



## Gravesend Sailing Club Newsletter - January 2017

### Happy New Year

Here's wishing you all a happy new year! 2017 looks like it should be a good year. The tides are favourable. We have a new working crane. A pontoon that eases our river access. And a membership that is looking strong and engaged. May your sailing plans for the year come to fruition, and may you have fair winds!

### New Years Sail

Some hardy (foolish?) members are planning a New Years sail on Monday 2nd. Do come down, either to join in, or to watch from the warmth of the clubhouse, cup of tea in hand. Spaces will be available on dinghies, so dress appropriately in case you're tempted! And if Back Sheep's motor continues to work, that fine vessel may also be sailing or acting as mother ship according to conditions. Forecast at the moment is for wind...

### The Crane

As announced last month, the crane is now fully operational. And we'll be using it on Monday to launch dinghies for the New Years sail!

I'll be announcing at the AGM how much money we have raised. For the moment, let me just say that I'm very impressed with the generosity of members.

Although we're officially closing the fund about now, you can still donate for the crane. If you're quick, you might even slip under the wire to get your name on the memorial plaque!

### Jacob Brooch

Many thanks to those who expressed an interest in the brooch. And also for the stories of what it means to many of you. It has now been sold, but I'm sure you'll all be glad to know it's gone to a long standing club member who cherishes its history.

I'll make a formal announcement of the winner and final price at the AGM.

### Disabled Access to the Clubhouse

Thank you to everyone who supported Sailability in their bid for money to improve disabled access to the club house. Unfortunately we weren't successful this time. But I'm sure there will be more opportunities. And I'm certain that the people who put so much work into the bid will build on this strong foundation.

### River Moorings

A timely reminder to those of us with boats in the river, particularly over the winter, but also in the summer.

It is your responsibility to check that your boat is safely moored and to check the security of your lines. And if necessary, take remedial action. This means it is good practice to visit and check the mooring on a regular basis. If you're on the river, it's neighbourly to have a quick shufti at anyone else's boat as you're passing, but don't rely on the goodwill of others to check your boat!

## **Bar pricing**

Cliff has asked that I remind you all of his bar pricing policy. For some reason, he seems to have a pathological hatred of copper coins, so all his drinks are priced in multiples of 10p. Use coppers if you must, but he would much prefer you stuck to silver and gold(ish).

He also points out that the most expensive drink in the bar is a mere £2.20. So it doesn't break the bank to support the bar and the club!

## **What do we call Agnes J. and Clifford M.?**

Most of the time we just call them Aggie or Clifford. Except on the VHF, when we have always called them GSC1 and GSC2. And many is the time that the VHF operator on board can't remember which is which! (I am including myself here...). I've done a fair bit of digging around to find any reason for this, and have come up with nothing apart from possible historic licensing issues that no longer apply. So from now on, we will refer to the boats by their real names on VHF.

## **Contact details for Club Book**

We will soon be producing the club book for 2017. Please check that the details we have for you in the 2016 book are correct & up to date. If not, please let James Gray or Val Green know.

## **AGM**

The Annual General Meeting will take place, as usual, on the first Saturday in February. So mark 4th Feb in your diaries!

Nomination papers will be going up in the clubhouse later in January. Please consider standing for the General Committee. Although the club seems to run itself, we need a committee to coordinate things and make sure things actually happen. It would be good to have some fresh faces. The committee meets once a month, so not too onerous.

# GSC Events for January 2017

January Tides	
01	02:20 (6.1m)
Sun	14:47 (6.1m)
02	02:57 (6.1m)
Mon	15:27 (6.1m)
03	03:35 (6.1m)
Tue	16:09 (6.0m)
04	04:16 (6.0m)
Wed	16:54 (5.9m)
05	05:00 (5.9m)
Thu	17:42 (5.7m)
06	05:49 (5.8m)
Fri	18:39 (5.6m)
07	06:49 (5.6m)
Sat	19:48 (5.5m)
08	08:06 (5.5m)
Sun	21:07 (5.6m)
09	09:32 (5.6m)
Mon	22:16 (5.8m)
10	10:42 (5.9m)
Tue	23:15 (6.1m)
11	11:40 (6.2m)
Wed	
12	00:08 (6.2m)
Thu	12:33 (6.3m)
13	00:57 (6.3m)
Fri	13:22 (6.4m)
14	01:42 (6.4m)
Sat	14:09 (6.4m)
15	02:25 (6.3m)
Sun	14:53 (6.3m)
16	03:05 (6.3m)
Mon	15:35 (6.2m)
17	03:44 (6.1m)
Tue	16:16 (6.0m)
18	04:22 (6.0m)
Wed	16:57 (5.8m)
19	05:00 (5.7m)
Thu	17:40 (5.5m)
20	05:42 (5.5m)
Fri	18:30 (5.3m)
21	06:35 (5.3m)
Sat	19:35 (5.1m)
22	07:52 (5.1m)
Sun	20:51 (5.2m)
23	09:17 (5.1m)
Mon	21:57 (5.3m)
24	10:20 (5.3m)
Tue	22:50 (5.6m)
25	11:12 (5.6m)
Wed	23:35 (5.7m)
26	11:55 (5.8m)
Thu	
27	00:14 (5.9m)
Fri	12:35 (5.9m)
28	00:50 (6.0m)
Sat	13:13 (6.1m)
29	01:26 (6.1m)
Sun	13:52 (6.2m)
30	02:03 (6.2m)
Mon	14:31 (6.3m)
31	02:41 (6.3m)
Tue	15:12 (6.3m)

## Mon 2nd 1230 - New Years Sail

We will be using our shiny new crane to launch some dinghies!

If you can bring a dinghy, please do so. If you have a cruiser on the water, it would be lovely to see you. Otherwise bring yourself and some warm clothes!

Please do come down, but let Harriet know if you can make it in case there are further instructions!

training@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk

## Thu 12th, 1900 - Knowledge and Nosh

Steve Rushbrook from the Port of London Authority will be joining us and presenting about the port.

Followed by a light meal and a natter.

Please let Harriet know that you are coming so she can ensure enough nosh!

training@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk

## Sat 21st 12th, 0830 - RYA DSC/VHF Marine Radio course

Sign up on this 1 day course and learn the basics of radio operation, following distress, emergency and medical assistance procedures as well as EPIRBs and much more. Note that there is an examination with £60 fee, payable directly to the RYA on the day of assessment.

Please sign up by 10th January 2017.

£50 Member/£75 Non-member PLUS £60 examination fee.

training@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk

## Preview: February

4 Feb: Annual General Meeting

*Tidal information is indicative only and not to be used for navigation.  
All times are local (BST or GMT as appropriate).  
High tide times in italics are before sunrise or after sunset.*

**Tilbury fog signal**

Showing my ignorance, I didn't even know there was a fog siren at the east end of Tilbury power station jetty. It has now been removed.

Delete fog signal, Siren(2)60s, at light 51°27'.128N., 0°23'.455E

**Chatham Marina Lock Closure**

The marina lock will be shut 9th to 30th January for maintenance of the lock and bridge.

**Dutch invasion**

Around 200 Dutch boats have already booked in to the Medway in early June 2017, with potentially many more turning up on spec. This is part of "Medway in Flames", the 350th anniversary of the Battle of the Medway.

Ships from both Dutch and Royal Navy will be there along with historic vessels from the area, being a military town both the Marines and army are taking part. Static shoreside and mobile water side events will be underway from Thursday 15th to end in a rather spectacular event opposite the Historic Dockyard and MDL Chatham on Saturday 17th June.

I'm not sure if that's a reason to avoid the Medway in June or to join in the fun!

Your attention is drawn to the following Notices to Mariners:

<b>Thames Portwide Notices to Mariners</b>
<i>No new notices</i>
See: <a href="http://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Regulations-and-Guidance/Notices-to-Mariners/Notices-to-Mariners">http://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Regulations-and-Guidance/Notices-to-Mariners/Notices-to-Mariners</a>
<b>Thames Lower Notices to Mariners</b>
<i>No new notices</i>
See: <a href="http://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Regulations-and-Guidance/Notices-to-Mariners/Notices-to-Mariners">http://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Regulations-and-Guidance/Notices-to-Mariners/Notices-to-Mariners</a>
<b>Medway Notices to Mariners</b>
NtoM No 31 of 2016 corrected Dredging Ops LNG Berths.pdf (296Kb)
See: <a href="https://www.peelports.com/marine-information?port=london-medway">https://www.peelports.com/marine-information?port=london-medway</a>

**Sources.**

As well as the Notices to Mariners sites, I am indebted to the following sources:

East Coast Pilot website: <http://www.eastcoastpilot.com/>

Crossing the Thames Estuary site with notices to mariners: <http://www.crossingthethamesestuary.com/page9.html>

YBW East Coast Forum: <http://www.ybw.com/forums/forumdisplay.php?60> in particular, postings by Roger Gaspar (Tillergirl), author of Crossing the Thames Estuary.

Got any good sources of local navigation news? Let me know!