

# ACBO News

February 2021

Welcome to an OPTIMISTIC start to 2021. Hopefully as the vaccines roll out and we creep back into the big wide world we can look forward to a new ACBO season.

**Our AGM was moved from last October to the 1<sup>st</sup> March 8pm.. but still we will have to run it via Zoom. Look out for an email with the link. We would like to see as many as possible attending, especially share holders.**

The last newsletter was in August 2020, and some sailors had ventured out and managed to socially distance at anchor here and there.

It is to be hoped that lifestyle restrictions will lift shortly and as the snow melts we can venture out and get the boats ready for the season ahead.

**53** members have renewed as I write and returned forms. My apologies to these people as they will receive **2 newsletters** as they are entered in 2020 and 2021 email lists.

After April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, only people in the 2021 list will remain members, and receive ACBO benefits.

What has happened since August? Well more than we could have hoped with respect of storage at the sheds and progress with the mooring agreement that we are working towards with Colchester Borough Council.

A couple of issues arose last season that were a bit of a worry.

Firstly, the boat that was burned out on the shore, that we as a group worked together to remove.



The next issue was something we are always concerned about, and that is the deterioration of the mooring tackle leading to boats breaking free and drifting off their moorings past other boats. Sadly, the owner of the boat that broke free had spoken to Paul Killick to assure him that he had “checked the mooring in the past couple of days”. This is unlikely to have been true as the mooring buoy was retrieved and the shackle was definitely looking past its best.



This reinforces the need to check mooring tackle annually.

**Please be safe and check your mooring at the start of every season. Read the revised mooring policy sent with your renewal with the full version on line at [acbo.org.uk](http://acbo.org.uk)**

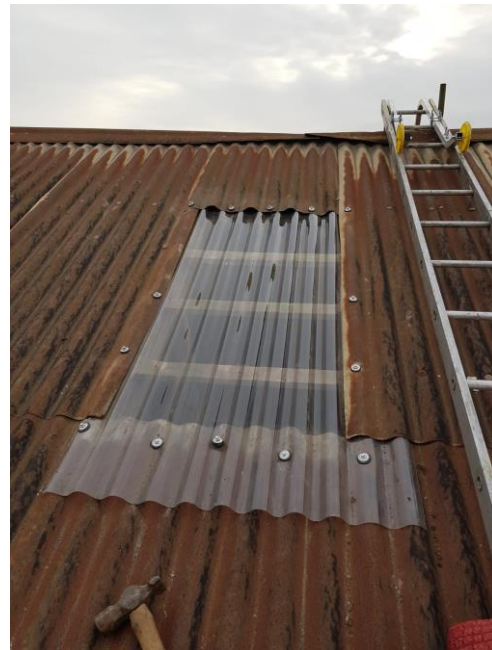
### **FILMING AT THE CREEK**

We were approached at the end of last year by the Apple film company regarding their imminent presence at the creek. They needed to know where to park their location vehicles, and to try to film with as few boats as possible in shot. (none that were out of 1890 period anyway) They have experienced delays for a variety of reasons and what was initially due to take place at the end of January, now seems to have jumped to the last week in March. The company haven't kept us up to date with their plans, and so we have not moved any more boats. We are still unable to do so with current lockdown laws, and so we "wait and see". The location vehicles are currently planning to occupy the field near the creek, and they sound as if they will be there for something over a week, as they are planning to film at the house at the ford, the jetty, and at Whitehouse beach.

### **THE SHEDS**

There were emergency repairs needed to the shed's roof. We contracted a firm to do the work, and luckily, they had fine weather. The result is that rain water is now kept out of the shed, though we still do suffer from

condensation to some degree. This happened when we were in tiers 2 and 4, and so members were available to monitor the work, and decide on further improvements that were necessary after the work was done.



This has improved not only the waterproofing of the roof, but has also allowed much more daylight into the shed.



The minimal working party was appreciative of the old wood from the roof vents that fuelled the wood burning stove in the corner of the kitchen.



Added to this upgrade in the kitchen, we now have a new water heater so that we can constantly wash our hands to remove boat building grime and to keep the virus down. Please don't use this facility for washing paint brushes etc.

Other renovations include the blocking up of most of the old kitchen area. Hopefully the roof leaks around the guttering there will be attended to after the weather dries out and warms up.



The wall will increase storage space up the north side of the South shed.

### **WEST SHED**

This has been tidied up and cleared out. Practically every boat is moveable, thus every owner can access their boat, and get it out of the shed when they wish. This has given each owner much more space to work near their craft.



To complete the roof renovations, the CCTV camera in the centre of the sheds complex had to be moved and wired into the system, and now covers more of the sheds area. Rest assured that the system has been monitored regularly throughout lockdown.



## **MUD**

Colchester Borough Council has now issued us with a licence to clear mud at the ford. We were therefore able to have a go with the help of the Chillington Hoes that we bought to help with this exercise. Those and vigorous broom action with a falling tide makes a considerable difference to the access at the ford. We can now do this several times this season should we need to. The licence has been extended until October 2022.

Below: Brian is handing out instructions to newcomers to this fun activity.



## **During and After**



## **Colchester Borough Council Mooring Agreement**

We have continued the negotiations about the Mooring Agreement that began in 2018. After much to-ing and

fro-ing and trying to push back on aspects of the Agreement that we were not happy with, the management committee agreed in 2020 that we had gone as far as we could. We are awaiting some final amendments about the number of moorings we are expected to pay for and then hopefully by the beginning of the 2021 season we should have an agreement in place for the next 6 years and we can get on with out boating without thinking about it anymore.

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