

# East Coast OGA AGM 2024

## President's Report

The EC OGA cannot function without the time, hard work and voluntary commitment of the EC committee who have met regularly over the past 12 months.

Our programme has been varied starting with two well attended winter talks firstly an evening talk by local speaker Cathy Shelbourne about Thomas Cavendish – Privateer and the second Englishman to sail around the world. In late winter on a Saturday afternoon our second talk was by Jane Stone – Harwich Pilot and Ben Grundy Harwich Tug Master who gave us a fascinating insight into the day-to-day work of safely moving some of the worlds biggest container ships in and out of Harwich Harbour.

The National AGM in Liverpool was attended by a number of EC members Clare Thomas was made an Elder Gaffer in recognition for her many years of service to the East Coast and OGA generally. A small group of EC Young Gaffers also attended the National AGM helped by a grant towards travel and accommodation from the EC committee. This grant we are looking to repeat in 2025.

Tradition is very much part of the EC and where would we be without the Burnham Dinner organised again this year by Trevor and Elaine. This event was an opportunity to thank long standing committee members Pete and Clare Thomas and Robert and Lorna Hill and make a presentation to them of personalised nautical paintings by Claudia Myatt. Trevor our longest serving committee member (how many years??) announced at the 2024 dinner that this was probably the last one he would organise and at our recent committee meeting said he would be standing down from the committee at this AGM. Trevor is unable to be here tonight, but we have invited him and Elaine as our guests to the 'Not the Burnham Dinner' which will be held in early March at a new location.

Our first sailing event the Deben Rally over the late May bank holiday weekend was well attended, with racing on all three days and the inaugural Teamac Gaffling Championships, with keenly competitive racing. More on the Gafflings later in the meeting. This event was supported by Woodbridge and Waldringfield Boatyards and the support boat was provided by the 5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts. We plan to run this rally on alternate years.

25 years of Swallows and Amazons was celebrated with a 3-day event which proved very popular and will be repeated in 2025. The event attracted several out of area sailors and we plan to promote the 2025 event to other areas again next year. After a break of many years the Southwold Rally made a welcome return to the programme. Our hosts the Southwold Sailing Club were celebrating their 75th anniversary. Gaffers large and small enjoyed cruising, racing and socialising over an enjoyable weekend.

July our annual East Coast race was once again held on the River Blackwater at Stone SC. Numbers were down due in part to another event across the North Sea,

but the Stone SC were as usual magnificent hosts. 2024 was also a significant anniversary for our nearest OGA Area neighbours the Dutch OGA, who celebrated their 20th anniversary with another cross-country cruise. Gaffers from the East Coast, Solent and Southwest made the journey to the Netherlands to enjoy socialising, cruising, racing and 'battles' with our great gaffer friends the Dutch.

The East Coast committee wished to mark the occasion and remember the help and encouragement the late Jon Wainwright gave the Dutch Gaffers to start the Netherlands OGA area. It was decided that a half model of Deva the boat Jon sailed to the Netherlands on many occasions would be appropriate. EC Young gaffer and shipwright Tom Curtis the current custodian of Deva who is also rebuilding her made a beautiful half model which was presented to 4 of the original founders at Durgedam during the 20th Anniversary Rally. The half model can be used by the Dutch OGA as a perpetual trophy.

We are fortunate on the EC to have an active group of Young Gaffers some of whom once again organised another successful August Cruise. They are already planning 2025. I said at last year's AGM you don't have to be on the committee to get involved. If you would like to help organise an event or have an idea for an event, please get in touch with anyone on the committee. Thankyou to everyone who helped at all our events over the last year and thankyou to all members who attended the events.

*Paul Masters EC President 2, November 2024*

## Secretary's Report

### Membership update

Area Secretary Pete Elliston welcomed new members, some of whom are present tonight and noted that the East Coast is currently the OGA Area with most members, 30 having joined since the AGM in November, 2024.

Sadly, several members have 'crossed the bar' this year: James Lawrence, Ed Allen, Bob Berk, Peter Maynard, Bernard Patrick, Wendy Titheridge and Richard Woodman.

There are currently 374 members and 296 memberships recorded on the East Coast (the bigger number includes spouse for family memberships). There is some discussion about what to do about the OGA Yearbook and Pete urged members to look out for a survey in next Gaffers Log seeking opinions on what to do about the publication.