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DIARY DATES

Fri	17 Feb	7.30	Steve Othen "The Lost Village of Dalditch"
Fri	24 Feb	7.30	Bar open as usual
Fri	3 Mar	7.30	Bar open as usual
Fri	10 Mar	7.30	Chris Cooke - a wizz through racing rules
Sat	29 Apr		Craning Afloat
Sat	24 Jun		Lympstone Regatta
Sat/Sun 1/2 July			River Exe Regatta

WALKERS' DIARY

We are organising the next walk, on Sunday 19th February. This will comprise a tour of the remains of the wartime Dalditch Royal Marine Camp on Lympstone and Woodbury Commons. It will be led by Steve Othen, who served at the camp during and after the war, and became a lecturer at Rolle College on his retirement from the service.

He became aware that traces of the camp were fast disappearing, and has conducted considerable research over the last few years to produce a map, as little evidence on paper was still available. In this he was aided by some of his students, who were taught archaeological skills in the process.

Steve has kindly agreed to give a talk on this fascinating piece of local wartime history on Friday 17th February in the Sailing Club (7.30 for 8 pm). Detailed instructions for the walk will be available at this talk, or from me (Tel 263930).

We envisage a 10.30 start from the car park on the Common at 'Wheathill Gardens' GR 041847 [to be confirmed at the Friday meeting], and expect to return there to collect cars. The walk will last about an hour and a half.

I have arranged lunch at the 'Dog and Donkey' [aka 'the Britannia'] in Knowle

[GR051829]. This is about 2km [1.3 miles] from the site of the tour, and hardier souls would be welcome to progress there on foot if they feel they have not been challenged enough. I am sure that we can arrange transport for drivers back to their cars if this would be helpful if we know in good time. There is car parking at Knowle, but this is a little limited. Roast Sunday lunch (carvery) will be available at a reasonable cost.

(Carvery £6.50, other options available). Please let me know numbers by or at the Friday meeting on 17th February if possible. [about 18 so far, but please confirm]. We hope to entertain Steve and Alma Othen to lunch, and a small contribution towards this at the appropriate time would be most welcome.

Richard Giles
telephone: 263930

SKITTLES

We beat Cockwood by 42 - particularly satisfying as they are the only team this season to have beaten us so far. We are now halfway through the season and have won 8 of our 9 matches which puts us top of the league at the moment - but, of course, a lot could happen yet to knock us off the pinnacle!

Diana



Lympstone Sailing Club Newsletter

February 2006

DINNER DANCE SUCCESS

A huge amount of work by Rosemary Maltby and her helpers enabled 96 members and guests to enjoy a marvellous Trafalgar theme dinner and dance at the superbly decorated village hall.

Bookings and seating by Gill Newport, Chris Batson's welcome tot of grog, fabulous food by Exe Cuisine, delicious desserts, and flowers, by Lynn's Ladies expertly served by junior members and their friends, washed down with fine ales and wine issued by Abi, Phil and Chas and all under Mike Gall's movement orders.

I was proud to welcome a trio of commodores as our guests to this auspicious event and pleasantly surprised when they

joined in stowing chairs and tables to clear the foredeck for some lively dancing to Ray Bevis and Honest John.

Francis Hurrell's draw raised a magnificent £213 to help cover the evening's costs. Thank you everyone who donated prizes.

Two other stars who must be mentioned are Brian and Daphne Ridge who did so much with the scenery beforehand, clearing up the morning after and producing the excellent menu cards which will be a fine memento of the occasion.

To you all, many many thanks for such a splendid evening. One of the best!

Chris Cooke

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE CLUB: WALKERS' SUPPER

The walking sailors (or was it the sailing walkers?) held an enjoyable New Year's Eve in the Club, admirably organised by Doreen Broom. An excellent four-course meal prepared by a hardworking group of members was much enjoyed, and postprandial perusal of a few irritating seasonal brainteasers was interrupted by the arrival of John Goss-Custard, in full Highland Dress, accompanied by his bagpipes, together with a couple of dodgy-looking highwaymen, Minihaha, and the fairy from the top of the

Christmas tree. I am not allowed to say 'Squaw and Squawker', as this does not do any justice at all to a first-class recital of music from the 'land of the mountain and the flood' which was much appreciated by those present. After the visitors went on their way, music from north of the border continued, encouraging some to trip the light fantastic. At the witching hour, the company was 'first-footed'. Although the person seeking admission could not be described as tall, dark, handsome, or even a stranger, he was

nevertheless able to offer the company the traditional symbolic food, drink (for which Scotland is famous), and coal for the hearth - something to keep them warm without and within. A Guid New-year was had by all.

R Giles

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DAVID BURTON – ESTUARY DAYS TO 2005

It was with sadness, yet celebration of his life, that we said Farewell to David Burton just before Christmas. David's wish was to live out his retirement in his cottage on the foreshore. At 93, he almost did that.

He retired from the Crown Agents and settled into the village in 1973. Sailing was a passion for him. His dark green, (I think, Russian) sailing dinghy was moored outside his window. Every day he took her out, on his own or with friends, unless the weather was prohibitive. He kept his tender in his slipway and the oars and sail in his little kitchen. Does anyone remember, long ago, when he took my family and some French students to Turf in the boat? As we disembarked into the tender, a few at a time, LSC members in the club were counting us out, I think it was seven!

He also had a talent for photography. Black and white in those days and all developed and printed in his home dark room. Whenever there was an interesting sight in the harbour, birds or boats or village events, he could be seen with one

of his cameras. He has left a pictorial history, of over 3 decades, to the Lymptone Society.

Eager to become part of the village community, he joined societies including the Players, the Lymptone Society, the singers and became a parish councillor (chair for 2 years). He led our Girl Guides on many Dartmoor treks and he ran the chess club at the primary school and much more.

Perhaps he was most widely known as Editor of the Lymptone Herald for over 21 years. He only had a typewriter and Tippex so it took him 3 days a month! He served the community in so many ways.

He was a devout churchgoer, and a bell-ringer for 26 years, and as sailing and walking, became impossible, swimming with the 'Nutters Club' gave him much pleasure.

He loved his life in Lymptone and we will miss that special gentleman... as a friend or daily seen with his wicker shopping basket, to and fro, in the village.

Jenny Delahaye

EDITOR'S PERCH

Many villagers will have mourned the loss of David Burton, who was very much a part of Lymptone life.

I remember him well during his time on the parish council and of course because of his excellent work with the Lymptone Herald.

The club received a moving reply to a letter sent to David's family. David's son, Andrew, said they had been touched by the club's tribute to David by flying the flag at half-mast for his funeral.

Andrew said: "Sailing was a big part of Dad's life before he moved from London to Lymptone. He kept a boat on the

Thames at Hammersmith (there are photographs of me in it in my pushchair!) and I remember trips to picnic on Chiswick Eyot. For a long time he also made an annual pilgrimage to Gravesend and back, including during the years before the war. We've come across a number of photos of his from that time, including wonderful pictures of working barges under full sail."

Thanks to Andrew for his letter and thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition, which I've put together during Richards sojourn downunder.

Pete Hardy

AGM REPORT

Twenty nine members turned out for the AGM on Saturday 4th February.

After welcoming members the Commodore reviewed his first year at the helm recalling some events such as running the Squires, the Exe Junior Series final event and prizegiving, as well as a growing home fleet, a memorable VE Day celebration, Lymptone Regatta, with treasure buried in the mud and Punch and Judy on the balcony, and the recent dinner dance.

Committee members and various club members were named and thanked for all their voluntary help. Special thanks to

NEW SAFETY BOAT

As explained at the AGM, we are ordering a second 'orange' safety boat for immediate delivery. Once fitted out we will complete pre-season power boat training so we will have plenty of safety cover for our dinghy events.

FRIDAY EVENING TALKS

On 13 January club member John Goss-Custard gave a most interesting illustrated talk based on his research "back in the 80s" from the Exe tower hides.

Did you know most of the birds wintering on the Exe have night vision and feed 24 hours a day.

Oystercatchers stay for about 200 days, and eat between 50 & 100 mussels each day. So with about 2000 of them on the river that's a lot of mussels, and guano. And there's all their feathered friends too!

We are getting feedback that members have been sorry to miss some of our talks, so we plan to rerun a few in the autumn.

Gerry Chew, who was standing down as sailing secretary, for all his efforts building up the dinghy fleet and sailing events over the last few years. Other committee changes were Gill Newport, standing down as publicity, and the appointment of Ian Smith (sailing secretary) and Judith Carter (social). Gaps remain for bar, house and publicity.

Secretary Ridge gave a comprehensive review of the committee work over the last 12 months. Treasurer Govan presented the accounts. His proposal to increase subscriptions after a lay year (single £1, couple £2) was discussed and approved.

THIS 'N THAT

- Beware, the beer cellar is now alarmed – so make sure you turn off the alarm at the control box in the galley, as usual, before opening the cellar door (otherwise there will be a lot of noise!!).

- The Editor will be having a sabbatical for a couple of months in January & February so direct your items for those newsletters to the Commodore on his email address.

- The Lifeboat collection box raised £24.71p.

TIDE TABLES

- The club wishes to say a big thank-you to Bridger Marine in Haven Banks, Exeter, who have once again given us a pile of tide tables for distribution. These tables are normally found for sale at a cost of 95p in the shops. All they ask is that members make a suitable contribution to the lifeboat box when taking a table. The tidetables can be found on the bar. Thanks, **Don**.