

WOA SOUTH WEST GROUP SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024



Meet The Committee:

Chairman: Barbara Box
Vice Chair: Paul Moorhouse
Secretary: 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

You will not be surprised to learn that Bob Walker has stepped down from the SW committee so that he can spend more time with the National Committee. He currently holds the post of Vice – Commodore for the national organisation and will become Commodore in due course.

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024
DATED April 2024

INTRODUCTION

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

Boats are being polished, bottoms painted and yachts slipped into the water. Journeys are being planned and charts bought ready for those hoped for fair winds and smooth seas. Hurrah!

The committee have been busy planning our summer season and there are details of these in this newsletter. You can of course find more details of the events on our page of the Westerly Owners website.

We were sorry to have to cancel the March walk but a combination of ill health and the very wet weather conspired against us.

The fitting out weekend though was a great success and you can read the report further in this newsletter.

Finally, 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:

Karen Surrall

Email: southwestgroup@westerly-owners.co.uk

SWG Events – Remember to Login to your WOA account!

Details of all events including further information, application/booking forms can be found here;

<https://westerly-owners.co.uk/south-west-group/>

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CHAIRMAN'S PLOTTING TABLE



Dear Sailors

Spring has sprung and I'm sure your boats are nearly ready for the coming season. Maybe even some modifications or improvements have been carried out. I hope you enjoy them.

As a committee, we have discussed how to encourage a wider network of members to join us at events on the water. Alongside publishing our events in this Newsletter and on the WOA website, an invitation will be sent to local marinas and sailing clubs to be passed to their Westerly owners. We would also love young families to join us, sharing our love of adventure, sailing, paddle boarding, canoeing, etc.

I look forward to seeing you.
Safe sailing and have a great summer.

Barbara Box
Chairman

Christmas!!!

The Christmas Lunch was held at Dartmoor Lodge, Ashburton, for the third time, with 54 people attending. Table quizzes after each course helped us to tax our brains and to catch up with old and new friends. This year we are changing the venue and it is being organised by Sparks Beattie.

Our venue for the WOA South West Group Christmas Lunch in 2024 is the Dainton Park Golf Club, situated on the A381 Totnes Road 3 miles from Newton Abbot.

We have booked the Oak Room Restaurant for our meal, which seats 50 people. An excellent opportunity to catch up with sailing friends, exchange experiences and make plans for the next sailing season!

For those wishing to make a weekend of it, there is a Premier Inn in Newton Abbot, or The Royal Seven Stars or the Steam Packet in Totnes, amongst many others!

PRECISION PAINT TROPHY

In 2016 as part of the WOA's 50th anniversary celebrations, Precision Paints very generously offered an award to the Westerly Owners Association, to be given in turn by each Area group to a WOA member in their area as a prize for a memorable achievement. Last year's winner was Emma Makin for her sterling work in rejuvenating the Channel Island group.

This year, 2024 - 2025, it is the turn of the SW area group to award the trophy to one of our members.

The committee has decided to reward achievements made by sailors who have stretched their limits and so extended their boundaries. We would like to hear about any skipper and crew who have travelled further than they previously dared or maybe sailed at night for the first time. We are particularly keen to hear about the achievements of any youngsters in our group but are very open to hearing about the experiences of anyone in the SW group who have extended their horizons and developed their skills.

If you would like to nominate someone in the SW group who fits the criteria on a Westerly yacht, please send a short resume to our Secretary southwestgroup@westerly-owners.co.uk. Closing date is 1 December 2024 and reminders will be sent before this date.

The prize is a model of a sailing Westerly in polished metal. It is on a wooden stand, with engraved plates for each year mounted on the base. The award will be given at the next National AGM in January 2025.

Barbara Box, Chairman

WG EVENTS 2024 ROUNDUP

The Fitting Out weekend was a great success – please see the report on the next page.

The Dart Music Festival

The days are getting longer and the clock is ticking, so now is the time to sign up to joining us at **the Dartmouth Music Festival meet. Taking place on 17th, 18th and 19th May 2024**, the festival will once again host a fantastic range of performers from a wide variety of genres; <https://www.dartmusicfestival.co.uk/> This site provides you with everything you need to know about the 2024 event. They also have a **Facebook Page**: Dart Music Festival.

There will be an informal activity available for the morning of Friday 19th May 10.30 am – a walk from Dartmouth (meet outside Dartmouth Yacht club) to the castle (and café). Returning via Gallants Bower which has the most spectacular views out to sea and possibly the best display of bluebells ... but requires some sharpish climbs on rough ground. On Sunday from 9.30am we will gather on the pontoon for a Bring Your Own Musical Breakfast. Hopefully not just a case of some BYO breakfasts but also an opportunity to enter a fun musical activity.

The closing date for applications is 16th April. All the details and the application form can be found by signing into your account on <https://westerly-owners.co.uk/>

WOA Summer Cruise 2024

This year's National Cruise takes place on the East Coast and commences in Ramsgate on the **14th June** and visits the Orwell Area including Ipswich, Brightlingsea and the River Blackwater then over to the River Medway and Chatham before ending at St Katherine Dock in London on the 1st July.

A Feeder "Rally" is being organised for boats travelling from WOA South West and South Coast Groups. This is expected to leave the Plymouth area around the 4th June before joining up with South Coast boats in the Solent around the 7th June visiting Chichester and stopping at Eastbourne around the 9th to 12th June for a mini rally before making for the start of the National Cruise in Ramsgate on the 14th via Brighton and Dover.

The invitation for Expressions of Interest in ASC24 has now closed but if you are interested there may be the chance of going on the reserve list if you would like to go for it.

Cruise in Company to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

A passage to sail in company from Fowey to the Isles of Scilly is planned for 20th June to 4th July 2024.

We will meet at the Gridiron pontoon in Fowey, where a BYO pontoon party will be held.

The fleet then moves to a pontoon in the River Fal for 2-3 days before heading to the Helford.

If the weather is favourable, we will set sail for Scilly via Mount's Bay.

SWG 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
	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.03	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.04	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.05	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.

This passage is planned as a series of Meets Afloat with, hopefully, a few experts sailing with us to provide guidance. Details are on the WOA website, in the SW group section.

Dartmouth Meet Afloat: Saturday 17 August at Waddeton Beach. Afternoon meet afloat with BBQ.

Salcombe meet afloat - 30th August to 1st September 2024

After everyone that came last year said how they enjoyed the barbecue in a country setting we will do another one this year. The place of the barbecue will be somewhere in the Salcombe estuary on the Saturday evening, weather permitting. The anchorage will be to starboard of the Saltstone at the start of Frogmore creek.

AGM: Saturday 12 October 2024 at The Devon Hotel Exeter. This is the same venue as last year. The AGM will start at 11am, with coffee before and lunch afterwards. There will be a speaker in the afternoon. Chris Strang is organising this for us.

Christmas Dinner: Saturday 7 December 2025 at Dainton Park Golf Club.

facebook

The WOA Facebook Group needs you!



Westerly Owners' Association
Public group · 1,320 members

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

The Southwest group's annual Fitting Out next year will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Exmouth from 12th to 15th February 2025

There is a good car park. The Imperial Hotel is an elegant Victorian landmark, lying in 4 acres of grounds on Exmouth's Esplanade, with beautiful views of south Devon's coast. The hotel is a five minute walk from Exmouth. The cathedral city of Exeter, where there is a variety of interests eg museum, art gallery, is less than 30 mins by car. There is nothing planned for Wednesday 12th, as people will be arriving at different times. We have chosen a slightly different time from usual because we have planned a bird watching river cruise on the Exe on Thursday 13th February. The date chosen fits in with low tide, when more waders etc can be seen. There will be an ornithologist on board for enthusiastic birdwatchers. There will also be hot pasties available. Dinner at the hotel later, accompanied by the quiz. On Friday 14th, it is hoped that a guided tour of Exmouth can be planned for the day and a speaker for the evening on a similar subject. Unless of course you wish to make your own romantic arrangements. On Saturday 15th, by all means stay longer and enjoy the beautiful area.

South West Area Fitting Out Weekend 23 – 25 February, 2024

38 Members including the WOA Commodore Brian Jones and his wife Carol attended what turned out to be quite an educational weekend at the Bowood Park Hotel near Camelford, Cornwall.

Friday evening started with a tasty carvery meal followed by a quiz for the Eddy Stone trophy. The top score of only 24 reflected the challenging nature of the questions, and I am still not quite sure what Mean Lower Low Water is! All the losing teams breathed a sigh of relief at not having to set next year's quiz!

Half the attendees on Saturday joined a short walk along the coast from Trebarwith Strand to the Norman church of St. Materianna near Tintagel. Here the local vicar gave us a talk on the history of the church pointing out some of its many notable features as well as an explanation of baptism in earlier centuries.

Evening dinner preceded more education in the form of a very interesting talk by local marine artist and historian, Mike Haywood, entitled 'The Voyage of the Mayflower 1620 – the Myths and the Reality.'

Sunday turned out to be a very wet and windy day, and whilst most would have happily donned waterproofs and ventured out in true WOA style, the sensible decision was made to abandon the proposed cycle ride on the Camel Trail, and the alternative short walk. Some members stayed on at the hotel, some returned home, and others dodged the showers and enjoyed the local area. Despite the variable weather, the weekend was a great success: excellent hotel, top class food, interesting events, and great to meet up with other WOA members. A special thank you to Chris and Marguerite for all their efforts in organising a most enjoyable event.



Thank you Bob!

Bob Walker joined WOA and the SW group a few years ago when he bought Sangelai. He soon became noticed and was invited to join the Committee. He didn't stop there, volunteering to take the position of Treasurer when it became vacant. During Covid lockdown, when he found adding up the noughts in the accounts not to his liking, he was persuaded to take the position of Secretary, when Sally Loynes retired.

He quickly got to work organising the rest of us. He began by changing the format of the Newsletter and the way the minutes of the Committee minutes were recorded. He also joined the National WOA committee, overseeing changes to GDPR and instigating the changes in information technology across the wider WOA membership. He is now Vice Commodore of the WOA fleet and we look forward to seeing him rise through the ranks.

Last year Bob put in a huge amount of work as he organised the ASC23 to France and the Channel Isles - a terrific effort with so many boats taking part.

Sadly, earlier this month, he decided to step down from our committee, having handed over the reins of Secretary to Karen Surrall. Thank you, Bob, for all your hard work. It is much appreciated. We'll miss you.

Barbara Box, Chairman

News From The Vice Commodore

By Bob Walker 11 March 2024



The association committee is working through several challenges worthy of a short summary for our SW Newsletter.

I am pleased to announce that we now have in place an information security policy and a structure within the association to administer it. The recommendations in the White Paper have also introduced other important changes, which are:

- A secure cloud based file storage system for sharing information across area groups and the association.
- The contracting of Watch The Dot, a company to manage our website and databases.
- Changes to the Yearbook, which I will come onto next.

Most of you will now be aware that we are changing the Yearbook. In an online questionnaire to all member, the following result was received.

Will you approve of the Yearbook no longer being printed and instead, it is digitised and available in full which can be accessed, read and downloaded from the WOA website. Due to the nature of requiring your log-in credentials,...



The 2024 Yearbook will be printed and posted but it will not contain telephone numbers and email addresses. These are however available and always have been via with WOA website using the Member Services and Yearbook Search function. Later this year, we hope to have an online version of the full Yearbook but with strict access controls. Following a review before the end of the year, the intention is to make the Yearbook available online only from 2025, again with stringent access control measures.

Sailing in Torbay - Paul Moorhouse

Torbay is an area of water approximately three nautical miles across with Hopes Nose to the north and Berry Head to the south, providing sheltered water from the west but exposed to the east.

Paignton seafront lies approximately two nautical miles to the west of this transit line....making an area of roughly 6 square nautical miles. It offers excellent safe conditions for all aspects of maritime activity. The three harbours of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham are all completely different.

Torquay consists entirely of pontoon berths with MDL's Marina on one side of the outer harbour and the Town Dock on the other. In addition to these, there is the Inner Dock. The two latter are administered by the Torbay Harbour Authority.

Paignton is a small tidal harbour suitable for smaller vessels.

Brixham, again has an MDL Marina; however, the remainder of the outer harbour is all swinging moorings. In addition, there is the Inner Harbour. There is also a very large presence of commercial fishing activity with Brixham being one of the principal UK fishing ports.

The summer months find the three harbours busy with numerous sailing championships and other nautical events, all taking advantage of the sheltered safe waters with little tidal current.

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

Karen Surrall

southwestgroup@westerly-owners.co.uk

