

# Waldringfield Sailing Club

Report to Parish Council – April 2014

## Community focus

The Sailing Club is keen to engage with the wider village, and it is worth noting some of the ways that we hope that we are able to be of service.

- This year, we are pleased to be able to continue to make the club house available to the local parish church for their traditional Yachtsman's service, and provide refreshment for the Excelsior band. This year the service has been scheduled for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July.
- The Village Regatta is an event that the Sailing Club puts on to keep alive nostalgia for Deben Week of years gone by. This is on the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> July and is open to all villagers, young and old with events ranging from fancy-dress, sandcastle building and an afternoon of more boisterous shore events. On the Saturday evening we will host a barbeque together with musical entertainment that befits the nostalgic theme.
- Over the winter, we have held a working party to replace some of the timbers in the retaining river wall outside of the club house. The volunteers did a great job and not only does it look smarter from the river, but the structure should now be sound for a few more years to come.
- At the top of the car park is a rather dilapidated metal fence that runs along both our boundary and also the boatyard. We are concerned that this is dangerous, and would be more than happy to help the land-owner remove it and improve the appearance and safety of this footpath – especially now the hedge that we planted several years ago is mature.

## Opportunity for villagers to get involved

We would also like to make sure that residents are aware that the Sailing Club provides several opportunities for villagers who may be interested in trying or learning to sail.

- On July 8<sup>th</sup> we will once again be hosting the final year pupils from five local schools as part of their activity day. That is potentially seventy 11-year-olds to be entertained.
- Every year we aim to hold at least one "sail taster" day – which is where you can just turn up and go out for a sail with some of our existing members. This year it will take place on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- You may not be aware that the sailing club is also an accredited RYA training provider, and we will be running a comprehensive range of courses from beginners through to experienced Yacht masters. Many of these are open to you all, and more details are published on our website. ( <http://waldringfieldsc.com> )

## **Making it easier for new members to stay involved**

One of the challenges for sailing clubs is how to help people who join the club get access to boats and sailing without the commitment of owning a boat. Over recent years we have built up a small fleet of dinghies of different types, mainly as a result of generous donations, and we are keen to make it as easy as possible for someone to get access to a boat and get out on the water and have fun.

This year we have a new initiative – over a few weeks in the summer we will be holding informal “improver training” again aimed at those who are not yet confident in joining our Saturday afternoon racing.

## **In Conclusion**

So I would like you to take away that the Sailing Club and its members are giving up their free time and energy to help Waldringfield people get to enjoy the river, and that you should feel very welcome to come and try us out.

I hope you will recognise that we do contribute to the overall village community. I’m sure we could do more, so if you have any feedback over the coming months, don’t hesitate to let me know!

Thank you.

Ian Videlo  
Rear Commodore