

ACBO News

August 2021

Alresford Creek takes Starring Role in Essex Serpent Film



After many delays the Apple film people arrived in the field in early April. Behind them you can see that there were about 4 boats left in the creek. This gave the camera crew much more scope for their background to their filming as most of our boats are a little out of character for a film set in the 1890's.

They stayed for about 2 weeks, and then our boating activity could start to get back to normal.

Pre- season mooring checks and repairs.

This can be a very muddy occupation, and can involve getting down into the mud, or sitting afloat waiting for the tide to fall and getting a tow out over the mud again!



Here is Nick showing his best side finding out just what is under the mud at his mooring location.



And Bill sitting in his dinghy waiting for the tide to go out. He's got a flask of coffee! He'll be fine, and I've got the mobile in the car and a good book to read.



As long as the knots are tied properly they won't come undone until required and a lot of wading through the mud can be avoided. A pretty long job to wash the mud off the dinghy, but hey, the mooring is set up and the boat can return to it very soon.



Mooring chains get worn, especially when no boat is on the mooring as the constant jiggling in the salt water and the atmosphere do their worst. Fortunately, when our creek entrance buoy went adrift it was rescued and brought back by Dave and Maurice. Whilst we've been kept busy with our own moorings and with the inability to attend to our creek

markers, they are clearly ready for some maintenance.



The guttering over the old kitchen in the south shed, has improved the water drainage off the roof, and much less rain seems to be getting into the building.

This is a job for the work boat if Paul and Brian can get the engine to burst back into life. Currently it is hanging from the roof in the North shed.

Flying Trailers -whatever next?



Team work saw a boat dragged off one trailer and onto another. A very smooth operation.

The work to clear rubbish from around the sheds continues. We got the grand sum of £80.00 for a tottering tower of rusting metal taken away by this contractor.

We are pleased that some of the abandoned boats have been bought and brought back to life and plans are in place to launch these boats.

Cruising in Company 2021

Two club cruises have taken place this season
1) TOLLESBURY

We had 8 boats in the marina, and 18 people in the restaurant, including 4 who came by road.

The sail there was very peaceful, and enjoyable with light winds and a rare appearance of the sun!!.

Beautifully presented sailors -waiting for their dinner!



Blackwater Smack and Barge Race off Osea



Beautifully presented fish and chips waiting to be eaten!



Time to raft up, soak up the sun and have a swim off the back of the boat at anchor off Osea island.



A happy group of well-fed sailors.



Finally – 5 boats locking into Heybridge, all together, help for less experienced members or single handers on hand.



2) HEYBRIDGE.

It was a privilege to sail up the Blackwater with these old ladies that were about to finish the Blackwater Smack and Barge race at Osea island.

In the evening owing to the Jolly Sailor closing early we enjoyed takeaways organised

once again by Dave; he gets the award for Excellence in Herding Cats!

SAILING IN THE PEACEFUL CREEK



You can have just as much fun sailing closer to home –

Dave Cornabe sailing ‘Kitty’

One notable wordsmith described mucking about in boats in the Creek as:

Contemplative, idyllic, therapeutic, curative medicinal uplifting and...muddy!

BREAKFAST IN BRADWELL



Brian and Keith discovered the delights of a full English breakfast at the café at Bradwell Marina.

WHAT HAS ACBOC EVER DONE FOR ME?

Ian Bartlett has had a wonderful single-handed cruise this season, and he has sent a contribution to the ACBOC newsletter below. ‘Way back at the dawn of time, 1997 in fact, I first met ACBOA, as they were then.

Having just purchased a 19 foot Seawych I needed to put her somewhere. After introducing myself at a couple of meetings they foolishly let me join and a mooring spot was allocated. Being much younger than I am now digging the sinkers in, at low water, was not too arduous.

Joining in with the events was great fun. Sometimes we went as far as Bradwell. How exciting it all was. As I got used to my little craft it became apparent to me that destinations further afield appealed to my

adventurous nature. Sadly, they would not let me take my little boat on the Ostend Rally.

2 years later my next boat came along. It was a 23ft Virgo Voyager. Big enough, just, to be accepted on the Annual Ostend Rally. Off we went with just a GPS and Chart. (No Chartplotters in those days). If I recall correctly it took over 20 hours to get there and the same coming back. Quite an achievement for a relative novice in a little boat. Many more adventures with, the then, ACBOA followed over the next 10 years.

2010 saw another upgrade. It had become my dream to sail, mainly single handed, around the UK. To do this a bigger, more comfortable, boat was needed for the 3 month trip. Welcome to a Westerly Berwick, a 31 ft bilge keel boat, ideal for the job. 2012 was the first year of my retirement and time for the challenge. If you would like to know what happened go to www.ian-bartlett.co.uk

Again 10 years after purchasing the Berwick it was time for another upgrade. This time to a Westerly Oceanquest, the boat I now live on, based in Ipswich Haven Marina. The first year I had her we sailed to France, the Channel Islands, across to Dartmouth and down to the Isles of Scilly before returning to Ipswich. 2020 saw a stagnant year in lockdown but this year, 2021, I have single handed, sailed her again to the Scillies and am currently riding out a severe gale F9 in Helford River near Falmouth.

So, what had ACBOC ever done for me? The camaraderie, assistance and encouragement gave me the confidence to take my hobby of sailing to new heights. The adventures now are more far flung and ambitious but I will admit to missing the fun and laughter of mud plugging in Alresford Creek.

Thank you ACBOA, now ACBOC for giving me the time of my life.’

Ian Bartlett July 2021

Please watch out for the next message from ACBOC **about laying up supper in Bradwell on 25th September 2021.**

If you are coming to Bradwell don’t forget to let Dave Hayes know.

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