



Westerly Owners' Association

South Coast Group Winter 2023/4 Newsletter



Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2024. We are hoping to make this a regular feature of the South Coast Group, bringing you news and information, looking back at what we have been up to, and looking ahead to what is being planned.

South Coast Group Committee:

Tom Teichmann	Chairman
Tim Harrison	Secretary
Steve Roberts	Treasurer
Chris Hoare	Area Representative
Eddie Niewiarowski	South East Cluster
Hillary Corney	
Geoff Waterhouse	
Gary O'Grady	
Alice Roat	

A look back at 2023

Tom Teichmann (with Hillary Corney helping with dates and photos)

Storm after storm rolled in to our region during the Summer. Cost of living crisis hitting us all, Calor Gas ran out, but our rallies and events were a great success. Despite poor weather, at times we managed an exceptional number of events and rallies.

The year was kicked off with a **Winter Walk** in February along the Basingstoke Canal, very successfully organized by Dick and Jane Leedham. 14 intrepid Westerly members and one dog took part.



The next exploit was the 11th **Westerly On Wheels** outing, now a regular and very popular Spring event. Fourteen units were booked from all over Southern England, with another three couples staying in adjoining B&Bs. Maggie and Phillip Watts won the dressing up competition on St Patrick's Day, and were awarded an Easter Bunny for their efforts. Big thanks again to Dick and Jane Leedham for organizing this.

Mike Neal organized a series of **Diesel Engine Maintenance Courses** at the Emsworth School of Navigation, which were available to members at a £20 discount to the regular price. They proved to be so popular that all places were taken, and additional courses had to be put on. Well done Mike.

The **Visit to HM Coastguards Joint Rescue Coordination Centre** on 11th March in Fareham was a great success and fully booked. So strong was the interest in the visit a second one was arranged in October. Thanks very much for arranging the visit Martyn Langford and Chris Hoare.



Then the sailing season started and we turned our attention to rallies. We kicked off with the **Bembridge Rally** on 26th May, organized by our chairman, Hillary Corney. This rally is a popular event and attended. We walked around the harbour and visited the RSPB wetlands to the south, calling in

to a chandlers on the way which turned out to be a veritable Aladdin's cave.

And then, of course, came the event a lot of us had been waiting for, **the Association Summer Cruise ASC23**. This had been organized meticulously by Bob Walker, WOA's Rear Commodore and Secretary of the South West Group. A full account of this rally has been published in the last Winter magazine by Barbara Box and Steve Freedman, so we will not recount all the details here.



The Summer Rally was a huge success. So much so that 45 Westerlys eventually took part. With so many boats involved Bob decided split the rally into two fleets, named Rodney and Anson. Rodney consisted mainly of boats from the East and South meeting up in Cherbourg, whilst Anson

consisted of boats from the South West, making their way directly to St Peter Port in Guernsey. Anson and Rodney were led by Bob and this writer respectively. Both fleets sailed the same passages with Rodney being behind Anson by a day or two. Everyone eventually met up in St Malo in Brittany. A great time was had by all, in spite of two occasions of thick fog, some rough seas once or twice, and total absence of wind on some passages. But it was warm and sunny most of the time, we were on the water and we were with friends. It could not have been better.

Well, all good things must come to end, it is being said, and so it was. Back in Blighty in July the weather was not what had been ordered. The **Gins Farm Rally** on July 22nd had to be cancelled, much to Chris Hoare's dismay, and the **Family Day Out** a week later met the same fate.

The poor weather went its way and things improved. The **Marchwood Sailing Club Rally** on 29th July and the **Folly Rally** in August went ahead and a great time was had by all. This was followed by another **Bembridge Rally** with a BBQ event on September 1st. **The Nab Tower Race** which had been organized by Gary O'Grady sadly had to be cancelled, too. Not because of bad weather this time, but because there was absolutely no wind at all. The last water-based event of the year was the **Lymington Rally** on September 15th. We rafted up on the Dan Bran Pontoon, had a great walk through the wetlands with a pit stop at the Chequers Inn and an evening meal at the Mayflower.

Our year was concluded with the South Coast Group **AGM and the Laying-up Supper** at the Hornet Sailing Club in Portsmouth Harbour on 28th October. Quite a few boats were on the hard by this time, and nobody was looking forward to Winter.

Hillary did a very good presentation featuring our activities on the water, and we had a subsequent RNLI presentation. Hillary stood down as Chairman and this author was voted in to take his place. David Beattie stood down as Treasurer and was replaced by Steve Roberts. Tim Harrison volunteered to take on the Secretary's role.

A great time was had at the Laying-up supper, with good food followed by a Sea Shanty Presentation by our resident musicians, George Pickburn, Steve Freedman and Doug Pattison

2024 Programme

The South Coast Group has a full schedule of events organized for this year. All events are detailed on the WOA SCG Area page. If you are unfamiliar with this then please go to the website, log in, press the 'HOME' button, and then press the 'AREA GROUPS' button. Press the 'South Coast' button and you are there.

Some events have not been populated with details yet, but all members of the SCG will receive emails about 4 weeks prior to the event with a full set of information.

13 th April	SE Cluster. Dover Coast Guard Visit.	Eddie Niewiarowski.
20 th April	Gins Farm Rally.	Chris Hoare.
3 rd May	Bembridge Rally.	Hillary Corney.
15 th May	Folly Inn Rally.	Geoff Waterhouse.
31 May	Chichester Marina Rally.	Tom Teichmann
14 th June	Lymington Rally	Tom Teichmann
23 rd July	Poole Harbour/Portland Marina Rally	Tom Teichmann
6 th Sept.	Yarmouth Rally	Tim Harrington
5 th Oct.	SE Cluster Autumn Walk	Eddie Niewiarowski
9 th Nov.	AGM and Laying up Supper (Hornet)	

There may be other events in addition to the above which have not yet been finalized, such as the Nab Tower Race which Gary O'Grady will be organizing, so keep checking on your SCG website for updates.

Do try to join these events if you can. They are great social activities, with pre-dinner pontoon parties, dinners at the local pubs or sailing clubs, and walks and sightseeing opportunities wherever possible. All WOA members are welcome, and we hope that newly joined skippers and crew will take this opportunity to meet and get to know their fellow members.

SCG Winter Walk

Tom Teichmann

When my partner Anne and I drove to Stoughton in West Sussex on Saturday, 24th February, it was raining, as it had been raining for most of the month. We were due to meet our fellow walkers at the Hare & Hounds, and I was wondering what on earth we were doing in this weather. Nobody in their right mind would show up. Well, we made our way there, along a country road partially flooded by the River Ems, and before long we arrived and met up with over 20 intrepid WOA members all jolly and cheerful and ready for the walk.

We piled into the pub to peruse the menu and make our choices for the lunch that was to be had later on our return, and as we shuffled out again the rain had stopped. We set off up the road along Monarch's way, a long steady uphill path that would lead us to towards the top of the Kingley Vale



Nature Reserve. Our motley crew, complete with two very keen dogs, stretched out quite a bit as we made our way to the top, with Anne in the lead and me bringing up the rear. With the rain now well in retreat we got to the top. The view over the West Sussex coastline and Chichester Harbour was not as good as we had hoped, but we had remained dry. We inspected the Devils Humps, several bronze age barrows along the ridgeway above Kingley Vale. They are the largest surviving round barrows in the South Downs, and they did look suitably impressive. There were plenty of photo opportunities for George Pickburn, our resident photographer. On we went along the ridgeway, quite content that we had reached

our halfway mark, still dry, with a warm meal waiting for us further ahead. We made our way down through the woodland, past a memorial dedicated to a young Polish airman who got shot down there in WW2. As we got back to the main road in Stoughton it began to drizzle but we soon were in the pub ready for our well-deserved lunch. The food was excellent, with home-made pies and very tasty fish and chips getting top marks. A great time was had by all. A very successful Winter's walk.