



# Watermouth Yacht Club

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ

51° 13' N 004° 05' W

# AHOY

## *Newsletter April 2019*

### ***Commodore's Column***

This is a somewhat belated Ahoy as I managed to do one in February last year.

Well, it's been quiet and very little happening at Watermouth through the winter so there hasn't really been anything to share in the way of news. It may not be topical now but I have included Rika's Christmas message from Brillig.

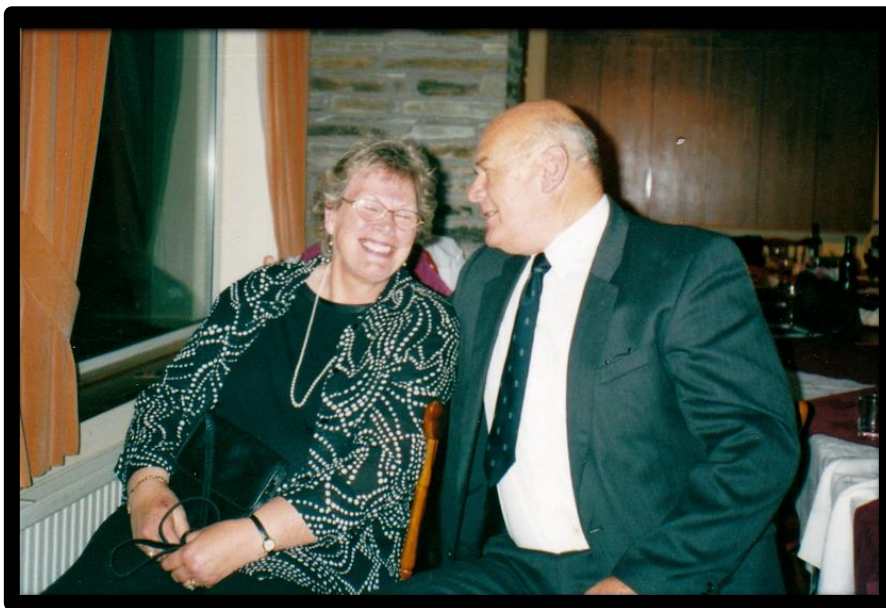
At last the weather is improving and there are signs of life at Watermouth as members are starting to prepare boats for the 2019 season.

Laura has reopened the Boat Café and I'll admit Rachel and I have already had a couple of delicious lunches and a few coffee & cake treats.

Wishing all members a wonderful 2019 season.

***Geof Pierce***

### ***In memory, Pat Land***



Sadly, Pat Land passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> January after a long period of ill health.

Pat was Commodore in 2001 and with her husband, John, played a large part in in the club in the early days. Newer members may not know Pat but longer term members will remember her well.

Our condolences go to John.

## **Membership**

Can I remind those of you who have as yet not paid your membership it was due on 1st March and it would be much appreciated if you could put this at the top of your list.

This year the committee are trying something new to attract New members and are offering a half price membership, so if you know of anyone who would be interested in joining us, now is the time to urge them to do so.

## **New Members**

Welcome to new members Keith and Rachael Harris we look forward to seeing you in the club

Hopefully the season will be a good one.

**Carol Gell**

## **Treasurers Report**

Easter is nearly upon us and no, my boat isn't ready yet either!

Financial year 2018 closed with the club surplus up on the year by £1,554.17 and a total cash holding of £21,350.49. Compared to surplus figures from several previous years, this was down due to significant maintenance costs. The underlying trend however, was similar to previous years with the exception of the bar which was also down by some £363.66. It would be welcome to see a reversal of this latter figure this year, particularly as further scheduled maintenance costs are likely to produce an overall negative outcome.

Headline figures at the moment reflect our annual routine of early heavy outgoings followed by subscriptions gradually redressing the balance:

### **Income**

Subscriptions (inc mooring premium)	£ 2,133.00
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### **Expenditure**

Insurance	£ 1,032.68
Moorings	£ 690.00
Sailing and RYA subscriptions	£ 175.00
Utilities	£ 120.41

I hope your boating and recreation is enjoyable and plentiful this year, but at the same time please spare a thought for your own safety and that of others. Each year's memories should be for all the right reasons!

**Steve Barron**

## **WYC Annual General Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> April at 20:00 - Easter Saturday**

Proposal Forms for Officers, Committee Members etc have already been posted to members. Please, please try to attend because this year there are some important topics to be discussed and voted upon and our Constitution only allows attendees at the AGM to vote on proposals.

### **Club Maintenance**

We have finally agreed on how to refurbish the exterior of the clubhouse. In early June, a team will be doing a form of rendering - 'K Rend' for anyone interested.

The rusted beads around windows and doorframes will be removed and the walls prepared and treated prior to a mesh being bonded to the walls and then a skim of coloured render.

The work should be completed in less than 2 weeks and there will still be access to the Galley, toilets & showers through the rear door, same as at present.

However, we will have to remove the 4 x power points on the outside of the club during the work and they will be replaced with new power outlets when the work is finished.

The 4 x power points in the boat park will not be affected.

This will greatly improve the appearance of the Clubhouse and significantly reduce ongoing maintenance.

*Geof Pierce*

### **Old Watermouth**



I'll admit to being a sucker for old pictures of Watermouth and this one, (date unknown), really highlights just how much it has changed over the years. Thanks to Moira for letting me share it.

**CHILDRENS EASTER HARBOUR QUIZ ON SATURDAY 20TH APRIL AT  
'STORM IN A TEACUP' - EASTER PRIZES!  
PARENTS MAY HELP AND GET INVOLVED!!**

*Laura*

## *Greetings from Brillig*

### **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2019 To All our friends from Brillig**

Rika's retired from hand washing in 2019, YEAH!!

In 2018, Andrew and I spent lots of time separately and Brillig didn't make many miles under her keel – only 150NM in 47hours from Alvor Algarve to Cascais on Tejo.

Until spring, Andrew was painting at friend's house in Alcoutim on Rio Guadiana then we planned to return to the UK; dealing with the house, hauling-out Brillig in summer and sailing back to Iberia before winter. It seemed too many activities for such a short period of time, thoughtfully we changed the plan that Andrew flew and sorted the house out and Rika stayed on board. Where can be suitable? We came and went up Rio Tejo to see our Portuguese friends and to be calm and quiet anchorage.



It was a good summer in the UK and in Portugal Rika experienced a week of over 40°C, managing with dipping in cool water and flushing water on decks. Andrew was busy emptying out the house, looking for properties in North Devon, Rika was developing Japanese music on her keyboard. Having dealt with the house for 3 years, Andrew hasn't been able to paint pictures properly, we couldn't leave Europe, either. Responsibility is heavy on us, very frustrating.



After Rika's performances, we left the village in early October. Unfortunately our engine (1972 Mr.Sabb Norwegian) was dying; the main bearing was worn out, making wining noise and when runs we saw spilt oil and the gear lever went too much ahead and jammed up. We must replace a new one, it's sad to say good-bye to Mr.Sabb he made many many miles with us but it will be good for Brillig's future. We put Zodiac with 2.5 HP Yamaha on Starboard side, helping to go on a winding river and anchored in Vila Franca de Xira – a half way to Lisbon. This was a town very hot with bull fighting; for a week every morning at the end of October we saw black bulls on street, people poked, provoked to make them run. Here we had storms, torrential rain with gusts, we spent days on board.

Needing new engine, we sailed down the river to Seixal in early November; it was a perfect sailing with North Westerly all the way to the anchorage. Andrew sensitively used Yamaha only crossing bridges. At Seixal channel, 3 ferries passed making huge wakes but we were still sailing. This made us pleased.



Seixal is an estuary of Tagus River, across Lisbon and it was one of few cities in Portugal under power of communist party for over 20 years. There are tidal mills to grind wheat and maize and a factory which salting and drying Bacalhau are still in the bay. Nowadays, Fish is salted and dried in Norway, shipped to Portugal and more expensive. It was here Vasco da Gama and his brother Paulo had their ships built and sailed for Portuguese Discoveries. Brillig is on a municipal mooring for 3 months to be secure in winter months. In spring, we want to haul-out to put a new engine in at Tagus Yacht Centre.

Selling the house is our turning point; security arrives or our old age. Hopefully 2019 will be more exciting and interesting year with exhibitions and cruising for us.



Look forward to hearing from you.  
Best wishes from Brillig in Seixal, Portugal