

WOA SOUTH WEST GROUP WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023



Meet The Committee:



Sarah Dingley-Brown

New to the South West Group committee this year is Sarah Dingley- Brown. We welcome her to the committee where her experience and enthusiasm will be a great asset.

Sarah and her husband Peter have been sailing together for many years and are delighted with their new -to- them Westerly. Both Sarah and Peter along with their Westerly are based in South Devon.

The committee; was elected by the AGM on 14 Oct 2023. Sarah Dingley Brown was the only new member to be voted onto the committee bringing it to a full complement of 10.

The committee agreed to the following roles:

Chairman: Barbara Box
Vice Chair: Paul Moorhouse
Secretary outgoing: Bob Walker
Secretary incoming: Karen Surrall
Treasurer: Chris Strang
Committee Member: Chris Barton
Committee Member: Sparks Beattie
Committee Member: Julian Davis
Committee Member: Sarah Dingley- Brown
Committee Member: Bill Shepherd

Sparks Beattie has stepped down from the Vice Chair position and we are very grateful that she is staying on as a committee member. We owe her a big thank you for the years of service in the Vice Chair role. Paul Moorhouse is a long-serving committee member, and we are pleased that he has taken on the role of Vice Chair from Sparks.

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023

DATED November 2023

INTRODUCTION

Hello to all the WOA South West Area Group (SWG) members.

As you will see in the left-hand column, there have been some changes to the Committee and for the first time in a long while we are back up to our full strength of 10 committee members.

Since the appointment of the committee at the SW Annual General Meeting on the 14 Oct 2023, we have been busy establishing the event schedule for 2024-25. I will cover the proposed scheduled on page 3 with a caution that it is still work in progress and some event dates may change slightly. I will also provide some feedback from the events that took place this year.

At the National level, it has been a busy year with the Association Summer Cruise (ASC23) in June, the introduction of a new Information Security Policy and resolving legacy ambiguities in our respective databases. More about these on Pages 4 and 5.

I can't let the front page go without praising our own SW member, Derek Hathaway who was voted this year's top achiever at the AGM, not just for the distance covered in his Fulmar (Thalmia) but also for his excellent YouTube videos of his single handed voyages containing drone footage. Don't take my word for it; check it out here:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Derek+Hathaway

If you have any news, snippets or topics to include in the next newsletter then please get in touch with me. In fact, if you have any Westerly Yacht questions including membership queries I am happy to be the first point of contact. Here are my contact details:

WOA SWG Secretary:

Bob Walker

Email: southwestgroup@westerly-owners.co.uk

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CHAIRMAN'S PLOTTING TABLE



Dear Sailors

It's your favourite time of year - possibly.

We now have the time and opportunity to get around to all those jobs we have put off while we were having fun sailing.

As the saying goes, look after your boat and your boat will look after you. So, with your New Year's resolutions in mind, boiler suits on, toolbox in hand and make a start.

Perhaps you also have other hobbies that keep you occupied over winter.

I look forward to seeing old and new friends at the Christmas lunch.

Barbara Box
Chairman

VIEW FROM THE CROWS NEST

Looking ahead to the next season 2024, we shall be building on the success of the last year or two. You will see this in the events schedule (Page 3), and there other features such as WhatsApp which have proved popular well beyond my original aspiration. The WhatsApp South West Group will continue and in addition to this, event organisers will set up a WhatsApp Group specifically for the event and it will be closed down when the event is completed. The event application & booking form is where you will be asked if you wish to be included in the Event WhatsApp Group – we must always have your permission.

Following several minor information security concerns, the Association has introduced a new Information Security Policy. This in turn is driving improved security measures as follows:

- WOA website.
- Introduction of a secure cloud shared drive for holding personal data and sensitive information.
- Removal of personal data from the Yearbook such as contact information.

More details can be found in Chris Strang's feedback to the SWG on Page 5.

Diversity remains a key topic of discussion within the Association, and it has been recognised that there is still some way to go. Fresh ideas are needed to attract other groups in society of all ages to join the various committees and help to shape the strategy for the foreseeable future. If you have any thoughts, ideas or experience in this field, then please contact the Rear Commodore at; rear-commadore@westerly-owners.co.uk

ASC23 STATISTICS!

41 yachts in total took part in the cruise. Due to the large number, the cruise was split into two Fleets.

The Anson Fleet of 12 yachts including 5 from the SW assembled in St Peter Port, Guernsey 10 Jun 23.

The Rodney Fleet of 29 yachts assembled in Cherbourg also on 10 Jun 23.

The departure from UK mainland was delayed 24 hrs due to poor weather, thereafter, no further weather events affected the cruise.

Regarding engine failures, 25 responses from the 41 yachts surveyed, 7 yachts were affected by an engine problem and 5 had to change their plans, mostly by defects causing overheating. More on this to follow.

I now have the T Shirt as they say:



ASC23 Summary By Barbara Box

The Annual Summer Cruise took place in June, attracting boats from Ipswich to Plymouth with five vessels representing the Southwest. Bob worked extremely hard on this venture, not just in preparation, but also every day while we were away. Sangelai travelled 342 nm from Plymouth to Guernsey, Jersey, Granville, St Cast (a beautiful little port), St Malo, then across the Minquiers on the return trip to Jersey and finally Plymouth. An excellent cruise, enjoyed by everyone, lots of lessons were learned, much confidence was gained and, most important, new friends were made, and help given when needed. Thank you, Bob.



SWG EVENTS 2023 ROUNDUP

By the Chairman:

Last year, I mentioned that we hadn't managed to arrange events that attracted young families. This year has been a little better, but no doubt the inclement weather, which led to the cancellation of some events, didn't help.

The year in brief:

The Christmas lunch was held at Dartmoor Lodge, Ashburton, for the second time, with 43 people attending. It has proved so popular, with it being centrally situated in our area and with easy access, that we have decided to hold this year's Christmas lunch there too.

The Fitting Out in February was held at The Royal Maritime Club in Portsmouth, with visits to the Historic Dockyard. This is a fascinating place with many exhibitions; the Mary Rose and HMS Victory probably the most popular. The D-Day Landing Museum further along the coast was worth the effort of walking there. The event was quite a long way from Cornwall, so well done to all who made it.

The Dart Music Festival in May attracted 13 boats and two local couples who didn't need to sail there. Advertising on the WOA Facebook attracted a few new members. Or was it the rumour of bacon butties?

The Fowey Meet Afloat in May saw a smaller turnout than usual, but one young family ventured west. The youngsters enjoyed themselves on the water, as well as playing silly Olympic style games on the pontoon and sharing the Hall walk with aged companions.

Sadly, **The Helford/Falmouth Pub Crawl** in July attracted only one boat. However, Bob's visit to the Falmouth Coast Guard went ahead. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the RYA's Safetrx app and other emerging technologies. A full report is available on the WOA website ad shared with other associations such as the RNSA; <https://westerly-owners.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/MRCC-Visit-Report-v4.pdf>

The Barn Pool Family day later in July had to be cancelled. Not this time, due to the weather, but the fact that the organiser (had a better offer) changed jobs, so leaving him insufficient time.

The Waddeton Beach Family Meet Afloat in August was cancelled due to the prospect of poor weather.

The Barnardo's Day later in August had to be cancelled, due to insufficient staff in Barnardo's.

And to end the season, **The Salcombe Meet Afloat and BBQ** was a great success, despite a couple of boats trying their best to go awol. 9 boats anchored in Frogmore or Salt Stone, 2 or 3 having not joined us before, so that was good. 25 people enjoyed a BBQ on the beach, the evening being enhanced by sunny weather and a neap tide.

SWG PROPOSED 2024-25 SCHEDULE

Event No.01	Event Title	Dates	Organiser
	Fitting Out: Bowood Park Hotel -Camelford	24-25 Feb 2024	Chris Strang
Notes: All SWG Members are welcome. https://westerly-owners.co.uk/event/south-west-group-fitting-out-weekend-23-24-february-2024/			

Event No.02	Event Title	Dates	Organiser
	Easter Walk	23 Mar 2024	Paul Moorhouse
Notes: Easter walk in the Torbay area, Details to follow.			

Event No.03	Event Title	Dates	Organiser
	Dart Music Festival Meet Afloat	16-19 May 2024	Sarah Dingley- Brown
Notes: Details are now available from the WOA Web Site here; https://westerly-owners.co.uk/event/dart-music-festival-meet-afloat-2/			

Event No.04	Event Title	Dates	Organiser
	Cornish Triangle	20-26 June 2024	Barbara Box
Notes: Starting in Fowey on 01 Jul 24 and then heading to Falmouth, River Fal and Helford River. Launch point for the Isles of Scilly.			

Event No.05	Event Title	Dates	Organiser
	Isles of Scilly Meet Afloat	26 Jun to 04 Jul 2024	Bob Walker
Notes: From the Cornish Triangle launch to the IoS. Controlled by the IoS WhatsApp Group which will stay live for the summer season.			

Event No.06	Event Title	Dates	Organiser
	Dart Meet Afloat	17-18 Aug 2024	Chris Strang
Notes: Family friendly, Anchor off the beaches and have fun. More details to follow.			

FEEDBACK TO SWG FROM NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2023

By Chris Strang

Subscription and Membership

Membership is at 3162 in September 2023. Diversity at both local and national level is a problem that is difficult to make progress on. The action to align and synchronise the Yearbook database with the Central Register to resolve the membership classification issue has been completed so that the second named person in the Yearbook entry is now copied over into the Central Register. This now allows the second named person, to serve on committees. For voting purposes, if there are two names under a single membership, then only one of the two names can vote. This keeps it fair for single boat owners.

Boat Show

We had our usual small corner stand at the Southampton Boat Show this year which featured a moving film loop of various WOA events played on a TV. There were 198 visitors to the stand, and we had Gary O'Grady's Konsort KATY afloat in the association area. This was in 'expedition' mode like it was when he did the ARC rally across the Atlantic in November 2022.

Finance

Current Balance: Bank £78k, slightly down on same time last year. £60k is in a deposit account earning 4.25%. The prediction is that our surplus this year will be small because of increased costs of postage, management, more direct meetings etc. It is being monitored closely.

Magazine

The winter 2023 magazine will be 176 pages. There is a wide variety of content including logs and articles and many children and baby pictures and 6 technical articles.

Information Security

WOA have looked at its Information Security systems in great detail. Bob Walker, who has expertise in this area has led the work and it resulted in the conclusion that WOA had 5 critical risks against it. A lot of work and discussion has taken place and the plan that Bob proposed is being implemented. We now have a structure in place to manage our IS and the website security has been improved. Unfortunately, the much-loved Yearbook will be changed in format from next year, we cannot continue to publish personal contact details in this format so contact numbers and email addresses will be removed. These details can be found through the website but only when into the member's area where you would have to log into first. The link is here; <https://westerly-owners.co.uk/search-yearbook/>

A Google Drive shared document area has been established to mitigate the IS risks associated with Bring Your Own Device (BOYD) and information resilience. This is being populated and in use by some of the WOA committee.

Event No.07	Event Title	Dates	Organiser
	Salcombe Meet Afloat & BBQ	31 Aug 2024	Julian Davis

Notes: End of season Meet Afloat with a BBQ.
More details to follow.

Event No.08	Event Title	Dates	Organiser
	SWG - AGM	12 Oct 2024	Chris Strang

Notes: Devon Hotel (Exeter).
More details to follow.

Event No.09	Event Title	Dates	Organiser
	Christmas Dinner	07 Dec 2024	Sparks Beattie

Notes: Details to follow.

Event No.10	Event Title	Dates	Organiser
	Fitting Out	XX Feb 2025	Barbara Box

Notes: More Details to follow

SWG Events

Details of all events including further information, application/booking forms can be found here; <https://westerly-owners.co.uk/south-west-group/>

facebook

The WOA Facebook Group needs you!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2582917101959209>

We are in the initial stages of exploring if we could use the Sail Ties app for WOA specific activities. This will probably be dependent on costs of including our requirements.

Yearbook

You will all have received your Yearbook email showing your entry for the 2024 YB and asking that you add your MMSI number to your details if you haven't already done so.

PR & Communications

Round the Island Race 2023. The Island Sailing Club (The race Organisers) have now introduced the Westerly Silver Jubilee Cup for the top performing Westerly in the race which was won by a Fulmar – Panda of Hamble who also achieved a very creditable 11th overall.

7 Westerlies took part in the Jester challenge this year with, unsurprisingly, another Fulmar being the first in to Baltimore. WOA have given each entrant a small award recognising their participation. Gary O'Grady strives to keep the Westerly marque in the press at all times.

Commercial

Tom Teichmann is our new Commercial Manager and is targeting £6k per year revenue from magazine advertising. After losing a few over the last year he seems to be reversing the trend with some new companies advertising.

The marina discount offers will be reviewed during the winter months. The Navigators and General agreement is in place.

Association Summer Cruise 2023

The cruise to the Channel Islands and France was organised by Bob Walker and from all the feedback I have had was very successful, despite some bad weather at the start. Because of its size it was split into 2 fleets, 3 days apart. It was a very successful rally.

National Events 2024

The AGM is being held on 27 January 2024 at the RNLI Headquarters in Poole. As Gill Clare is stepping down and Brian Jones is taking over there will be a new commodore's dinner on the Saturday Evening. Details will be sent out with the winter magazine.

The Association Summer Cruise 2024 is being organised by Brian Jones and will be based on the East coast. Planned start is mid-June commencing from Ramsgate and visiting Harwich, Brightlingsea, Queenborough and Chatham before heading up the Thames to central London and berthing in St. Catherine dock marina. Duration is 2-3 weeks. More detail will be available at the AGM.



WOA SWG WhatsApp Groups; **South West Group, Isles of Scilly Group**. If you wish to join any of them, you must first have your own WhatsApp account and then email me at southwestgroup@westerly-owner.co.uk or text me on 07817 502 000 and let me know which Group you wish to join and I will require your mobile phone number.

PHOTO GALLERY FROM 2023



Figure 1: The SWG Chair victualling for ASC23



Figure 2: SWG in St Helier, Jersey



Figure 3: Our very own Eddy Stone jumped ship.



Figure 4: Eddy lashed to the beam for jumping ship in France but avoided the carnage of a rough passage.

Our nominated Christmas charity wins The King's Award for 2023

As many of you will be aware, we have a collection for charity at our Christmas Luncheon. Each year, an appropriate charity is chosen to benefit from the collection and this year, The Disabled Sailing Association based in Torquay, which is a Royal Yachting Association sailability affiliated and approved organisation, was chosen at our October Committee Meeting.

The DSA was formed some twenty years ago and the only boat it had was an old Hurley built Alacrity named "Moonshine". A few years later, it progressed and bought a Westerly Centaur called "Sainte Foy". She gave good service for several years and was eventually sold as the DSA went on to purchase the first of its two larger boats. This move was enabled by winning considerable funding from ITV's Big Lottery People's Millions Competition. The "Sainte Foy's" new owners placed her on a mooring at Stoke Gabriel on the River Dart.

The DSA currently has two boats named "Freedom" and "Free Spirit"; both vessels berthed in Torquay's Town Dock immediately adjacent to Beacon Quay where they can be easily seen. They are sailed regularly in Torbay, occasionally venturing slightly further afield but mostly it's day sailing.

The boats have been specially adapted for disabled persons with mountings for wheelchairs and extra grab rails etc. The President of DSA is David Musgrove who has been a driving force from the beginning. He is totally blind, and his wife Shirley is partially sighted. Apparently, David used to waterski when he was younger...quite an achievement when totally blind. The organisation relies totally on volunteers, all of whom must be qualified as safety is paramount.

Finally, only last week, DSA was awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service which merely proves what an excellent service it provides to the disabled community and truly deserved.



Salcombe Meet Afloat 2023

Surely this is a candidate for the Photographic competition.



Feedback is gratefully accepted; you can contact me as follows:

Bob Walker

southwestgroup@westerly-owners.co.uk

