



the Venturer

Newsletter of the **North West Venturers Yacht Club**
Gallows Point, Beaumaris, Anglesey, LL58 8YL

Events

- 26th January 2013 13:00 Special Interest Course with Vyv Cox. Practical maintenance issues, followed by Q & A session
- 26th January evening January Winter Social: Supper, followed by Baltic Sea (Part 2) with Derek and Jean Lumb
- 23rd February evening February Winter Social
- 23rd March 2013 Working Party. OOD Ralph Pierce. 10:00
plus RNLI Life Jacket clinic - details tba. Bring along your lifejacket for a checkup by the RNLI
not only New members forum (TBC) in the club house
but also Start of Season Party with Guest Speaker Colin Williams RNLI

See page 2 for
Dinner Dance
Report



Commodore's Corner

With Christmas and New Year over and the days getting longer, we can all turn our attention back to what really matters - our boats! We always plan on going to the boat show in January; this gives us something to look forward to after Christmas. There are it seems a lot of members going to it this year, so we will look forward to bumping into them on the Swans and Oysters. It also concentrates the mind on starting on the list of jobs for the boat - if not actually doing the jobs, then at least making a list of them. We are hoping that this year the boat show will have more boats and less luxury cars and jacuzzis. We did enquire if a jacuzzi could be fitted on board a yacht but the stand holder didn't understand.

Things are progressing well on the club redevelopment, with a very active committee looking into building options. Gallows Point is also changing its looks; with the big old sheds being replaced by shiny new monstrosities. At the moment you need a tank to navigate the pot holes down to the club house. I'm looking forward to seeing what it will all look like in a couple of months time. The Winter Events that Alison is organising look top notch; and I'm looking forward to the quiet buzz that we get in the clubhouse post-Christmas at these occasions, as the days to launch start ticking down.

Last year we had bargained on an early start to the Summer; this didn't pan out particularly well and the weather was quite random. So this year, we are just going to take the weather on the chin and hope for the best. A lot of members already did that last year and they more or less always managed to get a barbecue going in whatever bay they found themselves in. It just goes to show; you take the weather with you. Our new Vice Commodore, Lee and the Sailing Captain Mike have assured me that no wind above a force 5 will impinge on us, whilst all rain will occur mid week leaving the weekends gloriously sunny. The sailing program has some new elements to it this year; the most important thing about any yacht club is the sailing it does. I'm looking forward to the 2013 season!

*Glen Warburton
Commodore*

View from the Rear (November 2012)

Despite a wet and windy Saturday 3rd November, our Bonfire Night, the clouds cleared and more than sixty Venturers managed a BBQ meal before enjoying the warmth of the bonfire and fun of the fireworks which this year, rivalled those across the bay in Beaumaris! Thanks to all the willing volunteers during the day and especially to Des Founds and Paul Morton for yet another successful bonfire night.

Our Prize Giving Dinner Dance was back at the Bulkeley Hotel with our guests, Mrs Glenys Barnes the Commodore of Traeth Coch sailing club and her husband. Our club President, John Partington, officiated for the evening and in his speech, he gave us a taste of some of the many cruises both our clubs have been involved in. Our Master of Ceremonies, John Lomas, kept us all in order for the evening!

The ballroom was pretty full with ten tables which all had as their centrepiece, a flashing lighthouse surrounded by twinkling blue seas and waves! The lighthouses so beautifully made by Julia and Stuart Nicholls, were modelled on real lighthouses that most local sailors could recognise, namely: Puffin Lighthouse, Bardsey Island (complete with a flock of sheep), Bishop Rock, the Eddy-stone, South Stack at Holyhead, Rathlin Lighthouse in Co. Antrim, Point of Ayre and Chicken Rock (with egg shell fragments!) in the Isle of Man, the Tuskar Rock and the Fastnet Rock. By the end of the evening all but one of the models had been bought by members and money donated to the club.

The lighthouse theme was repeated in very stylishly designed invitations, place cards and programmes all produced by Jan Lomas.

The evening seemed to be full of action with a nautical Quiz to be pondered over whilst we dined, a Photo competition judged by our guests, a raffle, trophy presentations of course and finally some dancing. Our 'Official' photographers for the evening Jerry Jago and Denise Lewis, captured it all!

The winning photographs this year were both of mammals in the water with not a boat in sight. Paul Mountford won with his expertly taken picture of a pod of dolphins swimming alongside and Derek Lumb was the runner-up with a charming picture of Tess, the dog, in Baltic waters.

Thanks to the sterling efforts of Dave Clough, we had many excellent prizes generously donated from the lo-

cal community for the Raffle. These ranged from a hair-do to a pot of anti-fouling!

The list of contributors is as follows:

1. NW Surveying Services at Port Dinorwic, Mark McGarry donated a £100 voucher for his services
2. Caernarfon Harbour Trust, Richard Jones donated 2 nights in Victoria Dock
3. Traeth Coch Sailing club donated a bottle of Jameson Irish Whiskey
4. ABC Power marine donated 2.5L Hempel Tiger Extra antifouling
5. Ceri A Morus donated a salon voucher valid across 4 Aveda salons in N. Wales and various samples
6. Starida, Stan Zalot donated a voucher for £40 for use against a launch from Gallows Point
7. A pair of Binoculars donated by Bev Jones at Dickies of Bangor
8. A Wedgewood Stainless Steel and Jasper Corkscrew and bottle opener set donated by Jen and Paul (Mood Indigo)
9. The Bulkeley Hotel donated Sunday Lunch for two in the restaurant.
10. The Liverpool Arms donated a Sunday Carvery for two
11. The Bishopsgate Hotel donated a £25 voucher for their restaurant
12. A bottle of Bollinger Champagne Rose Brut donated by Colin and Alison (Alfresco)
13. A Cruising Association 2013 Almanac donated by Ian Rippington at IMRAY
14. A bottle of Chateaux Collapso and a bottle of Chateaux Fawlover donated by Linda and Des (Stargazer)

Please mention NWVYC when using any of these companies or organisations. Their support for the club has helped to raise over £300 from the raffle this year. In this day of internet bargains, it is easy to overlook local suppliers, however we need to recognise their generosity and support them whenever we can.

Finally, a big thank you to all who advised me and helped me to arrange the 2012 Dinner Dance. See you in 2013!

Alison Pattinson, Rear Commodore

26th January: "Special Interest Course" - Vyv Cox

Understanding your yacht's auxiliary systems

Vyv Cox, a Venturer member, is a Chartered Engineer specialising in Metallurgy. He is a regular contributor to yachting magazines on technical topics in addition to speaking about them to various clubs and societies. He has spent hundreds of hours working on all the systems of yachts that contribute to their safety, security and comfort.

This special interest course aims to provide the practical yacht owner with the information he or she needs to understand, maintain and repair boat auxiliary systems, including domestic water, engine cooling, toilets and anchoring.

Members are invited to discuss any problems they may have on their own boats and there will be ample opportunity for questions on all topics, There will be a few practical maintenance examples.

End of Season Working Party - a Thank You

A big
"THANK YOU"

TO ALL WHO TOOK
PART IN

The Big Clean-Up
on 6 October 2012

Your Help Was

VERY

Much Appreciated

*Ralph Pierce
Honorary House Officer*

(PS: Our thoughts go out to Ralph and Mary as they undertake their own clean-up following damage to their home left by the St Asaph floods last year).

The course starts at 13.00hrs and should last for 3-4 hours; places are limited to 30 members; please book with Rear Commodore.

Vyv's website is <http://coxengineering.sharepoint.com>

Alison Pattinson, Rear Commodore

David Swinton

It is with great regret that we report the death of David Swinton on 4th December 2012.

David was an Honorary Member of the Club, one of the Trustees and had been a member since shortly after the Club's formation. He will be sadly missed.

The funeral was held at Walton Lea Crematorium, Warrington on Thursday 13th December. His coffin bore his Cross of St George flag and his NWWYC captain's cap.

At David's request, donations were requested to go to the Beaumaris Lifeboat.



David Swinton

NWVYC Redevelopment - Progress Report (Dec 2012)

NWVYC Redevelopment – Progress Report

As many of you will be aware, my application to re-join the NWVYC committee was confirmed at the AGM in November, followed almost immediately by me “volunteering” to chair a reconstituted Redevelopment Sub-Committee, a role which I am now attempting to get to grips with.

The strength of feeling within the members present at the Members Forum held after the AGM for us to “get on with it” was truly in the spirit of the Venturers and left me in no doubt that “action” was demanded!

Accordingly, and to keep up the momentum, I arranged an “open forum” meeting on Saturday 24th November at the Club to discuss a number of issues relating to the redevelopment and review progress to date. Approximately 20 members were present and I’d like to personally thank all who attended for their valued contributions – they provided much food for thought and their input subsequently initiated a number of actions.

One of the key discussions of the day centred on communications and it was agreed that all future issues of the Venturer should carry a redevelopment progress report – so, here it is, this is the first of many.

Whilst there are a number of issues still to be finalised, we have identified a number of key roles within the project team: Alan Hollingworth will be heading up a Finance section, primarily involving the establishment of a project budget and cost planning but including co-ordination of the identification and establishment of fund-raising initiatives, a role which Derek Lumb has agreed to lead. Mike Butterfield will provide input to the team on financial and physical issues relating to the establishment of the new club lease & I’d like to acknowledge all the work that Mike has already contributed in this area.

The discussion on design and construction options is a little less clear at present, although we have several members providing professional input to help us decide on the best options based on previous member feedback and the excellent options previously prepared by Ian Banks. I am planning a “builders” meeting early in the New Year to ensure that all our members with professional construction experience have an opportunity to contribute their considerable and valuable experience to assist in developing the design & subsequent construction plan.

We already have offers of design and installation assistance from members for both the plumbing and electrical installations and we’ll be integrating these into the project plan currently being developed.

So, here’s the bit you all want to know – when will all this be happening?

We discussed a number of options for phasing of the works at the meeting on the 24th, and have agreed in principle that the target start date for Phase 1 of construction works will be September 2013 with a target completion of April 2014. Phase 1 will be concentrating on the replacement of the existing shower/toilet/ changing facilities.

Phase 2 works, including extension of the galley & “club room” and possible addition of a dinghy/engine store, has a commencement target of September 2014 and completion target of April 2015.

It should be noted that these are outline programme dates that are subject to a number of statutory requirements, e.g. planning consent, and also the availability of funding but that we are actively considering if we could combine both phases to bring the entire project to completion within the Phase 1 timescales.

I’ll be further developing the project plan & governance proposals, outline programme and cost plan, with grateful assistance from a number of members, over the next month or so and hope to present this to the full committee in January 2013 for discussion. In the meantime, we are actively gathering all the information we can on the existing clubhouse, the local infrastructure, potential layout & construction options and funding opportunities.

If you would like to get involved in any aspect of the project, particularly if you can provide any professional assistance, or have any comments, please contact me at the club development email address:

development@nwvyc.org.uk

or phone me – my home number is in the Year Book.
Thanks.

Mark Suffield
True Brit
Chair, NWVYC Redevelopment Sub-Committee

The Rock Trophy Poem 2012

The "Rock Trophy" award at the annual Dinner Dance is always a keenly awaited feature of the evening. The identity of the boat and crew to receive the award is a closely guarded secret in the run up to the event, with only whispers in dark corners giving clues to the lucky recipients, as the previous recipient attempts to dig up all the dirt on the mishaps that have befallen members during the past season.

This year though, everyone was convinced they knew the potential recipients of the award -- the boat concerned having become an absolute Legend (groan - sorry) in the Club.

However, it's never over until the fat lady sings (or rather, until the current holder of the trophy has recited the ballad), and there's always room for a surprise.

So, without further ado, here is the poem which revealed this season's holder of the Rock Trophy.



Alice "On the Edge"

Congratulations to young Alice Hackney (Sylvan) whose photo entitled "On the Edge" was chosen as one of only 31 entries to go forward to the finals of a national photography competition, to be judged by TV presenter and RSPCA vice president Chris Packham. News of this achievement was earlier printed in the Manchester Evening News on November 23rd, along with a photo of Alice, and a small snap of the photo.

The photo was taken during their family holiday to the USA. It shows a close-up of a squirrel sitting nonchalantly on the very edge of the Grand Canyon, with the huge vista of the canyon spread out behind. Alice managed to squeeze her head, arms and camera through the safety barrier to snap the posing rodent.

The final was to be held in December in London - news hasn't reached us of the result, but whatever the result, it's a brilliant achievement to be selected for the finals, and we look forward to seeing more photos from Alice in the future.

By Paul Mountford
in collaboration with Lennon & McCartney and
A A Milne

*Listen! Do you want to know a secret?
Do you promise not to tell? whoa oh, oh!*

I've known the secret for a week or two,
And the whole world too, not just you!
When Genesis's crew had such a shock
Berthed their yacht upon a rock

Dipping her stem deep in the brine
Quick, quick, quick - dial 999
Call the lifeboat, Get here quick
Crew is feeling very sick

Eight Belgians are safe ashore
Why they went to Moelfre, I'm not sure
A Poirot convention or perhaps Tin Tin
They're in the pub now, drinking gin

But the crew's still aboard
And looking grey
Awaiting the lifeboat to whisk them away
Video camera'd for all to view
Such an unhappy and hapless crew!

*Listen! Do you want to know a secret?
Do you promise not to tell? whoa oh, oh!*

Hush, hush! Whisper who dares
Derek and Jean are saying their prayers

Goodness, gracious, what a fright
Not much fun in the Gotha lock flight,
Hang on to the lines, don't let go!
Or onto the rocky sides we'll blow!
Oh no, we have, what a to-do!
The stanchions bent and the wind genny's askew!
And Whispered Secret's in the stew

Keep it quiet, no one's to know
We're far from home and prying eyes
We don't want to get that awful prize



The art of Kedge Anchoring - an experience with Vyv Cox

Some weeks ago Joe and I were in Victoria Dock sheltering from the weather. We were on the train to Porthmadog when we had a mysterious phone call from Dave Clough saying that he wanted to speak to us. He had arrived late the previous night and had seen our boat in the Dock. He declined to elaborate further and we were left in suspense. Was he going to persuade one of us to stand for bosun or treasurer?

On our return to the boat we gave him a bell. He and Georgina trotted round and joined us in a beer whilst he enlightened us, having sworn us first to secrecy. Vyv Cox, a fellow Venturer, was on 'the expert on board' panel for Yachting Monthly and had e-mailed Dave a day or two early asking him if he could help him on a photo-shoot for an article that Vyv had written for YM on kedge anchoring some time before. YM had decided to go with the article in the November issue but wanted some photos to accompany it that had been taken in the UK. Vyv had written the article on his yacht in Greece and had taken photos there. The new photos had to be with YM by the end of the next week.

Dave was unable to assist Vyv as he was flying to the Baltic that week to help bring Whispered Secret back to

the UK but had told Vyv he would try and find someone else. On arriving at Victoria Dock and spotting Sapphire he thought – ah there's two old buggers with nothing better to do, I'll ask them. And so he did. I was quite excited at the prospect and immediately agreed; Joe a little more reluctantly followed suit. All that remained now was to find a suitable day!

Vyv wanted to take the photos in the channel on the other side of the Straits from Caernarfon, at Foel Ferry. We had only once been down there, years ago in our Hunter 23, a bilge keeler with a 1 metre draught, and we'd gone aground coming out, luckily on a rising tide. Our current yacht is a fin keeler with a 1.7 metre draught. We were a bit nervous. We had agreed with Vyv that we would all keep an eye on the weather and go on the best day. Friday looked like being the best and we agreed to meet Vyv and his wife Jill in Victoria Dock.

Joe and I motored down there on Thursday, from our mooring at the Gazelle with the aim of having a nosy into the channel on the way past. Having come through the Swellies at the normal time we were at the entrance about high water in 5 metres or so. With our

View from Foel Ferry



Continued ...



The art of Kedge Anchoring (contd)

eyes firmly on the chart plotter we slowly motored down the channel, zigzagging as we went. We could see a large fishing boat a few hundred metres ahead, afloat, attached to a buoy. Gradually the depth dropped and as we approached the boat it suddenly shallowed more quickly until we had about half a metre under the keel. Being both cowards we decided to beat a hasty retreat.

Once we were tied up and booked into Victoria Dock we got the bus back to the Gazelle and picked up the car and drove to Foel Ferry so we could see what the channel looked like at low water. The fishing boat was now high and dry on a big sand bank and the channel was inshore of it and in places completely dry. We won't be going in there any time soon.

The next morning Vyv and Jill arrived. The sky was blue, the sun was shining and winds were light. We had already picked up a kedge anchor from Sarico which Dave had offered to lend us and shortly after left the dock with 2 dinghies in tow. We motored to the channel entrance and dropped the hook a short distance in. It wasn't far off high water and so there was at this point very little tide. Vyv wanted one of us (I volunteered Joe) to take the kedge anchor and warp into our dinghy and to fall back from the stern paying out the warp over the bows of the dingy. The warp was first tied off on one of the cleats and Joe set off paying out the line and then dropped the anchor overboard. Vyv clicked away taking photos. Joe came back to the boat and we winched in the warp taking up the slack so that she would now lie between the two anchors rather than swinging in the wind or tide.

To weigh the kedge Joe took hold of the warp near to the stern of Sapphire and let the dinghy fall back on the tide whilst keeping hold of the warp until he was above the anchor and able to pull it up back into the dinghy. He could then pull himself back to Sapphire by hauling on the line and dropping it into the bottom of the dinghy.

Vyv then wanted to repeat the procedure but this time taking the anchor ahead of the bows so it could be dropped at an angle to the bow anchor, something you might want to do if strong winds were forecast. Vyv got into his dinghy so he could take some pictures from the water and Joe set off again in ours. By this time the tide had really started to speed up and Joe was struggling to steer the dinghy and pay out the line at the same time. He had decided that the easiest way

was to pay it out over the side. As Vyv had earlier described that it was usually paid out over the bows I yelled to Joe to do that. Once he heard me over the noise of the engine he tried to do it that way. Now it really was difficult to steer. As the stern of the dinghy was now facing into the tide water started pouring over the stern. He hastily turned the dinghy and resumed paying out over the side. He had difficulty making way due to the gathering strength of the tide and the drag of the warp as it got longer and longer. Jill and I were trying to throw the warp forward from Sapphire's decks to make it easier for him. Eventually he managed to drop the anchor over the side.

Joe motored back to Sapphire and once again the slack was winched in. By this time Joe was beginning to feel pretty weary and it was obvious that he would really struggle to retrieve the anchor on his own in that tide. So I donned my lifejacket and joined him in the dinghy at the helm. Once again he held onto the warp, hand over hand, as I motored into the tide keeping us alongside the warp until we reached the point where he could pull up the anchor. I don't think one person could have done it but I don't think we would have been very happy leaving the boat unattended whilst we did this if we were on our own.

Vyv felt he had enough photos now so we headed back to Victoria Dock and lunch - a very interesting and enjoyable day.

Gill Kent (Sapphire)

Happy New Year + Welcome

I'd like to wish all our readers a Happy New Year for 2013. I should also apologise for the rather long gap from the previous (October) Venturer issue to this one, and will try to resume normal service this year - particularly as we hope to see the clubhouse redevelopment plans progressing, and want to keep everyone informed.

The Venturer would like to welcome to the Club the following recent new members:

- ⇒ John Booth & Dinah Robertson with boat Vagrant
- ⇒ Neil & Anne Broome with boat Corydoras

I hope to meet you at the forthcoming social events, and would like to wish you and all other members the very best for the 2013 season.

Ed Hopkinson
Editor



Events November, December 2012



Bonfire night at the Club



Following the bonfire night social, the final 'official' event of the year was the Annual Dinner Dance. See page 2 for a full report.

A particular feature of the evening was the wonderful working model table-top decorations shown here, made by Julia and Stuart Nicholls, complemented by the stylish programmes and place cards.



And finally.... To bring the old year to a close, there was an unofficial New Year's Eve party, with a great view of a fantastic Beaumaris New Year Fireworks display.

Many thanks to Denise Lewis for getting us all together, and bringing the music.

Here's a snap from one of the few videos of "Gangnam Style" which haven't (yet) been uploaded to YouTube! ☺