

Newsletter: August 2020



Dear members,

Firstly, to let you know, there will be no September meeting, but we propose to have the next social meeting on October 5th 2020. Time and venue to be confirmed. (Covid restrictions permitting)

As we are all aware, this has been a “different” year for everyone, and difficult in different ways for everyone. Despite this from the moment lock down eased, people were turning up at the sheds and working on projects, and keeping their distance politely from others working there. A few boats have been launched and others are getting close. Sadly, one or two will stay ashore for this season, as owners either live too far away, or are unable to fit sailing in with their personal needs for distancing.

A few shed improvements have taken place, and when members are next there, they will notice that we not only have water in the coffee area, but HOT water too. Please don't switch the water heater on for more than 5 minutes at a time as it is very efficient. A timed switch will be fitted shortly to protect this issue.

Also, in anticipation of using the kitchen area for winter meetings there is now a wood burning stove in the corner. It's raring to go and will make the area much more welcoming in the colder weather.

Some of our members will be aware that a boat was beached at the creek in May, and as the tide was high, it stayed there waiting for the next high, approximately 2 weeks. This was too much for someone to bear, and they set light to it. This is once again a confirmation of why we try not to leave boats accessible. They are a means of temptation and can be a method of accessing moored boats. This is quite apart from the fact that Colchester Borough Council states that no boats can be attached or moored in the Saltings in the marsh.

Six ACBOC Members spent 2 days clearing the horrible mess that was polluting the creek edge, and when the remains were cut up, it was trailed up to the boatsheds and covered with a tarpaulin. Unfortunately, we had to dispose of this mess and a skip was acquired to remove it, and other rubbish that has appeared around the sheds. It is a credit to ACBOC that the mess was quickly removed, but the skip has cost us £272.50. This is money we can ill afford from our funds.

Please, please take home your rubbish from the sheds, as we do not have a bin collection there. If the area is tidy, it is thanks to those people who take other people's rubbish home and dispose of it there. It is understood that tips have been closed, but if you take it a bit at a time to your own household rubbish, it would be appreciated. This includes in the kitchen, and extra bin bags can be found in the drawers if you feel like taking the full one home and replacing it.

The club calendar was due to start with a cruise to Heybridge basin, but like many things this couldn't take place. The basin is not accepting visiting yachts this season. The group were determined to get away though and after much persuasion, berths were found for 6 boats in Bradwell for the night of Saturday 25th July. 12 people attended, despite adverse wind and weather. All were pleased to have escaped the 4 walls at home and got out in the fresh air for the weekend. It has to be said that sailing is a brilliant activity for social distancing. We even managed a couple of distanced tables to have dinner at the Green Man. There of course, the trip over was discussed, and newly acquired boats were talked about. Please let me know if you have any interesting sailing tales for including in the newsletters.

ACBOC has not been wholly active this season, and has been unable to accept new members, and this will probably continue until the start of our new season in February 2021. This of course is also subject to change.

Our meetings have been on hold since many of our members are vulnerable, and large gatherings are undesirable currently. However, as mentioned at the start of this newsletter, it is to be hoped that our next social meeting will be able to take place on the 5th October.2020 . The venue will be announced nearer the time.

Happy boating for the remainder of the season.

Brenda

(Secretary)