ideas I had been given as well as my own as I feel passionate about encouraging people to this water sport.

I wish to attract more of my generation to our reasonably priced fantastic, friendly club and multiply the numbers of cadets on the water for all our events.

If any cadets have any ideas please let me know so I can mention them on your behalf for the next meeting.

Meet a member

Club Member and Boats

Matthew Pickett , Laser, Enterprise & Heron.

What's your profession?

Leakage engineer for Essex and Suffolk water.

When did you start sailing?

Since I was 5 Crewing for my Dad in Heron which is the same one I race now.

How long have you been a member of URYC?

Been a Member since I was born 1976.

Biggest achievement on the water?

Taking my first championship in Heron at Fambridge as this lead to a year of three championship wins in three different boats.

Most embarrassing moment on the water?

There has been a lot, But the most embarrassing was the time I had a big lead over whole fleet at Harlow Blackwater Icebreaker in my laser. And I fell out backwards at first mark and had to watch whole fleet come past as I swam after boat.

Why does URYC appeal to you?

Up river appeals to me because I enjoy the ever changing river and the challenges this brings. And the friends I have made along the way. I have been to over clubs but going round and round a lake or doing the same course all the time at sea would bore me. Nice to visit but always glad to come back.

What do you see yourself doing in 2019?

I hope to do a bit more travelling around as always up for the challenge of different water. And to see if there is a better club out there. (unlikely!!)





The Last Ferryman.

Dick, as Arthur Charles Hymas preferred to be called, earned his living as the Hullbridge ferryman. When he retired, at around 1954 the ancient job title became virtually extinct.

There would of been few men left in Britain who could list their occupation as a ferry operator, but none who can claim to operate their ferry by pure human muscle power. This was the sole means of forward motion at Dick Hymas's

disposal. He had no motor, either inboard or outboard, just arms and oars.

The ferry Dick powered was a 12ft rowing boat, designed to hold 11 people.

The fare between the two banks of the River Crouch was four old pennies per person per crossing, about 0.5p in modern terms.

For 30 years, Dick made a steady living out of this role, ferrying schoolchildren to and from school, shoppers from the north bank villages heading for Southend, people visiting their relatives and a mass of other folk who found the River Crouch standing between them and what they needed to do.

Before he took over the ferry, he worked as a thatcher. When business was quieter, he would do a spot of fishing for Flatfish, whelks, mussels and winkles which he would bring back to his mother

who would cook them and then sell them outside the Anchor.

Dick was often required to act as an unofficial lifeguard. The Southend Pictorial records the occasion when Dick saved seven lives in the course of a single day.

Dick married a local girl, Ada Binder. The Binders were also closely associated with the river and it was they who built Dick's two ferryboats. Dick and Ada's home was in Pooles Lane. It was where Dick had been born, and he died there 90 years later.



Looking for HMS Beagle. By John Luff Smith.

About ten years ago i taped a program off the tv where they had found the last resting place of the 'HMS Beagle' the ship that took Charles Darwin, a Cherokee-class 10 gun Brig Sloop, round the world on his quest for the 'Origin of Man'. I studied the video for clues for the location, Looking for buildings and any landmarks that may give a hint where I could start looking. The tv team were very careful not to show any of these keeping the camera at a low angle to stop everyone and his family looking for souvenirs. The Beagle had its masts lopped and was anchored in the Roach for the use of the Custom and Excise keeping check on the Smuggling, local fishermen complained that it was an obstruction in the river so they towed it

up a creek off the Roach and beached it in a cut out which was dug for it. The families on her weren't coping with the fierce smugglers and some were in collusion with them, the C&E got

organised so the hulk was abandoned, it was subsequently broken up and most of the timbers live on in local houses, sheds and barns. I have sailed the Roach looking for a wide enough creek to tow a ship this size up, the only one I found was just before East End Paglesham. After being prompted by Glynis Busby to find us another walk, I took myself off today to look for a cut that would be big enough, I started at East End, walked the sea wall about a mile, found lots of wild life (a twitchers dream!) but no substantial cuts, back in the car, drove about a mile, parked up and did the same, still nothing, I was scanning the other bank with binoculars so as not to miss anything but decided to try yet another mile further up the river, this time I saw a farmer driving towards me in a tractor to warn me very politely that this is not a foot path. Turned around back towards where I had come from (I guessed that they wouldn't have gone any further up the river due to the ships draught) this time I took a chance and followed an unmarked path towards the river, this ended up at the only likely place with a large cut big enough to take the Beagle. Unfortunately it isn't interesting enough to make a walk of it but I'm glad that maybe I stood near the last resting place of the 'BEAGLE'.



Meet a Member.

Club Member and Boat.

Ian Leonard. Hunter Delta 25 'Lucette'

What's your profession?

Retired Electronic Engineer.

When did you start sailing?

2012 after Marcus Ingram spent six weeks living with us and talked a lot about sailing, so thought I would give it a go.

How long have you been a member of URYC?

It will be 7 years this year.

Biggest achievement on the water?

Progressing from a solo sailing Dinghy to a 20 foot cruiser. Quite an achievement for an old geezer.

Most embarrassing moment on the water?

When I and two un-named colleagues went aground for 12 hours and I was on the helm. Oops. We were a bit disappointed when the river police wouldn't bring us fish and chips!

Why does URYC appeal to you?

It has given me a reason to get up in the morning and I have made many very good friends and enjoy all the challenges that go with belonging to a sailing club.

What do you see yourself doing in 2019?

Having just purchased a Hunter Delta 25 which is currently moored on the Norfolk Broads, I am looking forward to sailing her home to Hullbridge and refitting her and hopefully taking her on the Club cruises.

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.

Cruiser Class Captains Words. by Graham Lazell.



As the winter nights are gradually drawing out our thoughts are turned to what lies ahead for the coming season. I for one have plenty to look forward to as after nearly seventeen years of ownership we are selling Dreamcatcher, having just completed on the purchase of a Moody 42. With lots of family memories and adventures aboard Dreamcatcher it will be sad to say goodbye, she really feels like one of the family. Here's hoping the new boat looks after us as well as Dreamcatcher has. Things have already got underway in 2019 in the form of the navigation classes being held at the club, as I write this we have had our first of 6 sessions.

A good mixture of experienced and new members plus several dinghy sailors are making up the 20 for the class of 2019. If you

were unfortunate to miss out on this course speak to Ian Dawson who organised this one as demand may lead to another course being planned in.

Looking further ahead we have the new launch and recovery winch being installed in time for the start of launching, it is currently on passage from China to Felixstowe due to arrive early February. A huge thanks should go to all those that have already installed the electric supply cabling and the concrete base ready for the winch to be dropped on.

Once afloat we have the usual variety of rallies and cruises planned throughout the season, see club booklet or website for details. We have a bit of a twist on this year's Summer Cruise as we are spending the whole week on the River Blackwater. This river is an excellent cruising ground being wide with numerous places such as Brightlingsea, Bradwell, West Mersea, Osea Island, Tollesbry, Heybridge and Maldon to moor or anchor overnight. The rationale behind this is that we have several new cruiser members and also a few existing members that do not venture out of the river, so we are having a week of back to basics short day sails to enable these members to enjoy a week away on their boat. This will also allow those on the navigation classes to put into practice the theory they are learning.

For those more adventurous amongst you we have the week long cruise to Holland the end of May, if you haven't done it before why not come along in the knowledge there will be safety in numbers.

I will be soon putting details of all the rallies and cruises on the board so if you wish to go along please put your name on the lists asap as numbers and visitor berth's can be sometimes limited.

If there are any dinghy sailors that would like to crew on the cruiser rallies please let it be known, perhaps we could put a list on the club notice board and create a group on WhatsApp. Those that have already come along have always had a great time.

Let's hope the Beast from the east does not pay us another visit this year and we can all get stuck into fitting out ready for the start of the season.

Graham.





Bradwell Cruise 2019.

As a relatively newby to cruising I have always had a fantastic time. So with enough brownie points scored and my pass stamped I was all set and eager to go. That was until work decided to have a team meeting and a drink as someone was leaving. Humm... never mind I thought, I will go to the meeting and have a quick drink as I never really liked the fella and catch a train to Fambridge and Penny could pick me up on route, rather than leaving from Hullbridge as intended.

Friday came, I had dropped off my sailing gear and sleeping bag on 'Wizard' Thursday night which saved me carrying it halfway around London. Had a productive meeting in case you were wondering, got changed and headed to the pub. As it turned out the chap who was leaving left and never showed up and I want to have this on record that I did fully intend on having A drink, maybe two, but I got the dreaded flavour. Several pints in and a couple of texts from my skipper worded with an element of panic saying it's very windy and she was worried about coming into berth at Burnham and where the heck are you? It may of been because of the beer but I had full confidence she would be fine as Michael was with her! As it turned out he wasn't either due to a prior engagement for a work meal.

Eventually after awful train journey and an even worse bowl of Chinese food at the train station I made it to Burnham Marina still feeling pretty oiled. I found the URYC lot and spent a very pleasant evening on Tims new boat, eating cheese and drinking whatever we were drinking and hearing about how Penny made berthing look so easy on her own in a near on gale. As the night ticked on people came and people went and Micheal at last turned up. Gerry who I think was acting as cruise leader (I think it because he's the eldest? I don't know why?) said we're leaving early in the morning to get the tides right. I didn't care all I was interested in was the cheese and biscuits.



Saturday, after getting to bed at some unearthly hour I was awoken to the sound of voices and what sounded like an army of footsteps marching up and down the pontoon. I peeled my hungover head off the pillow fumbled around for my phone to find the time, it had gone 0800 but I wasn't worried as Gerry wouldn't leave us, I got up in search of tea and went into the saloon, Micheal was up and parading around in his pants trying to get dressed (they say sailing is glamorous). I made the tea and awoke our skipper and went off in search of a hot shower. I find sailing an odd pastime and some of the people who participate in it even odder. I was quite happily having a belting hot shower which was working wonders in clearing my hangover when a voice started up a conversation from a couple of cubicles down. I was in a dilemma, I didn't know how to react? Should I ignore this person or be polite and respond back with answers along the lines of 'yes it was windy yesterday' and 'we're from Up

River YC, it's up the river', I chose the latter and hoped it would pacify him. I couldn't be more wrong, and before I knew it I had heard his life story and all about how his yacht was flattened by a container. I was trapped, almost naked and desperately trying to get a sock onto my wet foot whilst this stranger stood there yapping away as if it was completely normal to be towelling oneself down whilst a stranger is frantically getting dressed. I saw a URYC member over his shoulder grinning but soon realised he was not willing to save me as he made their swift exit from the situation. I have not forgotten Mike Jacker. Finally ready and a sock on upside down and a t-shirt on inside out I wished my new best friend well and walked down the pontoon to see Gerry and the others motoring out of the marina. They had left us.

Sailing around to Bradwell we motored through the moorings



at Burnham and Penny put on the radio with the only CD I think she has (Jersey Boys) and then cooked us all bacon and eggs rolls. The sun was out and the wind building, we had bacon rolls and was sailing, this is what it's all about! life was good. We sailed out towards the Swin Spitway, As we approached we decided to celebrate our efforts with what can only be described as the worlds worst cup-a-soup. Anyhow we gybed around the mark, I tipped my soup over the side and decided to pop the cruising shoot up, or so we thought. Now as a crew we have history of spinnakers, and they won't mind me saying it doesn't always go to plan. In fact it never goes to plan. We can laugh about this now but at the time in a different cruise Michael for reasons only known to him had hold of both sheets whilst we were have a little frantic moment with a jammed halyard and he wouldn't let go, How he wasn't lifted off the deck completely I'll never know. But today it was going better and we were trucking along, that was until the cruising shoot became jammed and I trod on Micheal's little finger. Despite this and being hit by a squall out of nowhere which knotted up the kite more we made it in one piece to Bradwell, well except for an achy finger and a kite in more of a knot than my Christmas lights come every early December. And after everyone had observed Penny complete another textbook berthing manoeuvre, we toasted our relatively successful passage with a cold Lager.



We had a brilliant afternoon spent socialising on the yachts, many bottles of wine were drunk and the empty's left on Tim's ship. I also had a good look around Mike and Yvonne's superb yacht which below is more like an apartment than a yacht, it is lovely. We also found time and room to unknot the cruising shoot which was no easy feat on a pontoon on a breezy afternoon. In the evening we all went for dinner in the Marina and still to this day I cannot understand how it happened but Alan Parker ate my pie and I was left waiting for what seemed eternity for my tea. He was not sorry one bit. To be honest I cannot remember anything else from that night but i hazard a guess it must of been good evening.



Sunday dawned and we had more bacon rolls and a pleasant morning going for a walk. The tide was flooding and Gerry elected us to be pathfinder out of Bradwell, if you don't know Bradwell it's very shallow and you have a limited time to get in and out with each tide, the deeper channel isn't where you expect. For some reason unbeknown to anyone, someone told me the deep channel was and I was to relay this important information to our skipper, I promptly forgot. Anyhow despite a nervous look on Penny's face and with sometimes less than a metre beneath us we made it out ok. Jersey Boys went back on and we motor-sailed upto the Ray sands due to the lack of wind and wind direction. Eventually the wind freshened and we all had a cracking sail, but being the smallest boat it wasn't long before the we were overhauled by the others. Sailing into the Crouch it never ceases to amaze me how remote this part of the world is and how easy it could be to miss the entrance (ahem Eric and Ian). We sailed into a rainstorm, dropped Micheal off at Burnham to collect his car and motored back to Hullbridge in the sideways rain and finished off the last of the wine whilst listening to the same blinking CD.



If you haven't been on a club cruise, go and do one. And despite us being left by Gerry, we really wouldn't leave anyone out and we all keep a close eye on each other throughout the passage. So

if your apprehensive on leaving the Crouch in your yacht? there really isn't any need to be as there is plenty of experienced fellow club members around. It's always a highlight of my year.

Went went, We sailed, We came back drunk. Marcus.

Project winch.

Now just in case you've had your head in the sand on been away on an extended holiday you should of seen some pretty big changes at the club. The winch is a big project and has been a long time in the planning. Since the turn of the year the volunteers have Dug out a trench for a new power cable and after a misplaced fork also renewed the water pipe and ran an additional tap for the lower field. We've dug out and layed a

concrete base for the main winch and also the capstan winch, we've even concreted an additional area just in front of the boat shed. The capstan winch has been fitted to the base and within the next few weeks we should hopefully have the main winch on site and ready to fit.

Much thanks should go to all the helpers who have worked extremely hard in facilitating this project, both winches are going to be a great addition to our club.



Killing Time Watching Sailing Videos....

As you know sailing is a fantastic and interesting pastime, I often get asked by colleagues and friends what's it like? How do you get into it? and questions for example "why don't you sail in a straight line?" Being the person I am, I try to explain the theory but inevitably you see them thinking "Why on earth did I ask him this" and the life draining out from their eyes before you. I since found showing them a YouTube video helps but the majority of these make the sport look slow and sedate where in reality it can be anything but. Occasionally You find a good one that captures your interest and makes our sport look exciting and fun.

I do a lot of call cover at work, And that means sometimes I have time to kill and there's only so much Sudoku or Candy Crush this man can stomach. So often I find myself watching the odd YouTube video, recently I found a channel on YouTube called **"The Sailing Frenchman"** which you guessed it, is about a chap sailing who's french. What interested me about his videos is that Hugo bought his boat an Ecumenical De Mer 26, for only 1 bottle of beer. Hugo then documents (in English) himself and his father and friends repairing, modifying and then sailing it around the Med in preparation for his big voyage on crossing the Atlantic. The filming, editing and presentation of the short films are authentic and you can see it's been made by someone like us all that are into our quirky hobby. There is an excellent film of him being followed by pilot whales.

If you are ever fed up with the rubbish the other half is watching or had enough of funny cat videos check him out. Link below.



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjbnS2PJDbVxyF0foCil6oQ>

One other I found a few years ago was a couple sailing across the North Sea from Shetland to Norway on a Hunter 19 (must be mad), the video and the music had me gripped watching their adventure, I remember telling David Dean about it a few years ago and sending him the link to the video and he had the same opinion as me. Link below.

<https://youtu.be/aqW4h7tmZ5c>

Worrying thing for me is these are both Yacht videos that don't include racing! Marcus.

Border Force Presentation.

Project Kraken



Club Members are invited to a presentation by the Border Force, plus a chance to meet our local Coastguard Team.

The **Border Force Team** will deliver their presentation and will also remain afterwards to talk to members of the audience. Plus, as an extra bonus, members of the **Local Coastguard** are also coming along and they will also be available should you like to chat with them.

The presentation will start at 8.00pm on Friday 22 March. As usual the bar will be open. Plus,

there will be nibbles on each of the tables for all to enjoy. Aim to arrive at 7.30pm to get a good seat.

Please confirm you would like to attend – please email info@upriver.org.uk and simply say 'Border Force Your name + number of others/guests' (in your party). We can then ensure priority for our members. An invitation will then go out nearer the time to local clubs so their members may attend.

Thanks

Dennis

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/>