



# Solent Soundings



## Issue No. 15 - March 2006

Why not join our dinghysolent forum on <https://uk.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/dinghysolent/info> so you can share South Coast rally photos and general discussion?



### Editorial

I have recently learned that some members receive their e-mailed *Solent Soundings* incomplete. In future, therefore, I will be sending out a pdf'd version, which should ensure it will appear on your computer screens the way I intend.

Those of you who weren't at the Winter meeting or the AGM will be unaware that I have compiled a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary calendar using some of the photos taken at the event. It runs from April 2006 to April 2007 inclusive, so you get 13 months of use, and I'm selling it for £5 each. By popular demand I'm also selling CDs of all the photos sent to me for £3 each, postage included. Any profit to DCA

funks. Some people feel quite strongly that I'm not charging enough, so if you're one of those I'm happy to accept £5 for the CD. Payment with orders please, to Liz Baker – cheques payable to Dinghy Cruising Association.

Thanks to Len for stepping-in and taking over the rally co-ordination for 2006. I had hoped to encourage some of our newer members to come forward with fresh ideas, but Len was the only person to volunteer, and he's already done his stint! I need to concentrate on other things this year, but I don't mind resuming the job next year if no one else comes forward. Anyway Len has twisted a lot of arms and produced a very full programme right through from the beginning of April to mid-October.

At the AGM David Mori and John Barney volunteered, in the absence of offers from anyone else, to try to organise a DCA exhibition at the Pangbourne Boat Show. They would appreciate volunteers to come along and help. For more details please see page 4.

Liz





### George Strube has sailed on his final voyage

As mentioned in Issue No. 14 (Dec 2005) George Strube passed away on the evening of 3 December. Gillian told me he had his first by-pass operation 24 years ago, so he had been very happy to reach his 75th birthday a couple of weeks previously. He had never expected to live so long, and he'd had a wonderful final Summer sailing with the DCA, including his first crossing from Chichester to Bembridge during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary week. He had always lived life to the full. To use Len's words, he was a lovely chap and a fine sailor, and it was a privilege to have known him. We were always pleased to meet him at rallies and he will be sadly missed next Summer. I have sent Gillian a collage of photos taken by various people featuring George during his final Summer with the DCA,



and a bouquet of scented narcissis from the Scilly Isles with the message that they are "from all his friends in the DCA".



### Report of South Coast Winter Meeting – Held Sat 4 February 2006

This took place at the Crown Hotel, Emsworth on 4 February 2006. I always ask for payment in advance as insurance against being faced with a huge bill and nobody turning up, so the previous week-end I was in panic mode with only four bookings. A quick round-robin by e-mail, however, produced a long list of replies in the affirmative, and 20 members assembled to enjoy viewing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary photos on my new laptop, to the accompaniment of sea chanties on a CD provided by Len. We were honoured by a visit from Martin Lowe, all

the way from Lancashire. He had brought along some photos of a lovely little sailing dory with outriggers he had built. Cliff Martin demonstrated a mast-head lighting system he had constructed, and also the tent lacing clips he had designed so as to avoid drilling holes in his hull, and we all enjoyed just getting together after the long cold winter break. Len W and David Sumner were the only two to venture afloat in Len's Gull for a sail around Langstone Harbour.





## For Sale

**Drascombe Peterboat:** LOA 16 ft (4.9m), beam 6 ft, designed by the late John Watkinson. Constructed of clinker marine ply glued with SP Systems epoxy.. Received an amateur boatbuilding award in 1999. Gunter lug sloop rig. Floorboards can be raised to rest on thwarts where an inflatable mattress provides a comfortable night under a boom-up cover. Can be rowed by one person, or sculled with a rowlock set on the sternpost. An outboard can be mounted on the port quarter, or within the inboard trunking. Recently refurbished trailer, two tents and an inflatable dinghy are also available. £3,500. Tel: Gillian Strube



## RNLI JUMBLE

All available at Guildford for the lifeboat charity. (phone Len. No reasonable offers refused: Seagull 40 plus longshaft, recoil starting, 25:1 jet, also many new spares. Diaphragm pump and strum box to suit. Stainless rigging. Trailer components:

3 rubber rollers 60mm dia x 200mm, 2 flat rubber supports 30 mm long. 3 keel rollers. All with galvanised mounting components (some rusty) for 50mm square tube chassis. Also two rubber rollers 40mm x 100mm.

**Latest donation to the lifeboats: £22.**



## WADEWAY INVESTIGATION BEGINS

*News from Chichester Harbour Office*

A week-long excavation began on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006 to find out more about the historic Wadeway between Langstone and Hayling Island. The investigations will help to establish the archaeological significance of this ancient feature. The work will be undertaken by Maritime Archaeology Ltd of Southampton who have been commissioned by Chichester Harbour Conservancy as part of

the Heritage Lottery Funded 'Rhythms of the Tide' project.

Archaeologists will excavate a trench five metres long and one metre wide across the northern section of the Wadeway using hand excavation tools and techniques. Another smaller trench will be excavated to act as a "test pit" confirming the results from the main



trench. The internal structure of the Wadeway will be surveyed and recorded, and samples collected for scientific analysis. The trench will be carefully back-filled to minimise environmental disruption.

The Wadeway is a historic causeway linking Hayling Island to the mainland before a bridge crossing was established. It is thought a crossing point would have been required from the late Bronze Age or Iron Age, when rising sea levels cut off the island from the mainland. Archaeological evidence shows that Hayling Island was being used throughout the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods showing that a crossing would have been necessary. The first historical record of the Wadeway dates to 1552, and it continued to be used until the early 19th Century, when a bridge was constructed. The Wadeway was later severed by the construction of a ship canal.

Nicky Horter, Assistant Conservation Officer with the Conservancy's Heritage Lottery Fund project says "The Heritage Lottery Fund has provided us with a fantastic opportunity to find

out more about the Wadeway and to raise awareness of this potentially nationally important causeway".

Although the Wadeway has clearly been used for a long time, we still don't know when it was built. This kind of tidal crossing point is very rare in the Solent, in fact no other examples are found in the region and few have been studied nationally. Not only is the Wadeway thought to be of high regional significance, but due to its potential prehistoric origins and distinctiveness, it may be nationally important too. Through these investigations we hope to be able to find out not only when the Wadeway was built, but also how it was constructed and what it is made of. It is important to carry out the work now, as environmental change and human impacts may start to take their toll in future and the archaeological evidence may be lost.

*Ali Beckett  
Publicity & Information Officer  
Chichester Harbour Conservancy*





### *Anyone been sailing this year. . . ?*

Too c-c-c-c-c-c-cold for me! but that intrepid Mirror sailor, David Sumner, was out just before Christmas, (22 December) . . . , and David and Len were sailing before our Winter meeting . . .

“ . . . It was very deserted at the harbour, but bright with a little sun, and winds up to F3 Westerly. The only dinghies seen were three of the “Olympic” type at HSC, plus two yachts. As time was short due to the early sunset, I motored most of the way to Copperas as I was headed by the W wind, but then just managed to lay Snow Hill Creek. I then decided to motor against the head-wind to reach the Stocker and then had a fast beam reach up to Oar Rythe. The tide was high and I could not find the creek, but I think the seals were on the distant beach. I then had a fast sail all the way home, doing it in 55 minutes. I set two jibs wing-and-wing plus mainsail, boomed out. Two people on East Head might have been

dinghy sailors and they were clearly fascinated by my rig – not quite a “cloud of sail” though, is it! Temperature was about 7°C when I got back. I was wearing a drysuit, and felt a bit cold to start with but a hat quickly warmed me up - probably about equal to a second jumper for warmth. I kept on shifting sails and doing things in the boat to keep warm.

“ I understand why people do not like engines, but when the day is short it allows a much more interesting cruise. Otherwise I would have taken an hour just to reach Copperas Point. “

*David Sumner*

### **SOUTH COAST WINTER MEET – SAILING:**

On the South Coast with its (usually) warmer weather, some of us carry on sailing through the winter, so tide times are included in our Winter Meet announcements. This time however harsher Continental weather prevailed and February 4th was bitterly cold, but David Sumner and I, wrapped-up in many layers, set out in my Gull from Bedhampton's fine launching ramp (built for World War 2 Mulberry Harbour sections). The light northerly breeze was sufficient to push the boat over the incoming tide through the eastern swatchways

to land on Langstone Harbour's Eastney Spit. After stretching our legs and getting a much needed coffee we sailed over Eastney Lake to Milton Locks from which in the 1820s barges would have been towed through the canal to Portsmouth. The sail back was against a light breeze and the now ebbing tide. We made rather slow progress at times but a stronger breeze would have kicked up spray, which with the sea temperature at its lowest would have been unpleasant.

*Len Wingfield*



## **Pangbourne Boat Show Rally**

at Beale Park, Pangbourne, Berkshire

Camp on your boat or ashore.

We have been before and had a great time.

More importantly, it is very good publicity for the DCA.

For more information and to book your place as soon as possible, please

contact:

John Barney



## SOUTH COAST RALLIES PROGRAMME 2006

Liz Baker has to reduce her DCA work-load, so I have taken over rally co-ordination on a stop-gap basis. (Liz continues to do the clever stuff with Solent Soundings.) Please note my new e-mail address, [len.wingfield@connectfree.co.uk](mailto:len.wingfield@connectfree.co.uk) . (Unfortunately I do not yet have WORD, only WORKS).

Please note that rally hosts accept no responsibility for safety of participants - skippers must decide for themselves whether they and their boats can cope with prevailing and forecast conditions. We usually have arrived at the rendezvous by 7pm. Some cook on board, and some prefer to eat at the nearest pub, to which most of us usually adjourn around 8pm. At a few venues it is possible to camp ashore, but in tidal waters it is easier to camp on board. It is best not to wait until the day before to enquire about a rally because by then your host may already have launched. In the event of a forecast of Force 6 or worse rallies will be cancelled or changed to be held in sheltered waters only.

Any member is entitled to propose and host a rally (subject to avoiding clashing dates).

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 April 9 **East Head** OS ref 197/ 771 990. Sunday day-sail launching Itchenor David Sumner.  
 Sun HW Portsmouth 10.04 BST

April 15/16/17 (Easter) **Christchurch Harbour** OS ref 195/176 911. Keith Holdsworth.  
 Fri HW Portsmouth 13.19 BST Discreet camping ashore is possible

April 22/23 **Dell Quay** OS ref 197/ 835 028 with lunchtime at East Head (launching at Itchenor for shorter sailing (or Langstone / Northney / Emsworth for a longer cruise). Len.  
 Sat HW Portsmouth 06.40 BST

April 29/30 **Hurst Point** OS ref 196/ 316 903 (Camping possible on point, away from castle)  
 Keith Holdsworth. Sat HW Portsmouth 13.08 BST

May 20 /21 **Poole Harbour River Piddle** - Chris Jenkins. See Chris Jenkins' note below.

May 27,28,29. (**Lindisfarne rally**) (NE) Anyone interested in sharing cars up with Len on 25th?

June 3 /4 **Oxey Lake** OS ref 196/ 330 936 (just to west of Lymington River ) Discreet camping ashore. David Sumner. Sat HW Portsmouth 04.46 BST

9 / 11 June – **Pangbourne Boat Show** at Beale Park. Volunteers needed to help run the DCA exhibit. Please contact John Barney for information or to book your place.

June 24/25 **Bembridge** OS ref 196/ 641 887 ( sandy beach, to port just inside harbour entrance.)  
 David Jones. Sat HW Portsmouth 11.21 BST

July 8/9 **Beaulieu River** OS ref 196/ 408 002 (Buckler's Hard pontoons) - Steve Bradwell.  
 Sat HW Portsmouth 10.06 BST

July 15/16 **Ashlett Festival of Sail**. OS ref 196/ 468 033. Events for boats under about 20ft. Details [www.ashlettsc.com](http://www.ashlettsc.com). Ashlett Sailing Club organiser Dawn Minard. *Our 'Cruise with Cliff'* week follows.

July 16/22 DCA **Cruise with Cliff**. Cliff Martin intends stay-on after the Ashlett Festival until the Newtown rally the following weekend. Why not join him for a day or for all week? Venues are to be agreed by those taking part, so please phone him beforehand.

July 22/23 **Newtown Harbour** (just above Shalfleet Quay, OS ref 196/ 415 903) David Jones..  
 Sat HW Portsmouth 10.12 BST

Aug 5/6 **Sinah Warren (The Kench)**. OS ref 197/ 694 999. David Sumner.  
 HW Portsmouth 08.19 BST Discreet camping ashore is possible.

Aug 19/20 **Wootton Creek** (Wootton Bridge) OS ref 196/ 547 921. Liz Baker.  
 HW Portsmouth 08.59 BST



Sept 2/3 **River Medina** (Folly Inn) OS ref 196/507 930. Liz Baker. HW Portsmouth 06.10 BST.

Sept 16/17 **Ashlett Creek** OS ref 196/ 468 033. HW Portsmouth 07.20 With sail up to Marchwood or Eling on the Sunday morning? Host to be announced in next issue .

Oct 7/8 **Fowley Island** ( OS ref 744 044) **lunchtime meet** (Island accessible only within 2 hours of HW) with optional sail down to East Head. (Could overnight there or return to Emsworth pub and overnight at Fowley). Len Wingfield. HW Portsmouth 12.04 BST



### **May 20/21 May - River Piddle notes – Chris Jenkins:**

#### **Place:**

River Trent (or Piddle) in Poole Harbour (OS map OL15 or 195, grid 941 883. If you prefer, the position is 02° 05' W 50° 41.65' N.

#### **Pilotage:**

Access to the River Piddle is from the main Wareham channel of the River Frome. The entrance is very shallow and I have not managed to find any channel as such. However, once you are into the river proper, there is always a good depth of water. The chosen meeting point is the first open ground to port past the reed beds. It is possible to moor to the bank and not dry out. Access to Wareham is via a footpath which takes about 30 mins to walk, although it can be muddy in

places when wet. This is a new rally location and I have explored it by canoe and on foot. It appears OK and would allow sheltered sailing from within the harbour if the weather is bad. That said, I have not spent the night there and I do not know if there are any surprises, so anybody coming should be prepared for a change of plan.

#### **Tides:**

20 May LW (Wareham) ~ 11.15 and 23.50.

My estimate of HWs would then be 16.15 and 20.15, so it should be possible to access the Piddle from about 15.00 until about 21.00.

21 May LW Wareham ~ 12.35. My estimate of HWs are then 05.35 and 09.35, so we would need to have left the Piddle by the second HW.

