



# Watermouth Yacht Club

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ

51° 13' N 004° 05' W

# AHOY

## Newsletter July 2017

### *Vice Commodore's Column*

Most craft have been launched since the last Ahoy and there is a lot more activity at the harbour now. Robert seems to have taken up residence outside the clubhouse, working every day on Wisper, (which is starting to look fantastic). The fishermen have been going out for many weeks and Colin has reported some significant catches, so all seems well at Watermouth.

As most members will know, our Commodore's wife Sue tragically and unexpectedly passed away in May. As Vice Commodore, I am stepping into Simon's shoes at this very difficult time. Sue was one of the most active club and committee members, always helping at the Sunday lunches and bar-b-ques as well as keeping the club in a pristine condition - in case you didn't know, Sue spent every Thursday cleaning the club - nothing was too much trouble for her.

Simon wanted to share Sue's Eulogy for those of us who were not able to attend the Memorial Service; it gives a lovely insight to their life together.

*Geof Pierce*

### *Susan Carina Kemp, 29th July 1955 - 8th May 2017*

Sue's parents, Bill and Joan, were married in 1948. Bill worked for the Foreign Office DWS (Diplomatic Wireless Service) and went straight to Trieste, their first posting abroad. In 1949 Patricia was born. In 1955 while working in Jordan Sue arrived, as time went on Pat decided to go to boarding school but Sue wanted to travel to the various postings with her Mum and Dad. These included Vietnam, (during the conflict) India, Singapore, Germany, Swaziland and Poland.



Bill spent the last few years working for the Foreign Office from their home in Bletchley before retiring. Sue lived with her parents and had a job with the Social services in Bletchley, her sister Trish was already married and living in Australia. So, in 1980 Bill and Joan decided to move to Berrynarbor as they had relatives in the area and Sue managed to move to DHSS office in Barnstaple.

Sue and I married in St. Peter's Church on 6th May 1988 and set up home in Sterridge Valley. One of Sue's delights was arriving at the Church by Fire Engine. I had an interest in Old Fire Engines and this was the one I owned.

We soon settled down to a very happy married life, she continued to work for the DHSS until July 1990 when she gave in her notice so she could join myself, Ian and Kate, (my brother and sister in-law) running the Caravan Park in Sterridge Valley.

At home Sue loved her garden and we both spent many happy hours working to keep everything looking good. In 1998 the Caravan Park was sold and in 2000 we purchased a boat called "Sorry Shark" this was kept at Watermouth Harbour where we also joined the Yacht Club. We spent many happy hours going to various places in the Bristol Channel but our favourite was Lundy Island.

Sue enjoyed supporting the Yacht Club and helping out with various events.



Sue and I managed to have some fantastic holidays. We were frequent visitors to the Isles of Scilly. Our first big holiday was to New Zealand via Singapore where Sue showed me the places she knew so well while she was there with her parents.

The next holiday was to cruise from Valparaiso in Chile visiting many places before rounding Cape Horn and the Falkland Isles, from there we visited ports in Argentina, Uruguay before flying home from Buenos Aires.

Our next holiday was to Cape Town where we boarded The RMS Saint Helena, bound for the island of Saint Helena before going on to Ascension Isle. Sue and I really fell in love with this Island, Sue said "it was like nothing she had experienced before".

Not long after this, a rare opportunity came up to visit Tristan da Cunha, the most isolated inhabited island in the world, again this was on board The RMS Saint Helena so we returned to Cape Town to board ship for Tristan da Cunha and then on to Saint Helena for a second visit.

More recently we have enjoyed two boating holidays on the Caledonian Canal and several trips to the Yorkshire Dales. One new experience for us was to hire a narrow boat to travel the Llangollen Canal.

Sue loved her garden and also loved to feed and care for the wild birds; she was always cleaning the feeders and washing out the water bowls to prevent infections so it is very befitting that her garden was the last place she would know.

Sue was a regular attendant at St Peter's Church. She was a side's person at the church cleaning rota and helped out at activities such as church fetes and so on. George our vicar told me he believed that

Sue's faith was important to her, she served the Lord in many ways, not just in church but outside in the community. She was someone who was always willing to help anybody and will be sadly missed by all of us.

I would like to say "She was the very best wife I could imagine and her absence will leave a large hole in my life and I will miss her tremendously"

*Simon*

### ***To All at Watermouth Yacht club***

I would like to thank you all very much for your cards and messages of sympathy after the sudden passing of my darling Sue. I have had such tremendous support at this difficult time, it has certainly helped me to cope with the situation. Sue enjoyed her times at Watermouth and I will have thoughts of these in the future. It is my intention to try to visit and support the club as much as possible but I do foresee a massive amount of sorting out needs to be dealt with during the coming months.

Thank you once again.

*Simon*

### ***Membership***

Welcome to Wasyl (Baz) and Anne Wirstiuk who at the moment do not own a boat, perhaps in the future they may. Also Christopher Jones with his boat "Nampara" which is a Hunter Legend 36.

We look forward to seeing you in the club and around the harbour.

*Carol Gell*

### ***Social Events***



**Bar-B-Ques**

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> August**

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

The first Saturday in the month – we will be there whatever the weather!



**Quiz Night**

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> August**



**Pool Competition**

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> September**



**Annual Dinner/Dance Sat 28<sup>th</sup> October**

Please call Moira for any info. Tel 01271 865001(answer phone)

Mob 07870 229886

Email [watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com](mailto:watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com)

## **Club Maintenance**

I'm doing the mundane but necessary stuff that Simon did without any of us being aware.

I now know how to do the monthly electrical safety checks and fire alarm tests that we are obliged to do and keep records - mind you, not without setting off alarms on occasions.

I'm going to do a more thorough inspection of exterior of the club in the next week as I there is rot in one of the fascia boards so we will have a discussion at committee as to what we need to do. Also, the club is badly in need of painting – at some point I'm going to ask for a few volunteers, I'm sure three or four of us could paint the whole exterior in just a few hours.

Anyone willing to volunteer, please let me know.

## **WYC Committee**

On the subject of volunteers, there is a vacancy on the Committee if anyone is interested. It would be really helpful to have a new face and some new ideas. It really isn't very time consuming, just 4 or 5 meetings a year and a chance for you to share your ideas for the club.

**Geof Pierce**

## **Treasurer's Report**

All quiet on the financial front is probably a fair description of the Club's current position.

In the last *Ahoy* I reported that exceptional maintenance and repair costs had been incurred early in the year. I am this time around, very pleased to say that the run of bad luck has come to an end and I am able to return to routine plans for this year and the year ahead.

Headline figures are shown below and I am grateful in particular to all those who have helped and enjoyed the social events; the results being clearly visible in the increased balance now of over £1,400.

<b>Income</b>	Subscriptions (inc club mooring premium)	£ 3,970.00
	Social	£ 1,405.61
	Bar	£ 483.96
<b>Expenditure</b>	Insurance	£ 1,070.00
	Maintenance	£ 1,286.91
	Club Moorings	£ 690.00
	Sailing and RYA Subs	£ 175.00
	Cleaning	£ 126.70
	Utilities	£ 251.72
<b>Cash at bank</b>		£17,792.05

The season is still young and I hope that all members and their families can make the very best of their time on the water this year.

**Steve Barron**

## **Club Cruises**

Well, we finally had a sort of Club Cruise on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July in that 3 boats went out, albeit not to the same place! Mike Corner on 'Jeldi Jedi' & Mike Jarvis on 'Cello' had a day sail to Lundy whilst Geof & Simon on 'Chaser' went to Swansea for an overnight stop in Swansea Marina.

I don't recollect WYC having a 'Club Cruise' for many years so I'm pleased that three boats went out this time. It was my first time to Swansea so it was a novelty to have to do tidal calculations for the trip, (not very good on the way over but much better coming back) and I was quite surprised by all that Swansea Marina had to offer and even more impressed by our meal in Swansea Yacht Club.

Maybe there could be more boats on the two remaining cruises scheduled this year?

Sat 26 Aug HW 0948 8.7M and Sat 9 Sep HW 0842 9.3M



## **WYC Dinghy Rack**

The WYC dinghy rack beside the clubhouse has a lot of dinghies and canoes that have not been used for years and the main entrance to the club is now an eyesore because some of the dinghies/canoes are in a very dilapidated state and doubtful if they are even seaworthy.

The transom of the yellow 'Mirror' dinghy has completely rotted away so it will never float again!



WYC want to revive this rack and move it towards the path to the clubhouse so more members can use it.

WYC are asking owners to identify their dinghy/canoe and remove those that are not in use or fit for purpose by the end of September 2017.

As per WH Ltd, all dinghies must be identified with the owners name or their boat name, so, if you intend to keep your dinghy/canoe in this rack, please ensure it is marked with your name or boat name by the end of September 2017.

**Any dinghies/canoes that have not been identified or removed by end September 2017 will be either sold for the benefit of WYC funds or disposed of, as WYC see fit.**

WYC appreciate member's cooperation to help us make this a useful facility for club members.

## **Club Funds Boost**

Sometime back Moira acquired a cruising chute and snuffer for a 35' yacht, which we advertised in a previous Ahoy in case it would be of use to a club member. No one was interested so we found a very useful (and active) Facebook site called 'Yachts & Yachty Bits for Sale'

Moira advertised it and had an immediate response, selling it for £275 the same day, nice one Moira! If anyone is interested in buying or selling any boaty bits, search on line for 'Yachts & Yachty Bits for Sale'.

## Caption Competition No 11

There's been a fantastic response to this one but I can't think why Dave Gough gets a couple of mentions 😊



*Will endeavours to show us his power boat skills, (Level 2)*

Will Strawbridge

*Dave Gough's been at it again*

Colin Goodyear

*Uncomfortably reminiscent of Zenquest on Watermouth breakwater*

Dave Allen

*It proves GPS waypoints are extremely accurate when entered correctly*

Simon Kemp

*Dave Gough narrows down choice for new boat*

Steve Baron

*What did you say the tidal range was?*

Moira Alsford

*NOBODY moves until she floats!*

Moira Alsford

*It's a bit late dropping the anchor now!*

Moira Alsford

*When I said I wanted it on the rocks, I meant the Scotch!*

Graham Farmer

*When we called it "SOUTHERN COMFORT" I didn't think we'd have it on the rocks!*

Graham Farmer

*But darling, you said you wanted a Martini on the rocks*

Rod Lindenbaum

*Bloody good job we weren't a fin keeler*

John Culley

*On the bright side, the new plotter is brilliant, your waypoint was absolutely bang on*

John Culley

*Should have gone to Specsavers*

Dave Endacott

*Now I'll have to lengthen his moorings*

Keith Alsford

*Hey Dad - Are we what sailors call 'High and Dry' ?*

Philip Langford

*So that's why they call this Perch Rock*

Tony Carpenter

*Scotch on the rocks please*

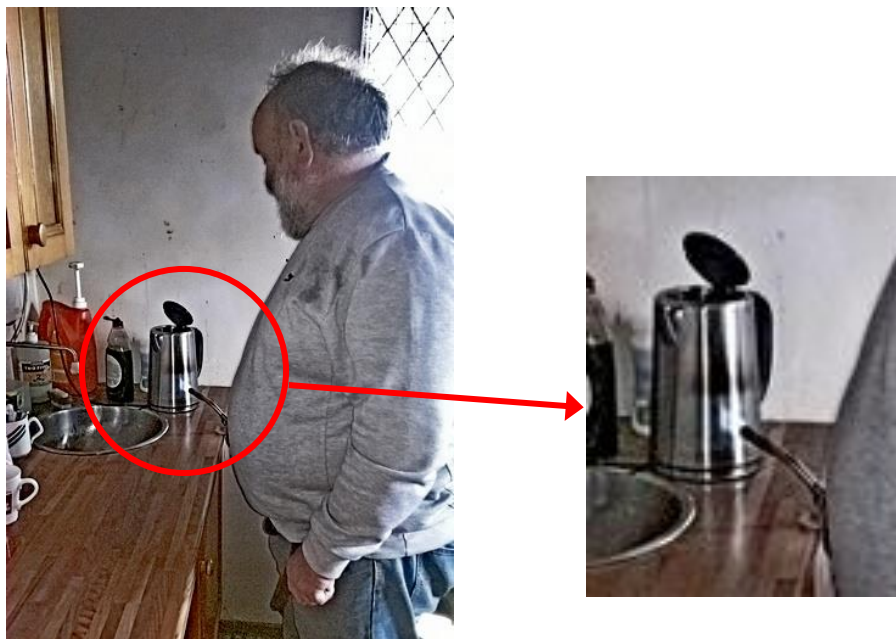
Keith & Catherine Andrews

Carole Meredith picked her favourite and the winner this time is Graham Farmer with

*When I said I wanted it on the rocks, I meant the Scotch!*

## *Caption Competition No 12*

*Keith won't let a power cut stop him making a brew*



## **Brillig's Update – 800 NM Atlantic passage**

**Depart Guadiana** Soon after my birthday, we left anchorages on the Rio Guadiana. We came to a long-term familiar spot 'Alvor' (was a small fishing village with a lagoon now is a tourists destination packed with concrete accommodations, restaurants and bars) - used to be a good wintering and standing by spot for departure, we've known for 20 years. Here, I learned how to row, Annie and Pete Hill on Badger lend me her book of pressure cooking and all wintering yachts shared life. It was special winter in 1997. However, this visit wasn't pleasant; there are many empty moorings, large yachts and catamarans occupying much space and moored yachts claiming their spots.

**Departure to the Azores** 1st June we left with Azores High, Northerly flow all the way. Having passed Cape St. Vincent, NWesterly increased, sea was lively and wind was howling. Andrew rigged 3 reefed main with Spitfire Jib for close reach. Decks were continuously wet by 2 metres sharp edged wind driven swells, crests were like horizontal machinegun hailstones. One odd swell dropped Brillig hard on the water; this motion also dropped my vegetable basket set under the spray hood to the cabin sole, approx. 2 meters down. The basket was heavy with vegetables and fruits, sitting on a non-slip mat. Losing fresh supplies at the start of a passage could be fatal, in the future, I will secure it.



Meanwhile Brillig was fighting back; mountain climbing up and down through swells, leaned over by being knocked and hit by waves, came around to catch the wind and kept going - she never gave up. What a good, old, tough, spirited, beautiful, reliable and incredible little ship she is! The motion was so uncomfortable. 3 days later, 2 reefed main with working Jib made comfortable Westing.

On the 4th night, Westerly about force 6 came. The Azores was still 600 NM West, at midnight 37°29'N 16°32'W, Andrew tacked Brillig to North, hoping to find N Easterly. Brillig was gobbling miles



up North at 6 knots. 39°N 15°W, from this point, we were about between Galicia and the Azores, it was time to debate. Venues for Andrew's exhibitions, practicality, sceneries, and contacts - Galicia had full marks. We love the Azores, offering sources for Andrew's paintings. As condition seemed steady, we changed our destination to Galicia. The problem we had was no weather information on board.

Andrew connected the doubtful VHF, hoping to contact ships and would try to catch 12:50 am shipping forecast with an old SSB radio with a dodgy antenna. I complained, "Could we have just 1 decent, reliable and preferably brand-new technology?" "20 years ago, I went sailing the same way." There was no point in negotiating with a dinosaur, his solution was to take any wind, go with it, not against.

We called a yacht and a ship; the dark-coloured sail racer replied in Spanish and the cargo ship blasted 1 horn instead. Hopeless! But it seemed our VHF was working all right. On the 6th day, running out of wind; we took all sails down, lashed the boom tightly for less noises and damages on gears. Over 200 NM offshore no shipping line close by, we slept well, in a drifting boat. Then next morning, we motored for 12 hours till breeze came.

2 days to landfall, radio had reception; Andrew's first successful attempt. Gale Warning force 6-8 in Fitzroy and Trafalgar, exactly where we were! Horrible start for 3 days and being disappointed in changing the destination then the last thing we wanted was sucked into a storm!

Brillig's galley was well provisioned; 3 days beans stew for the start kept us going, daily menu for a week were nice surprises, bottled stewed apples made Andrew's porridge nicer and pressure cooked rich chocolate cake was a treat.



Next day was excellent sailing with poled out Genna in 6 knots on Southerly, good progress towards 42°N 9°30'W. Down to 120 NM, shipping forecast said that the new low 965 went North, thank Buddha! Over a week of too much wind, wrong wind and not enough wind, we were itchy to stop.

When a bottle of brandy was finished, with a good heart I fished out my hidden Bourbon. I conditioned, "you are allowed to have it with my permission." "Ok, landfall and shipping lane are coming, we mustn't drink tomorrow. Let's have Sundowner." The next night after supper, Andrew was helping 3rd serving of MY Bourbon in a mug. "You'll get drunk with so much Bourbon!" "I am already drunk!" On a calm night with a big moon, Brillig sailed in 3 knots and everything seemed fine except myself being so angry.

Though Andrew gave me 5 hours sleep until dawn for 2 nights. We learned that Theresa May was continuously in power. In the morning of 10th June, I witnessed land on the horizon and we motored towards Ria de Arousa. Late that afternoon, Brillig anchored at Pobra do Caramiñal where we had exhibitions and we left to the UK in 2010. Here we are de-salted, safe and sound.



810.6 NM in 9½ days, a lot of miles to have come 5 degrees North. 4 days sick in my bunk, I was again well cared by Andrew and Brillig. With a big smile he said "you are so special to share this with me." I am lucky. We enjoy smooth water sailing in Rias, rough and tough will be set aside for a while.

All the best, Andrew and Rika on Brillig in Pobra do Caramiñal, Galicia, Spain 42° 36'N 8° 56'W