



Gravesend Sailing Club Newsletter - October 2017

Duck Supper

You should all have invitation and forms for the Duck Supper. This is always a great evening, and we have held the price again. This year we return to the Mid Kent Golf Club up at Singlewell - they have looked after us very well in the past. Get your forms back to David Clausen quickly to ensure your place!

Clifford M and Cream Tea

Don't forget we will be hosting **Clifford's Cream Tea** on Sunday 8th October after the dinghy race (approx 4pm). Please do PRE BOOK a place but more importantly - bring your family, friends and neighbours down to help us finance Clifford's new toy!

Tickets are £5 (£3 for under 10s) and can be bought from Harriet Davies-Mullan or Penny Davies. **MUST BE PREBOOKED** as spaces are limited! Contact Harriet: training@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk

Wreath-making

Come along on Wednesday 13th December - be inspired to make your own Christmas Wreath ready for your own front door welcome. You will be delighted with the end result and will receive many favourable comments. Cost £21, including £4 donation to Sailability. Please leave a £5 deposit with Pat Robb and reserve your place.

Bar News

Do you have a bar debt? If so, please make an effort to pay it before the end of October (our financial year). Debts are listed on a sheet in the bar.

Do you have a large stock of old £1 coins to get rid of? Please DON'T spend or swap them in the bar! If you want rid of them, the pink pig would be pleased to accept donations.

Lockers break-in

You may be aware that a small number of lockers was broken into recently. This looks like an opportunistic break-in, and as far as we're aware, nothing was stolen. But it's a useful reminder to ensure that your locker has a secure padlock and isn't susceptible to jemmying. Also to be vigilant in keeping gates locked.

Trailers

If you have a trailer on GSC premises, please try to ensure that the tyres are properly inflated! We have to move trailers at times, and soft tyres are hard going - too soft and they will get damaged.

Winter's a coming!

The official sailing season ends at the end of October. We expect sailing dinghies and tenders (unless in use over winter) to be removed from the club if at all possible. Space is at a premium over winter. Tenders left at the club will be stacked in the North Yard. If you take your tender home, you'll be able to work on it much more easily.

Working Weekend

There will be a working weekend on 4th & 5th November to clear the yards and prepare the club premises for winter. This is for all club members, so please make a note in your diaries and be prepared to come along and help.

Using the Club Crane

Roy Turner writes: In general, people have been careful to keep to good practice since the new crane was installed but recently there have been a fair number of instances of slipshod usages. Please ensure that the jib is over land and the hook above head height between uses, even if the gap between uses is only a few minutes. When packing the crane away, make sure the top red and yellow switch on the crane control panel is switched to "off" ie horizontal, and that the bottom switch (which controls the lights and 13amp socket) is left "on" ie vertical. We also prefer the switch in the corridor (behind the door) is switched to the off position but this is expecting rather too much, possibly.

Liftout and winter storage of cruisers 2017

If you're lifting, don't forget that you will need your boat in the basin before the event. And they often can't open the lock gate at neaps. The working weekend (4th & 5th) looks like an opportunity.

Flood gates.

You may be aware that the Environment Agency is undertaking major renovation of all the flood gates along our part of the Thames. There are three gates that we are interested in - the main gate into the club, the smaller gate that we rarely use, up by the dinghy storage, and the large flood gate across the cut protecting the lock gates. We had a meeting with representatives of the EA and the two contractors involved in the project (Balfour Beatty and CH2M).

Their main focus was on the big flood gate across the cut. They are planning to replace this with a new gate. To do this, they will need to position a 300-tonne crane outside the club to lift the gates. And they will also need space to drop the old gate for chopping up prior to removal, and for final assembly of the new gate. As we expected, they have identified the eastern part of the South Compound (our usual car parking space) for this work. It is worth saying that they are in a position to requisition the land for their use; we believe that we will get better outcomes by co-operating, so our policy has been to work with them. It is inevitable that there will be disruption to sailing during the work period (July and August 2018) but we are working to minimise that.

Loss of the car parking should be offset by the fact that they are fencing off a chunk of the promenade, and will have 24 hour security. They had been planning to put portacabins in the yard, but we think they are now more inclined to put them outside it. Access between the yards will be tricky, but we are looking at using the smaller of our flood gates for dinghy access (possibly with a new temporary gate in the South Yard fence by the mast racks). They will not be working over weekends, so with care in our sailing programme, planned events shouldn't be disrupted.

One concern has been whether they would want to coffer-dam the cut. They say that they don't think this will be necessary. They hope to do all the works on the tide; some of us are sceptical of this, but they think any damming works would be small scale and wouldn't affect us.

Our main flood gate will be replaced as part of the works. We had been hoping for a powered one, but there are valid safety concerns with that. However the new manual one will be much easier to use than the current one. The long term plan is to block up the small gate at the west end of the compound - though not until all this work is out of the way.

GSC Events for October 2017

October Tides	
01	10:01 (5.1m)
Sun	22:45 (5.4m)
02	11:08 (5.4m)
Mon	23:40 (5.8m)
03	11:58 (5.7m)
Tue	
04	00:26 (6.1m)
Wed	12:41 (6.0m)
05	01:08 (6.3m)
Thu	13:21 (6.2m)
06	01:49 (6.4m)
Fri	14:01 (6.3m)
07	02:29 (6.5m)
Sat	14:42 (6.5m)
08	03:10 (6.5m)
Sun	15:23 (6.5m)
09	03:51 (6.4m)
Mon	16:05 (6.5m)
10	04:32 (6.3m)
Tue	16:49 (6.3m)
11	05:14 (6.1m)
Wed	17:35 (6.1m)
12	06:00 (5.8m)
Thu	18:30 (5.9m)
13	06:57 (5.5m)
Fri	19:41 (5.6m)
14	08:15 (5.3m)
Sat	21:11 (5.6m)
15	09:45 (5.4m)
Sun	22:28 (5.8m)
16	10:57 (5.7m)
Mon	23:30 (6.1m)
17	11:54 (6.0m)
Tue	
18	00:23 (6.3m)
Wed	12:42 (6.1m)
19	01:08 (6.4m)
Thu	13:25 (6.2m)
20	01:49 (6.4m)
Fri	14:03 (6.2m)
21	02:26 (6.3m)
Sat	14:39 (6.2m)
22	03:01 (6.3m)
Sun	15:13 (6.2m)
23	03:34 (6.2m)
Mon	15:46 (6.1m)
24	04:04 (6.0m)
Tue	16:17 (6.0m)
25	04:34 (5.8m)
Wed	16:51 (5.8m)
26	05:06 (5.7m)
Thu	17:30 (5.6m)
27	05:44 (5.5m)
Fri	18:16 (5.4m)
28	06:32 (5.3m)
Sat	19:14 (5.2m)
29	06:32 (5.2m)
Sun	19:29 (5.2m)
30	07:49 (5.1m)
Mon	20:53 (5.4m)
31	09:12 (5.3m)
Tue	21:58 (5.7m)

Sun 8th, 13.00 - Dinghy 11

Race 11 in the dinghy series. 12 races in the series, 8 to count.

sailing@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk

Sun 8th - Clifford's Cream Tea

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training@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk

Thu 12th, 1900 - Knowledge and Nosh

A regular event, Knowledge and Nosh occurs on the 2nd Thursday of every month. It consists of a bitesize topic (Starts 7pm) followed by some scrumptious Nosh. Knowledge is free, Nosh is in the region of £3-5.

This month - Meteorology!

training@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk

Sat 14th, 10.30 - Ward Shield

Last cruiser race of the season

sailing@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk

Sat 21, Sun 22nd - Powerboat Course

I think this is fully booked - but contact Harriet if you're interested so you can go on the reserve list, or register an interest for next time.

training@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk

<p>Sat 21st, 11.30 - End of Season Cruise</p> <p>Traditional cruise up to Greenhithe for dinghies and cruisers. Don't have a boat? Come along anyway and blag a place. Bring a packed lunch as I can't guarantee getting a meal at the Pier Hotel</p>	<p>Sat 21st, 11.30 - Upriver Race</p> <p>Upriver dinghy race to Greenhithe alongside the End of Season Cruise</p> <p style="text-align: right;">sailing@gravesendsailingclub.co.uk</p>
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November preview	Fri 3rd - Fireworks Sat 4th & Sun 5th - Working weekend
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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.

Navigation News October 2017

Fireworks

See the PLA notice L23 - note that they are defining a "safety zone" that includes some of our cruiser moorings. But the club-house is a better place to watch the show from!

Oyster trestles at Whitstable

Continuing arguments about the oyster beds at Whitstable. MMO seems to acknowledge that the trestles could cause obstruction/danger to navigation but regards it as low-risk and acceptable. The RYA has written to the MMO setting out concerns with the report; they think there is a#
] need for a marine licence.

CA Relaunches Lobster Pot Campaign

Poorly marked lobster pots and fishing gear can be a hazard to coastal cruising. The Cruising Association has relaunched their petition (previous one was cut short for the election). It is available to sign here: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/200001>

Raysand Middle buoy

The Raysand Middle unlit buoy is off station and missing.

Havengore Bridge

Closed to maritime traffic due to a mechanical fault. Engineers are attending.

Queenborough Creek

Work has started on a major refurbishment of the flood barrier at the entrance to Queenborough Creek. Activities will be confined to times around LW so the effect on navigation in and out of the creek is expected to be minimal. Traffic lights and information boards will be in use as necessary.

Notices to Mariners

Thames Portwide

- No.23 of 2017 - Class B PEC Grandfather Rights
- No.22 of 2017 - Ultra Large Container Ship - Windage Area
- No.21 of 2017 - Woolwich Reach - Environment Agency - Thames Barrier Closures

Thames Lower

- L23 of 2017 - Gravesend Reach - Gravesend Annual Firework Display
- L22 of 2017 - Gravesend Reach - Chimney Demolition - Exclusion Zone
- L21 of 2017 - St Clements Reach - Grays Terminal - Jetty Works & Dredging Operations
- L20 of 2017 - Dartford Reach - Dartford Creek Barrier - Inspection and Maintenance Works

Medway

- NtoM No 27 of 2017 - Queenborough Creek Flood Barrier
- NtoM No 28 of 2017 - Grain LNG Berth Works
- NtoM No 29 of 2017 - Grain LNG Berths Fender Inspection Works

See: <http://www.pla.co.uk/Safety/Regulations-and-Guidance/Notices-to-Mariners/Notices-to-Mariners>
<https://www.peelports.com/marine-information?port=london-medway>