



November 2014

Registered Charity No 1154479

Stoke Gabriel Boating Association

Promoting community participation in sailing, kayaking, canoeing and rowing

SGBA News

Editorial

After an extremely warm and pleasant summer, autumn is upon us; the clocks have gone back and the smell of wood smoke is drifting across the village. It is a time to look back and a time to look forward: back to the summer's sailing and forward to the the winter programme and the construction of the new Clubhouse.

The Club ran twelve Sunday morning sailing and boating sessions as well as several social sessions on a Thursday. Once more the Junior Sailing Course was a great success with thirty eight junior sailors being put through their paces during the half-term holiday. The annual regatta was held in September and the Club was victorious in the cricket match against our friends and rivals the Dittisham Sailing Club.

But the highlight was surely getting sufficient funds and planning permission for the new Clubhouse.

The SGBA can look forward to the new Clubhouse being built with great excitement but it will only happen if as many members as possible help out. A small cadre of hard workers have already cleared much of the site but more remains to be done and the Club cannot continue to rely on the same group of helpers. So when you get an email looking for assistance please sign up.

The winter programme of talks has already started. Beverley Langley related a lovely story about how events led to several years of sailing around the islands of Hawaii, all inspired by a book found in a second hand book shop many years ago.

We have four more talks lined up and a dinner at Emma's just before Christmas to look forward to.

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The New Clubhouse

Work has started

Under the guidance of Neil Millward the quarry and the old boat store have been emptied and the site cleared for building work. This has involved:

- Dismantling and removing the dinghy, canoe and Topper racks.
- Clearing the scrub from the back of the quarry to a height of 3 metres to enable construction of the board walk.
- Clearing the scrub in the woodland above the Bibby Walk footpath to create a track at least 3 metres wide for the contractor's equipment to dig the trench for the service cable and sewage pipe.



Not quite the Bullingdon Club



Half way through emptying the Clubhouse



Clearing scrub above the Bibby walk

Sailing in 2015 and the Clubhouse build

Whilst the aim is to finish the new Clubhouse in time for the start of the 2015 sailing season, reality suggests that there will still be some work going on during the early part of the season.

It will not be possible to make any use of the partly-built clubhouse to support summer sailing so the Club will be making alternative arrangements to allow members to sail.

Use of boats in the winter months

Some of the Club's boats have been left available for members to use during the winter months. There are three canoes, two double kayaks, Blue Laser, a Topper and a Pico located on the path up from the foreshore to the kayak racks. All the paddles, masts, sails and foils are in the main lower section of the old club house. The dark grey oars for the club Whitehall skiff are also there.

The blue and white Bic tender has been left on the Millpoint, but members will have to bring their own oars and rowlocks.

Start of next season

The first club sailing and boating Sunday is planned for 26th April 2015. Boats will not be back in the quarry by then, but as many as possible will be made available for use. There will be more information on this later, but the intention is that we don't lose any time on the water.

The events calendar with the dates of Sunday and Thursday sailing is available on the web site. But note that this calendar does not yet include dates for other events such as the Middle Back cricket match or Junior sailing. As soon as the dates for these are settled, members will be notified by email.



SGBA's laying-up Ceilidh a great success

Our new Social Secretary found herself in the deep end with her first event, the Clubs' laying up Ceilidh. And what a marvellous job she and her helpers did.

The evening was open to the whole village and it was good to see quite a number of non-members enjoying themselves among a very strong turnout from the Club. The dancers ranged from over eighty to under eight and the calling so good that even the most tangle-footed people were able to enjoy dancing to the Blue Jewel Band's excellent playing.



The Commodore and Pauline



Dancing the night away



Julian Williams – Trustee and Fundraiser

Julian started sailing as a CCF Naval cadet at the age of 16, in yachts run by the London Sailing Project. This sparked an ambition for a career at sea, which he achieved by serving 33 years in the Royal Navy, until 2003. He has never been a dinghy sailor, though, so his admiration for the SGBA young sailors knows no bounds.

Since coming to the village in 2011 Julian has been fortunate to race in Dartmouth Regattas in some very competitive yachts – but he finds that each year the bruises are bigger than the year before.

Julian was Chief Executive of a charity in Bristol from 2004 to 2011 – experience gained there has proved useful to the SGBA since he raised his head above the parapet in January 2013. He is pleased with the success of fundraising for the new building and looks forward to witnessing the many benefits it will bring.



Geoffrey Pocock - The Webmaster

Geoffrey has a long but largely vicarious experience of boating. The bit he enjoyed most was maintaining the University of Bristol fleet of Firefly sailing dinghies; and sailing big old wooden yachts on the Norfolk Broads where navigating decisions were mainly about visiting all the pubs. He is in fact an excellent offshore navigator but tries to hide this fact from his wife.

A chemist and physicist, in the past Geoffrey has been a senior scientific civil servant and more recently has published several books about high level walking in the Alps, his true passion.

His advanced computer skills make him a natural webmaster; and a detailed knowledge of Photoshop gives the club some splendid photographs to illustrate our online documents, as well as producing publicity for all our events. If asked nicely, Geoffrey will still work on boat bits; he can't resist a bit of tricky joinery to keep the fleet going!

(Kindly contributed by the Quartermaster)

NAVIGATING THE CREEK

Our safety boats can be taken out of the creek at any time above half tide (which is roughly the same height at springs and neaps). To do this however you need to follow the best depth in the creek, and avoid shallows in the main river area. It's worth having a look from the shore at low tide first (Fig 1). See also the back cover of the Stoke Gabriel tide table.



Fig. 1 Entrance to Stoke Gabriel Creek at low tide



Fig 2. Transit Marker for line to be followed near top of creek

Leaving the pontoon berths, head Southwards following the line of the pontoon. You will come to a transit line, where two offset poles on the West bank line up (fig 2). Turn to starboard along the line of the transit until you are fairly close to the West shore of the creek, then turn to port, aiming SSE and leaving the anchored open fishing boats that are usually there close to starboard. You must always leave the red beacon at the foot of the club slipway (Fig 1, A) to starboard (and port on your return) to avoid hitting the ramp.

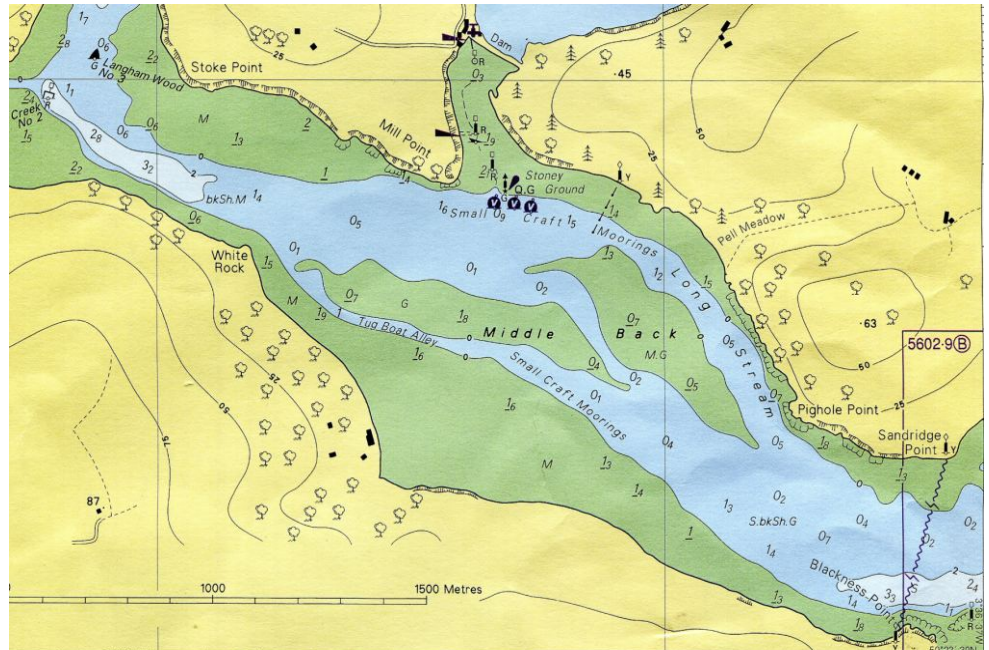


Fig 3 Admiralty chart of the River Dart at Stoke Gabriel

Turn slightly to port (SE) then wiggle to starboard to pass between the creek entrance port and starboard beacons (Fig 1, B and C); you're now in the main river. Until the tide rises a bit you need to avoid the shallowest parts of Middle Back (Fig 3), to stay in water at least 1.5m deep. You can tell where the shallows are as the lines of moored keel-boats stick to deep water. From next Spring a copy of the river chart will be in the fuel locker of each safety boat.



Fig 4. View East from the transit line

On your return, don't leave it too late- you don't want that sinking feeling brought on by lots of visible mud! Getting back to the pontoon, just retrace your route. As the transit markers are behind you it helps to know that the line runs towards the right hand (East) end of the row of houses above the mill pond (Fig 4, A) ; head towards that until you can turn North towards the end of the pontoon. Finally, if you come in at high water especially Springs, don't forget the line of the dam (Fig 4 B) which may be submerged at roughly propellor depth.

Junior Sailing Course Co-ordinators required –no sailing experience necessary.

The SGBA Junior Sailing course is a short dinghy sailing course for young SGBA members aged 8-12 years old, usually held in the May half-term holiday. The SGBA is seeking two new volunteers to take on the role of co-ordinating the course. Without these volunteers the 2015 course will not be able to take place.

For the last three years Issy Hallam and Sue Mortimer have co-ordinated the course and are happy to stay on as mentors for the new co-ordinators this year. We have a well organised system in place which should ensure a smooth handover. The two new Co-ordinators will work closely with one another to bring the Junior Sailing Course together, if you know someone who you work well with you might want to try to convince them to join you! Alternatively if you are a dab hand at paperwork but don't want to get your feet wet during the course itself then it could also work as a single role.

The new Course Co-ordinators will work with a team of experienced dinghy instructors, shore leaders and safety crew to bring together all the elements of the course for 2015 and beyond. The roles are purely administrative and organisational; no sailing experience is necessary, as the Instructors lead on all things sailing! Good organisational skills and an ability to delegate are much more important. If you can help, please Contact either Issy (782924) or Sue (782678) for an informal chat.

Role Descriptions

Co-ordinator (Participants) -Issy

The Participants Co-ordinator is responsible for all communication with the families of participants of the course including:

- Advertising the course, dealing with enquiries and enrolments
- Producing information for participants, including updating the Course Guide
- Working with the club's RYA Principal to ensure the course complies with the club's Operations Manual
- Compiling the Senior Instructors Folders with registers, contact information, rotas etc
- Co-ordinating the shore and safety rotas
- Working closely with the Shore Leaders to ensure course day-to-day concerns are addressed
- Leading the Course Briefing
- Co-ordinating post-course paperwork: including photos, writing press releases and thank yous
- Leading meetings of the Course Organising Team

Co-ordinator (Equipment & Instructors) -Sue

The Equipment & Instructors Co-ordinator is responsible for ensuring the equipment is ready for the course and liaising with the Dinghy Instructors, including:

- Liaising with the instructors to ensure we have appropriate instructors at each site
- Ensuring all instructors are up to date with their qualifications/certificates
- Organising continuing training of helpers (Instructors, safety drivers)
- Liaising with the club Quartermaster to ensure the dinghies and safety boats are in working order
- Ensuring the safety equipment is in place (first aid kits, mast head floatation, pontoons etc)
- Collecting site equipment and ensuring it's in place for the course
- Co-ordinate the post-course tidy up

Cricket on Middle Back

Low tide on Saturday, September 13th being at 16.00 and 0.4m above datum meant that it was a good time to renew our challenge to Dittisham and enjoy the unusual experience of prancing about in the middle of the Dart whilst keeping dry-shod (mainly). The Vice Commodore made the mistake of planning to row the short distance to the sandbank, but forgot just how far it was and how strong the current remained an hour before low tide. The Commodore came to the rescue and towed us across. Two years ago the turnout was very poor even though the weather was magic. This year we had about 35 souls and plenty of participants for each side to select from, including many enthusiastic youngsters of both sexes. The weather remained overcast, slightly misty but dry with no appreciable wind.



The teams gather for the start



A fine stroke over mid-tide

SGBA won the toss and elected to bat. It was decided not to have a "tip and run" basis (to give the youngsters a chance), but in the event some of the best batting and bowling came from the younger participants themselves ! After 10 overs and 28 runs SGBA had lost 6 batsmen and Dittisham took to the crease. No balls had made it to the water, but a great deal of hilarity was had by all.

After their 10 overs Dittisham had lost 7 batsmen for 27 runs and still no water retrievals required. The fact that the scorer was the SGBA Vice Commodore was irrelevant, and no scoring events were appealed. Dittisham had brought the tea this year and scones, jam and cream were rapidly consumed along with the usual liquid chasers. By 17.00 hrs the tide was running strongly again and this time the rowers rowed, but it is amazing how much further a diagonal course takes. All in all a most pleasant and energetic outing, highly recommended for future years.



The victorious SGBA team returning

Committee

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Vice Commodore			
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Talks and Events Winter 2014 - 2015

October 30th

Beverley Langley will give a talk about how the book "Dove" inspired some sailing adventures many years later. Forget the autumn weather and come along and hear about some sailing in warm waters!

November 20th - 19:30 in the Clubhouse

The National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) – their history, what they do now, practical demo of guiding a lifeboat to a yacht and how they can help you on their radio channel.

December 18th

Dinner at Emma's. Fully booked but if you want to come contact Anne Davis in case there is a cancellation.

January 15th - 19:30 in the Clubhouse

Charlie Ewen from the Met Office. How is the weather forecast information gathered? How big IS their supercomputer?! What else the does the Met office do?

February 12th - 19:30 in the Clubhouse

John Hunt will explain all about undersea cabling. Zigzags on your charts – what are they? How do they get there? Where are they going? What are they carrying? Who puts them there?

March 5th - 19:30 in the Clubhouse

Anne Davis "Weather: Facts and forecast" – back by popular demand. You can never know too much about the weather!