



Winter 2017 Newsletter

from the Commodore

Hello everyone,

Many visitors to Orford in the summer months are kind enough to say that it has a certain Magical quality. It is a little bit behind the times and old fashioned, and it feels very safe. Well the same applies during the winter months, when all the holiday-makers and weekenders have gone home. So I can report that we have had a truly Magical winter here in Orford, with wonderful services in the church, lustily sung carols round the Christmas Tree on the Village Green, and of course a certain amount of planning and doing in preparation for the forthcoming summer and the new sailing season.



St Bartholomews Church

We did however have a bit of excitement, on Friday 13th January, when the predicted strong north westerly wind and the exceptionally high tide, heralded another East Coast Surge Warning. Luckily the wind abated earlier than expected and therefore the high tide was not as high as some had feared.



The new timber Dinghy Equipment Shed is now complete and ready to house the masts, spars, sails and other sailing equipment for the club dinghys. It fits very snugly into that corner of the club grounds, and actually looks as though it has always been there.



During the winter Chris Best has re-engineered the Dutyman System and altered it to accept duty selections on a 'first come first served' basis. He has also changed the selection process so that it is more understandable and much more user-friendly. The result of this re-engineering has produced quite remarkable results. No less than 98% of those invited to choose duties responded within the 20 day selection period, and now Dutyman is completely populated with Race Officers and Safety Boat Crews who have actually chosen the dates and races that suits their own plans, rather than having duties imposed upon them. Thank you Chris for all your efforts.

Encouraged by the wonderful response to Dutyman the Committee has decided to print the final list of Race Officers and Safety Boat Crews along side the 2017 race calendar, in a new format. The resultant Club Calendar is enclosed with this mailing, and we do hope that it meets with your approval.

The actual Club Calendar has been produced by Liz Feibusch, and the Sailing Committee, and is based largely upon the successful series of club events from previous years. However certain races and events have had to be moved to new dates because of adverse tides. Thus the Summer Party has been scheduled on the same day as the annual Sea Race - Saturday 19th Aug.

And so now we are planning for the start of the sailing season, which is on Saturday 1st April, and then for the AGM, which is in the Orford Town Hall on Saturday 15th April.

After this on Monday 17th April (Easter Monday), we have the club's annual Working Party, starting at 10.00 in the morning. You may remember that the 2016 Working Party had to be cancelled because of Hurricane Katy, which means that there is a great deal more work to be done this year and Mike Finney is already preparing his list of 'jobs'. So please come along and be prepared....there are lots of things to be done.

I hope you all have a very Happy Easter.

Cheers Jonnie



Sunrise over the Ness