



Social

There is no meeting in August. First of the Autumn meetings will be on Monday 1st September at 20:00. We hope to see you there.

Cruise in Company

Tollesbury on the 26th & 27th of July. Please let Dave Hayes know if you are planning to attend. 07968 630727

Heybridge Basin August 9th & 10th This is always a popular event and once again please let Dave know well in advance if you are planning to attend.

Bradwell 20th /21st September – no club bookings are being taken by the marina. A meal is booked for Friday at the Green Man. Please liaise with Dave if you are planning to attend.

The warm weather and lots of nutrients has been kind to barnacles. Despite two coats of eroding, this is the result of three months in the water. Using a powerful pressure washer and a tide spent on the posts, the lost knot and a half will be found. Photo is obviously mid scrub not finding the holy grail of antifoul!



Moorings

The banner photo shows the creek in 2005. In the centre is the whaler, the bones of which featured in the December newsletter. The cradle was designed to help long keelers stay upright. A system which is frowned upon today.

Member News

Thanks to Paul & Clair for this article

Who would have thought as we departed East London on a Saturday morning what adventures the weekend had in store for us. I guess leaving home in torrential rain, plus a 15-mile detour on our normal journey, should have been signs enough that trouble was heading our way.

After a lovely breakfast in Brightlingsea we made our way to Alresford Creek to board our newly purchased boat 'Oystercatcher'. The wind was quite gusty, so we decided to play it safe and use the outboard for a little jaunt to Wivenhoe, before circling back to base.

Although the waters of the River Colne were a lot choppier than we had experienced before, the boat felt fine, and so we carried on with our journey. After turning around at Wivenhoe, we headed back and then decided to carry on a little further past the creek towards Brightlingsea. In hindsight this was our first mistake. All was well until the outboard suddenly lost power, attempts to restart her were futile, and so we dropped anchor as we were beginning to drift. Thinking the issue might be fuel related we topped her up, success, the outboard sprang back into life. Our next problem was trying to



raise the anchor which had sunk a long way down, the choppy waters and gusty winds made this a near impossible task, so I made the decision to cut us loose. This was our second mistake. Within a few minutes of cutting us free, the engine cut out again. We were now without an engine and no anchor, not a great combination. It was not long until the winds pushed us towards the shoreline, and we ended up being grounded on the mud bank.

Thankfully a fellow sailor had seen our plight and shouted out to us that help was on the way. Not long after a RNLI rib whizzed up the river, took us onboard and delivered us back to dry land. We were then met



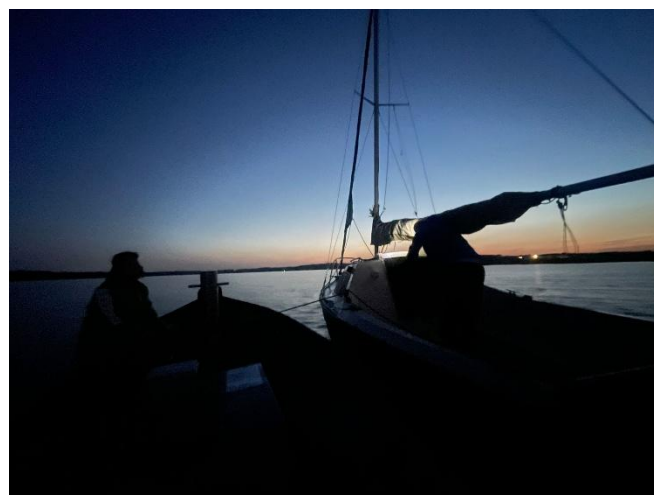
by the coastguard who took our details and enquired how we were going to secure/rescue our boat as they were concerned that our boat may refloat on the next high tide and then become a danger to other vessels ... Gulp we thought.

What happened next was truly remarkable

We phoned up Peter (Oystercatcher's previous owner) for some advice and even though he was away in Devon, he assisted us with lots of help. After our call he then posted our situation on the committee 'WhatsApp chat' and within minutes we had a call from Simon who volunteered his services and said he would pop down and secure our boat from the next high tide. Unfortunately, the lay of the land has changed over the years and he was unable to reach the boat from the mainland.

After further messages, Anthony (ACBO secretary) offered his services, and he kindly agreed to meet us

at the boat sheds at 2am in the morning for a daring dawn rescue attempt of our stranded boat. Chugging along the creek in the work boat with just the moonlight I have to say was an experience that neither of us will ever forget. After scanning the shoreline for what seemed like ages, we finally found Oystercatcher where we had left her. We had timed our rescue attempt to perfection as the high tide had reached its maximum peak, and we managed to drag Oystercatcher off the mud banks and tow her back home to her mooring ending our weekend adventure!!



Having only been members of ACBO for less than 2 months, we were truly amazed that, with just one phone call, the response we had from the boating community was truly amazing and we can't thank enough, Anthony, Simon & Peter for all their help and support!! We would also like to thank Mike & Nigel from Wivenhoe SC for their help, the RNLI for rescuing us and the coastguard who kept in constant touch while we put our rescue plans together.

We have both certainly learnt lots of important lessons from this experience, but the most important one is being a member of such an amazing sailing community.

Many thanks to all involved,

Paul & Clair

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Contacts

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