



Watermouth Yacht Club

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ

51° 13' N 004° 05' W

AHOY

Newsletter November 2016

Commodore's Column

Now the boating and yachting season is drawing to a close, the weather is far better than the majority of the summer and according to my records is one of the driest Octobers for a very long time.

I would like to say a few words about the sad loss of Alistair who passed away on Thursday the 20th of October after many long battles with his health. What a wonderful character he was, always putting on a smile even though he was suffering. Please read the Club tribute to him at the end of this article.

The BBQ on the 10th September which was the last this season, and the busiest, included a farewell to Andrew and Rika with their yacht "Brillig". She has had a refit over the last few years and it was a chance for club members to see all the hard work which they had put into her. She is now on the start of her travels and I would like to wish them a safe and enjoyable voyage. Unfortunately Sue and I were on holiday so missed out on all of this.

Moving on to the Dinner Dance at the Golf Club I think this was a first class evening with an excellent meal followed by music from "Troy" who played appropriate music for our age group! He also played several requests and I thought that he was very good. Sue and I enjoyed the evening very much and it was nice to see you all, thank you for helping to make it a successful event.

Sue and I would like to wish you all a good winter, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

THINK SAFETY – DO YOU HAVE A GAS SUPPLY ON BOARD? Please make sure this is tested and always keep an eye on the flexible hose from the cylinder to the regulator.

Are the fire extinguishers you carry the correct type and are they serviced and up to date?

Are the flares you carry the correct type for the area you sail in and are they in date?

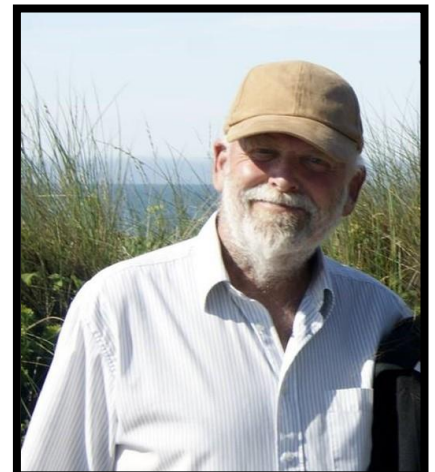
Are your life jackets serviceable?

Simon Kemp

It is with great sadness we hear of the death of Alistair Bell. Battling illness for many years with astonishing strength and fortitude, it has been only in the last few months that he has been unable to actively pursue sailing on his boat Anastasia.

Alistair's love of sailing and his ability meant that he was usually out on Anastasia (single handed) whilst the rest of us were making excuses why we shouldn't go. Annually he would 'shoot off' to the Isles of Scilly, Ireland, Milford Haven and more. Upon arrival he would rest up and then turn around and come back. His keenness to offer help, not just nautical, whenever and wherever, but never intrusive, was always keenly accepted.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Dee and all of Alistair's children and grandchildren of whom he was so proud.



Membership

Welcome to new members Mike Hall with his boat "Beats Worken" a Falcon 26 and to Jon Robinson who has recently purchased "Western Bird" an Ocean Bird Mk2.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and good sailing in 2017."

Carol Gell

Club Maintenance

What happened to our summer? It was not the best on record but I already know it is the best crop of falling leaves for many years so I have been kept busy clearing them from the gutters and paths.

I hope you noticed the plaque on "The Dave West Seat" which I thought looked very good and now makes a lasting tribute.

Tony Puddle has kindly donated a fibre glass step for the Gents shower which I will fit during the winter, we hope this will help to contain the water. Many thanks, Tony. The extractor fan seems to have failed in the Gents toilet which I will deal with over the winter,

I have noticed since returning from holiday that the flower tubs have been replanted by Les Oldham, these always make a lovely show. Thank you, Les.

All for now,

Simon Kemp

Treasurer's Report

With the Dinner & Dance signalling the end of the Club's 2016 social calendar, its closely related financial calendar is also drawing to a close. I am very pleased to say that the repeated success of the former has made the Club's ongoing financial recovery a reality.

This year's financial outcome is likely to be broadly in line with the underlying trend of the last few years. In the current climate, I think that can be regarded as positive and certainly a tribute to the hard working members who have made this possible.

Headline figures at the time of writing are as follows:

Income

Bar	£ 1483.20
Social	£ 1794.95
Membership subscriptions (inc mooring premium)	£ 4266.00

Expenditure

Sailing & RYA subscriptions	£ 169.00
Club mooring fees	£ 720.00
Insurance	£ 1065.25
Maintenance	£ 711.39
Gas, electricity and water	£ 416.24

Cash at bank £15331.01

There is a little time before final reconciliation for 2016 is possible and figures audited for presentation at the 2017 Annual General Meeting. However, in the meantime should anyone require further details, please let me know either in person or via the Club email account: watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com

With best wishes to all members and their families for the festive season.

Steve Barron

The Confessional

Where forgiveness comes for free if you tell us your sins

Well, it would if anyone ever 'sinned'

Come on, someone must have had a bit of mishap this year that you would like to share

Email (in secret) to watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com

Bit of local History

I found this story in the Maritime Museum at Appledore recently - it is well worth a visit if you haven't been.

*Heddon's Mouth is a small, dangerous anchorage on the wild, rocky coast of North Devon.
A narrow track leads inland through a lonely valley overhung by menacing cliffs.*

In April 1801, the sloop Hope of Ilfracombe put in at Heddon's Mouth and her crew of smugglers landed 96 ankers, (small barrels), of spirits on the beach.

*The Hope continued her journey westward to land the rest of her cargo at Watermouth.
Creeping in close to the cliffs to avoid being seen, she struck a submerged rock and sank.
All those aboard were drowned.*

Meanwhile the customs men had been alerted and three revenue officers arrived at Heddon's Mouth and seized the 154 gallons of Brandy and 209 gallons of Gin left by the smugglers.

Smugglers ran great risks but their successful landings are not, of course, recorded. Details of seizures of smugglers appear in Customs letter books and reports.

Caption Competition No 9



Please send captions to watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com

Answers to Caption Competition No 8



- Mike Jarvis Do I buy a box of matches or risk getting my lighter back whilst it's running!
- Rachel Pierce What is that terrible smell
- Alan Bosely The bloke who sold it to me said he was certain it would get my boat to Australia!
- Richard Hildred This would make a great Beach Ball if I could only get the bloody wheels off it.....
- John Culley He told the committee he would look into it
- Steve Barron Oh b****r, that's where I left Moira's birthday card!
- Julia Field Keith was wondering if he could get the old washing machine working for Moira.
- Philip Langford That's two lbs of sugar in - now how many raisins do I need?
- William Strawbridge And I'm not letting you out, Geof, until you stop using me for the caption competition!
- Simon Kemp Moira, It's just what I've been looking for!"

The winner, picked by Jane Richards, is William Strawbridge - well done Will, I particularly like your caption as I feel a bit guilty for keep using Keith.

New Boats

Chancy

Our boat, Chancy, is a Pandora 700, that is 7 metres in length or 23 ft, circa 1980.

We brought her down from Windermere on her own trailer having bought her from a friend of a friend. I have painted the hull for marine sailing and we hope to have the boat in the water shortly, courtesy of Keith and the crane, when we plan to tidy her up further.

I hope to become a competent sailor, in order to give my grandchildren some fun trips in the future from Watermouth Bay.

Nick LeDieu

Wisper

Robert Johnson has acquired this beauty which will grace Watermouth at the end of the year to replace his Cornish Crabber Tir an Og which was a long-time 'resident' at Watermouth with Robert and previous owners.



She is a 29ft Tyrell & Young Smack Yacht GRP Gaff Cutter, a heavy long keeled displacement hull, weighing approx. 6 tons and very traditional in styling and rig.

Alarming Discovery at Watermouth !

What appeared to be human bones were discovered recently in Watermouth Harbour by our dog Bindi. They were examined by all, (no names), and when Keith called the police it turned into a real who done it. We watched from our boat as there were at least 3 police vehicles and 6 or 7 officers; the harbour was taped off and the police examined the remains with great care. Meanwhile, quite a lot of caravanners gathered along the fence watching with great interest. Eventually, after moving Keith's digger that had been parked over the 'body', the police picked up the remains in a large plastic bag, cleared away the tapes etc and disappeared.



Excitement over, we still didn't know the truth, until it was revealed by a local that he had lost one half of his skeleton companion and the top half was sitting in his truck, in the front seat!

A really funny end to what could have been so different.

They were very life-like and fooled everyone, even the dog.

Keith & Catherine Andrews

Jeldi Jeldi & Chaser anchored off Clovelly on a glorious Sunday in October

Hardly any wind until we got to Baggy Point, then enough for a very pleasant sail across the bay to Clovelly. No wind at all to come back but even motoring, it was one of those days when it just felt so good to be on the water. A superb last outing of the season.



Mike Jarvis

Mike sent me this pic of him completing the New Forest Bike Ride in September, his comments were

“Completed the New Forest bike ride last weekend, 54 miles.....photo taken 100 yards from the finish....riding my vintage Claud Butler - none of yer carbon fibre nonsense !”

Given that Mike can probably give all of us a few years, (no offence Mike), I think that is a remarkable achievement and a lesson to us all.

For Sale or Wanted

I wondered if the Ahoy might be a good place for members to offer or request any boating bits & pieces, or anything else for that matter. Please email watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com if you have anything



Brillig

Most of us have come to know Andrew Shortland & Rika over the past 5 years while they have been refurbishing their 31' steel yacht Brillig.

They relaunched in October and set sail to Falmouth to have the compass 'swung' by a professional, as Andrew navigates by sextant, charts & compass rather than modern electronics.

Their plan, at the moment, is to winter somewhere up a Spanish river before another transatlantic crossing to Brazil and the East coast of South America.

After that, who knows, although Andrew did suggest they might sail on to Japan.

We wish them well and hopefully they will keep in touch and let us know how they are doing.

There is more info on his website <http://www.andrewshortlandartist.co.uk/section497965.html>

Brillig nearing the end of the refurbishment



Andrew & Rika, before leaving



Compass being 'swung' in Falmouth



At Isle D'Ouensett waiting weather window to cross Biscay



Dear Brillig's new friends, Hello from Camaret, Brittany, France!

I would like to tell you how the passage was so far.

On Friday 7th, after Rika got Zodiac dinghy fetched from Rosemary to Watermouth, we launched Brillig straight away. As the tide was neap, the Harbour Master put her further out in the harbour, in the stream. She was fine but we didn't think that we can stand up again in next tide; we leave tonight when Brillig is afloat – the decision was made.

It was after 9:15 pm in the dark, Brillig started floating and Andrew started the engine. He had to recover the legs on the deck, the kedge anchor pulled, the incoming tide pushed back to the land, the wind pushed us to the entrance so she swung gently. The wall of rocks on port (right hand side), shallow sand on starboard (left hand side), it was tricky to manoeuvre. Well, we managed to motor out to the entrance slowly in the dark, hitting nothing.

We motored north avoiding shallow race then put the main up. But the engine was overheated; we stopped it. Not enough cooling water, there had to be a blockage somewhere. Now we checked the hikers GPS, bought from yacht club's member. Andrew saw Hartland point ahead, Lundy Island on North and Baggy point behind. But the GPS put our position at North of the Lundy island! We couldn't trust it – later on we learned that we had to change NWME for sailing mode. Compass was doing the job but the number can't be correct, the engine can't be used, Andrew's headache was bigger than his big head in the night around 10:30 pm. Luckily the Easterly wind blew us to West, this was familiar area for Andrew, we were going to eye-ball navigation towards Falmouth.

Saturday morning, the wind eased down, we had poor progress because it was so calm that Andrew decided to check the blockage of the engine. Late morning the Easterly breeze came, sea was calm it was gorgeous downwind sailing in the Bristol Channel. If this condition continued, we would arrive at the USA within about 5 – 6 weeks but we don't do that, I hadn't bought enough toilet papers! Rika wasn't sick! She managed to cook a meal for the night. Another hard night came; we were down to The Runnel Stone, Andrew changed the rig to southerly direction. Here is a busy area with fishing boats, ships, shallows and light houses. Ships go outside but some comes to inshore lane; 1 ship came towards Brillig straight and changed his course back to where he should go. Andrew and I took turns to night watch; we didn't sleep for 2 nights, we were getting very tired. When we were going to round the Runnel Stone, Andrew wanted to sleep for a while about 12:30 am but the its light changed the colour from red to white within 20 minutes, he didn't have time to rest, keeping awake to change the direction to the Falmouth anytime now. Early hour of Sunday morning, when we were motor-sailing to go east, Andrew got a chance to rest, I was helming. Day arrived with the Lizard Point ahead of us, Andrew recovered and woke up. The engine was fine, no overheated, no GPS no compass, the mast was a bit loose, making noise, toilet was a bit leaking, needing to tighten up – all needed a fine tuning. This was the shake down!

On sunny Sunday lunch time, we came to Falmouth Harbour, picked up a green mooring from RCYC, toasted our successful journey with Vodka and had a good nap. We don't know how many miles we travelled but safe and sound, well done Brillig, Andrew and Rika.

In Falmouth, we had meet 2 gentlemen; Martin who received our new GPS and Mr. Hopton the Compass adjustor. When we anchored in Falmouth Harbour, the Harbour master charged us for £12.00/night! 2 years ago, Falmouth Harbour Commissioners changed rule; the shipping reduced they don't have enough income to pay Pilots pensions so they started to charge for visitors as well as local peoples' moorings. It wasn't comfortable to stay. 10 days later, a 3 days good weather was forecasted, we could to go to Brittany, although not enough days to cross the Biscay, so we left the UK! Hooray!!

Very nice passage; downwind with calm sea, Brillig was making 6 knots. Again Rika didn't get sick, managed to cook a meal at night. We stopped at Isle D'Ouessant for a good night sleep. This was such a bleak place but nice interesting view! There was a bigger British yacht at the calm area. On Friday morning, the family came and said hello to us. They were invited by Nick Skeats who is going to be 70 in December at Ria Guadiana in Portugal, as same as us. Listening to them, information of last winter in Rio Guadiana, all stories are so familiar; we were surprised to slip back into the different world so smoothly.

On Friday 21st October, we left Isle D'Ouessant to Camaret, here we shelter from a storm. Brillig moored inner harbour of Camaret, we stayed on board for all day Sunday, cosy, warm and safe. Here, the harbour master came and told us, free shower block, free rubbish and free Wifi with password, very welcoming! We are clean, well and safe. Tomorrow we leave here to cross the Bay of Biscay, keep going south.

Look forward to hearing from you, please let us know if our news bored or upset you. Otherwise you will get our annual news every Christmas-New year time.

*Best wishes,
Andrew and Rika on Brillig in Camaret*