

# The Venturer

North West Venturers Yacht Club



Issue 187. September/October 2019



## END OF SEASON WORKING PARTY & SOCIAL

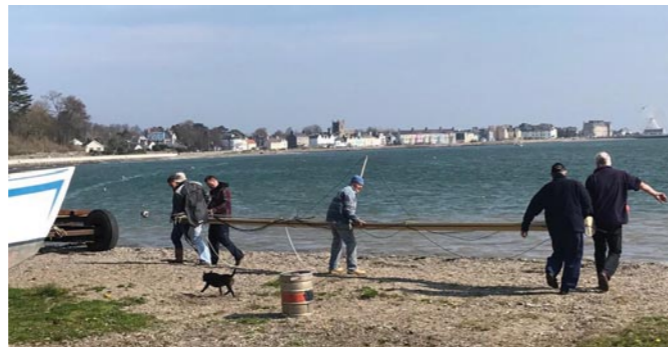
Saturday 12th October 2019

### END OF SEASON WORKING PARTY

Organised by Richard Adams, House Officer

Outside jobs will be mainly groundwork, so if you can please bring loppers or pruning shears, petrol strimmers, brushes for sweeping up, etc., and perhaps window cleaning equipment, that would be really helpful.

Inside jobs will be mostly a sort out, and clean of, the galley area, cupboards, etc and windows cleaned. Thanks in advance to all our volunteers who so kindly give their time to keep the club looking good. Tea, coffee served at 09:30. Working Party commences 10:00.



### END OF SEASON EVENING SOCIAL

Organised by Liz Andrews, Rear Commodore.

Marie Lawrenson and Denise Jago will be talking about this years Spring Cruise after our meal. Also this is a great opportunity for a good catch up with all our sailig adventures and travels this season.

Bar opens 6pm  
Supper served 7pm  
Slow cooked Spanish style chicken and chorizo  
Slow cooked Greek style chicken with safron and prunes

Traditional beef or vegetarian lasagne  
Spinach and feta pie

All served with Patatas Alinadas, crusty bread and salad.

Please book in at the links below with Liz Andrews (andrewslz@aol.com) or Andy Stevenson (millview1991@hotmail.co.uk) to reserve your plate. If you have any particular dietary needs please let us know.

I am really looking forward to seeing you there, and hope our new members will join us.



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## What's on!

*12 October 2019*

**Working Party I End of Season Party**

*02 November 2019*

**AGM & Members Forum I Bonfire Party**

*7th December*

**Christmas Party at the Clubhouse**

*25th January 2020*

**Burns Night Supper**

## Commodore's Corner

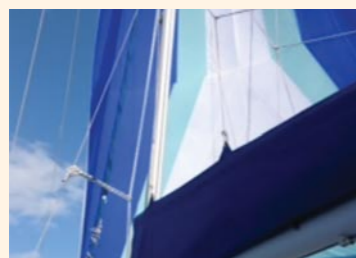
**Paul Morton**  
Commodore

Getting close. The AGM is fast approaching and the winter activities in the club are being organised. This year, as you know, we have quite a few vacancies on the committee and people have already put their names forward to fill some of the important roles but don't let that put you off as we can always use enthusiastic committee members.

I have been very pleased to see an influx of new members and interestingly some from an unusual source. I am sure the membership officer Sue will enlighten you at the AGM.

Some of the sailing weekends have been affected by the summer storms but on the whole the sailing in company has been good. Being retired from my day job I am more flexible in when I can sail and therefore make the most of the good weather in the week like a few more of our retired members.

I also have had two trips to the Irish Coast this season. First to Southern Ireland with John Lomas in Soay and the second with Des founds in Stargazer. The first was unfortunately lacking in wind so quite a lot of motoring was done but the second there was no shortage and surfing down waves over 10knots with excellent weather made it a great Sailing Holiday.



Fair winds and Blue sky

We met some interesting people. Locals in Wicklow who made us drink Guinness and sing with them and even some of the Committee of the Irish Cruising Club with lunch on their boat no less. They made us very welcome at their home port in Howth.

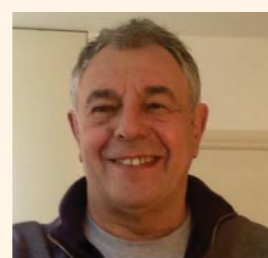
### Visited

Waterford, Cork (by bus) Kilmore Quay, Arklow, Wicklow, Greystones, Howth, Ardglass, Peel, Port St Mary.

So its back to the official jobs of the club although we could still have some good sailing time to go so lets make the most of it.

The AGM and particularly the members forum is your chance to tell us what you think about how the club is run so please come with your questions that hopefully we can answer or a least get a view of what the members want. There will be a new team running the club in the coming year so fresh ideas will hopefully come from this new team. Also we are of course introducing the incorporated status to the club at the AGM.

So looking forward to seeing you all at the end of season party and work party



## Social Matters

**Liz Andrews**  
Rear Commodore

I can't believe that by the time this issue is published we will have hauled out for another winter season at Gallows Point. The recent strong winds have curtailed our sailing plans somewhat, but at the time of writing at least some settled weather is forecast.

We were lucky enough to be on our mooring when one of the Menai Strait Regatta races took place in August. We moor Cloe-Jo near Ynys Faelog, Menai, so had a great view of the boats. The start line was near Menai Bridge, so they passed close by our mooring. In fact, some boats chose an inshore course on our starboard quarter and, as you can see from the photos, a couple of boats were a little too close for comfort! It was a spectacular sight like a colourful flotilla of pond skaters, with all the different classes racing, and the winds were perfect for cruising chutes. It was made all the more enjoyable by the warm sunny weather.

The dolphins in the Strait have caused quite a stir this year coming up as far as Menai Bridge. I had seen a video of them on Facebook but felt very lucky to see them playing and jumping in the evening sunshine after we returned to our mooring. They had quite an audience from the shore and seems to enjoy all the attention.



I have been busy planning our Winter Season programme and look forward to seeing you supporting our events at the clubhouse. Thank you to the social committee and others who regularly help at our socials. Without you, these events would not be possible.

### Forthcoming events:-

Bar opens 6p.m. supper usually served at 7p.m. Please book in with Liz Andrews or Andy Stevenson. Full details of each event will be sent out by email and the NWWYC closed group Facebook page.

### 12th October End of Season Party

Mediterranean themed supper and a talk by Marie Lawrenson and Denise Jago about the Spring Cruise. Also it will be a good chance to chat and catch up on all the sailing news and events.

### 2nd November Beach Bonfire and DIY Barbecue

Please bring your own food to cook on the club barbecues. The Beaumaris Firework display will be held on the same night so we can watch their spectacular display from across the bay.

### 7th December NWWYC Christmas party at the Clubhouse

Festive menu catered by the Bishopsgate Hotel. Full details of menu choices and price will be sent out. Presentations, raffle and photograph competition.

### 25th January Burns Night Supper

Hearty Burns Night supper, a Scottish themed quiz and maybe some Scottish dancing too?

### February event

If enough people are interested I would like to book Ouzo and Olive, Caernarfon for a meal out.

### 14th March

A talk by Ian Sadler, the race organiser of The Three Peaks Yacht Race  
Pie and peas supper.





# North West Venturers Yacht Club



Have you enjoyed sailing this year?

Now it's time to think about what you can do for your club.

Don't leave it to somebody else.



**This year, our AGM is on 2/11/19 at 11:00am.**

**Support the new commodore.**

**Volunteer to help run your club.**

**Take this opportunity to be part of the club's future.**

Some people have already volunteered and have been proposed and seconded, but all positions are open to anyone who has been a member for 2 years. The nominations are not set in stone! If you feel you could fulfil any one of the roles, let us know by 5/10/19. If you know someone who will propose and second you that is all to the good, but if you don't- don't let it stop you volunteering.

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
Commodore	Andrew Stevenson	John Lomas	Paul Morton
Vice Commodore			
Rear Commodore	Liz Andrews	Jen Barcroft	Andrew Stevenson
Hon. Secretary			
Hon. Treasurer	Tony McKenna	John Lomas	Paul Morton
Hon. Membership Secretary			
Hon Sailing Captain			
Hon. Bosun			
Hon. House Officer	Richard Adams	Paul Morton	Jerry Jago
Committee Members 1	Sarah Crawford	Noreen George	Liz Andrews
2	Brian Oulton	Maura Mclvor	Margaret Hopkinson
3	John Wilkinson	Andrew Stevenson	Ed Hopkinson
4			
5			

**All nominations should be made to the secretary by 5/10/19.**

## In Memory of Trevor Shirley

by Mij Shirley



He spent many a weekend fettling her at Fiddlers Ferry before sailing her to Red Wharf Bay where we had acquired a mooring. The children now grown up came with us some-times and along with our first born granddaughter we encountered dolphins on occasions swimming around the boat on our trips along the coast to Moelfre and Cemaes Bay. Wonderful! My fear and apprehension soon faded under Trevor's capable seamanship skills.

We upgraded to a Golden Hind 31 with a mooring in the Straits and later berthing her in Victoria Dock in Caernarfon. Much easier for me being able to climb on board from a pontoon and not from an unstable dinghy! To keep me sweet we experienced several sailing holidays with company in the Greek Islands. It certainly made a difference with the warm sun on your back.

After joining the NWVYC Trevor was full of admiration for the club, the camaraderie and sailing in company. Our family commitments meant that we were not able to be as involved as we would have liked to have been, but nevertheless we attended social activities when we could and made new friendships along the way.

In recent years Trevor boosted his sea miles with trips to the south coast from Bangor and vice versa enjoying stopovers in Fishguard and Penzance. He was always looking to improve his skills and experience. We also spent many a happy hour together sailing around Anglesey and down the Llyn Peninsula, Porthdinllaen and Llanddwyn being our favourite spots. Venturing further a field, sailing to the Isle of Man and Ireland with good company were wonderful times for us both.

Since his early sailing experience around the Channel Islands Trevor never lost his love for the sea and sailing and I hope he will be remembered fondly with this in mind.

Following my dearly loved husband's untimely passing on 1st August 2019 I would like to write a few words about how Trevor's interest in sailing started. When Trevor was working for the London Borough of Barnet, back in the late 60's early 70's and he being in his very early 20's, he took a group of disadvantaged teenage boys on holiday aboard a skippered yacht sailing from the south coast to the Channel Islands. Whilst he enjoyed every minute most of the boys were sea-sick. That was one trait that never affected Trevor and he was always a useful crew member when others around him fell ill. My experience was different and having crewed for my Dad from a young age on an Enterprise dinghy in Leigh Sailing Club and around Rhoscolyn I was a little apprehensive and did not enjoy it too much.

Soon after we met our first boating experience together was on the Norfolk Broads. After we married and children came along further similar holidays ensued both on the Thames and the Norfolk Broads. Trevor's love for the water never diminished and he was forever looking to acquire a sailing boat but I held back and my argument was that 3 young children and sailing did not mix! However this was unfounded and eventually we bought our first boat Pegasus a 25' Sunrider.

## North West Venturer(s) to the rescue!

14th September 2019, high water 11:18 GMT

Reece Lea

On a bright and sunny afternoon, winds South West 4 or 5, perfect conditions for Cloe Jo weighing in at 5.5 tons, we slipped our mooring at high water, heading for Trwyn Du but with a predicted F6 later, it was unlikely that we would go through the Sound. All was going well, sailing with Jib only; so good in fact that just past The Gazelle we decided to roll our head sail in, put the main up, race down to the bridges and back up again.

We could only get a few turns on the sail and then the furling would go no further. Looking up I could see the halyard had wrapped around the forestay. We needed a plan of action:-  
a) Let the headsail out fully in the hope that we may be able to haul it in a second time. (We have no auto helm, and therefore being short handed, dropping the headsail in those conditions if it were to come out was not really an option).  
b) Sail on in the hope a mooring was available at Gallows Point, and if so, try and pick one up and put plan c, into action.

continued overleaf

c) To physically wrap the sail around the forestay by hand. The situation was not good, but we felt letting more of the headsail out in the hope it may come back in cleanly was not a good idea; so to plan b and c. Luckily a mooring was available. The helmsman (Liz) made a very tricky manoeuvre, balancing the power from the sail and the power of the engine look easy. Luckily we made it first time, but Cloe Jo wasn't happy! She didn't want to stay there. Bucking and kicking, all she wanted to do was sail, but there she would have to stay. All the Skipper had to do now was wrap away the headsail. No chance! Far more muscle was needed. Now it was time to deploy plan f - flippin' help.

f) For the first time in 17 years of sailing, I put out a PAN PAN call. The response was immediate with the first offer of assistance coming from Belfast Coastguard (the new ariel and cable that we fitted earlier in the season seemed to be working quite well). Not unsurprisingly they didn't know of our location, so we signed out with them and called up Holyhead Coastguard, giving our position and situation.

Reassuringly we also received calls from Stan and Richard Zalot as well as Tony McKenna from Swanrad, but eventually it was Rob Hayes from Misty Isle who came aboard. Once briefed of the plan, a third sheet was deployed. Whilst this was going on, more boats came to stand by in the event that additional help was needed. Holyhead Coastguard were constantly updated. With a third sheet attached to the foot it was then the helmsman's job to steer and force the sail across, then to back off whilst Rob and Skipper wrestled to get a turn on.

In the mean time, one of the other assisting boats, a rib I think - Huga? (very sorry for any mispronunciation) made sure that Liz wasn't trying so hard that we were dragging. Slowly, with every turn, the power was reducing, and the situation easing,

until eventually we were once again under control. It took, I guess, an hour. Rob was happy to hand over to the Skipper of the rib who was now also aboard, to put in the last few turns in and secure the sail. I gave the Coast Guard the good news and explained we were returning to our mooring under engine alone and would call them yet again once there.

**Conclusion:-**

Many thanks has to go out to all who responded to our plea, and especially to our aids. They didn't question what I thought needed to be done, but without their help the situation would have developed to where the RNLi (who I'm sure were on standby) would have to be called out.

We are aiming to get Cloe Jo on the hard in a couple of weeks and then hopefully will discover the exact cause of the fault, but I suspect the furling bearing may have collapsed, causing the halyard to wrap around the forestay, and hence the jam. If that is the case it maybe difficult to unfurl the sail but we'll wait and see. We may have to unwrap by hand. We have no photos to add as we were a little busy!

**Damage:-**

Furling gear will probably need replacing  
Slight tear to the UV strip (home repair)  
Ego - none! If anything I have had a bit of a monkey on my back regarding PAN PAN and MAYDAY calls. I do hope I don't have to make another one for the next 17 years, but if that happens it has made me (us) more secure in the knowledge that the Coastguard and fellow sailors (ribs included ??) and especially NWWYC members are there to lend a hand.

**Lessons learned:-**

Always carry a spare Rob

Reee Lea

## In Memory of Ken Hancock

by Lynda Hancock

It is with sadness that we have learned of the passing of Ken Hancock. Ken and his wife Lynda have been longstanding members of the club and served the club well during this time. Ken had been ill for several years, but that is not how we remember him.

Ken loved his association with the club especially learning from the experienced sailors in the club. Occasionally we got to help others in tricky situations. I remember him taking the dinghy out from Abermenai to help a yacht grounded on the treacherous point. They had cut across too early. So easy to do and Ken never had second thoughts! Another time He dived in to the water to save a young Alsatian who had tried to leap from a yacht and was left dangling and choking over the side. A man of action but also much wisdom! We had some wonderful mentors. John on Safari took us too the

wonderful Skerries. A truly remarkable place with a very tricky entrance but so worth a visit. Derek on Cloth Porridge 2 showed us a lovely bay behind Moelfre. A wonderful shelter where we swam and ate his fantastic pancakes! It was an excellent alternative port on several occasions for us and once safely anchored a pretty walk along the cliffs to the pleasures of the pub! Ken loved those quiet anchorages. I loved whistling up something delicious in the galley with a glass of wine. A piece of heaven we would say! Our son Robert became a frequent crew member and Ken eventually let him take out his 'uni' friends on a weekend sail. They had fairly rough weather but he captained his crew with authority and consideration! My two girls had weekends with us but sadly my grand children never did. We loved Skye. She gave us so much pleasure.

It was privilege to be members of NWWYC. A brilliant engineer, when he was house officer he made and erected the mast outside the club. He organised and ran the winter servicing sessions of the outboard motors. He was always ready to help, and was often called on to sort out engineering problems. That was the measure of the man. If there was a problem he could and would solve it. I am embarrassed to

say that the two idiots bouncing up and down along the shore on the club's anniversary like Captain Pugwash were yours truly. The banner waving nutters ashore were crackers too.

**Good times x  
He will be sadly missed by all.**

## Mentoring around Ireland continuing Mentor's 2015 trip up the West coast

Sue Beetlestone



Tory Island

**Port Doon, Tory Island**

Instead of heading for the recommended anchorage on the South of Tory Island (where apparently you may be welcomed by the King of the island) we opted for a small inlet on the south-east corner. It was worth it, we had it all to ourselves, the water was clear and was full of tiny jellyfish of a number of varieties. There was also plenty of birdlife to watch.



Malin Head

**Malin Head**

Malin Head has a fearsome reputation and with the combination of tides, winds and rocks it's easy to understand why. We partially avoided it by heading out to Inishtrahull. When we returned to the North Coast of Ireland last year we did round it in both directions.

Inishtrahull



Lough Swilly

**Lough Swilly**

After waiting for the tide in the Bay by Fanad Head Lighthouse we sailed up Lough Swilly to the pontoon by Rathmullen Pier. The Lough is very pretty and has a number of choices for anchoring. There is a Marina at Fahan which is partly dredged and is not close to any town or village so we gave that a miss. Rathmullen has a nice beach with sailing activities and the pier has a ferry to Buncrana. There are small shops and places to eat in Rathmullen. Buncrana has a couple of supermarkets. While we were in Rathmullen we were visited by Buncrana's then new Shannon Lifeboat which is a really impressive piece of kit!



**Inishtrahull**

This is the most northern land of the island of Ireland and also includes its most northerly anchorage at Portmore. Having anchored at Ireland's most southerly and most westerly anchorages it was inevitable that Graham wanted to try this one, however there was quite a big swell and the wind was forecast to go into the NE (Portmore faces NE) and after having quite a good look at it we headed for the safety of Portrush. We returned to the area again last summer but conditions were again unfavourable both on our outward track across to Aranmore and also on our return.



*The Goblin's Walk*

**The Gobbins Walk**

The first time we saw this a few years ago we were sailing close into the coast and could see ladders down the cliff and all sorts of work going on as part of the restoration of this famous Victorian coastal attraction. This time we could see the results of the work. I'd love to visit it now that it's reopened. There's a great video at <https://www.thegobbinscliffpath.com/>



*Ballyholme Bay*

**Ballyholme Bay**

This bay near Bangor at the entrance to Belfast Lough is one of our favourite passage anchorages in the right conditions (if not we can go on a few miles further to Bangor). It's very peaceful and on our circumnavigation provided an easy early morning getaway for a long (for us) trip down to Carlingford.

**Ed's notes:** The final part of this illuminating log of anchorages, ports & harbours of the west coast of Ireland will be in the next edition.

## 50 Club Numbers 2019

Joy Downes

We have just two numbers available to purchase for the 50 club, which has been successfully running for the past 8 years. As of 12.08.2019, the numbers shown in the right hand column are still available for purchase: -

The 50 club winners in drawn order for August were as follows:

- 10 - Ed & Margaret Hopkinson on Osprey - £50**
- 16 - Sarah Crawford on Tascita - £20**
- 41 - Don Marshall - £15**

September's draw has not yet been made. We will catch up in our next edition:

**All prizes are paid out by our Treasurer Edward Hopkinson in a few days following the draw. Remember. There are still numbers available for purchase so, support your club and have some fun.**

See our website for more details.

### Numbers still available

31

34

35

40

### End Notes:

#### The next issue of The Venturer will be Christmas 2019

Ed is hoping that some members will share their experiences bringing their boats out of the water and the general maintenance undertaken at this time of year. If you would like to share your horror stories or solved a problem that might help other members. please send me your article and a photo or two always helps. Many thanks **Jan L**

#### Send your articles for the next issue to:

[venturer@nwvyc.org.uk](mailto:venturer@nwvyc.org.uk)

**by 25th November 2019**