

# Alnmouth Community Rowing

## Newsletter

December 2016



Here we are at the beginning of December already, and its time for another newsletter, going to all our friends, sponsors, crew, and wellwishers. Wherever did the 2016 rowing season go? Let me start with dates for diaries...

### **Forthcoming events**

Yes, there are already events coming up in the calendar. Apart from some rowing we also have

**January 1<sup>st</sup>** - some mad people go for a New Years Day dip off the beach, and we're expecting to stand by and watch, or maybe even roll the boat out too. Watch for Crew shouts.

### **Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> - Burns Night Supper / fundraiser.**

The October curry night with Gill was spectacularly successful, and Sue Perry has very graciously offered to host a Burns Night fundraiser supper / get together at her house in Alnwick on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Everyone's invited. Drop her a line - perrysusan89 (at ) gmail.com if you're interested. Further details will follow.

### **Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> – The Alnmouth Community Rowing Revue is Back!**

After the amazing evening last time, the audience roared for more – so here it comes. Again with the kind permission of Mac & Jane of the Red Lion we are being allowed to take over their bar for an evening of fun and frolics, food and foolishness. Once again, it will have to be a 'ticketed' event to ensure the chef can cope. Details and program still to be finalised, and as before, you will be expected to produce a party piece, be it music, song, recitation, or low ceiling juggling. As before, the delectable Rosie will be compering the evening, but it will be "mostly *yourselves*" Sure to be a highlight of the season, don't delay in booking when the announcement comes around. Put the date in your diary now.

### **New jobs available!**

This is another 'first' for us. Advertising some jobs amongst our members. A year ago we didn't have enough members to need to do this, but now...

We've spent much of this season saying that we must get better at keeping in touch with members and newcomers, and its time to do something about it, so this is an appeal for help.

**Member Mentors.** As reported elsewhere, our latest 'meet the skiff' at Alnmouth resulted in ten people expressing an interest, and we should be taking care to stay in contact, and make time to explain more about coastal rowing and what's involved, and make specific invitations for a date and time to help get over that initial nervousness. Could you take on staying in touch with some of our newcomers until they come rowing? Please step up and help out. Give Richard a call if you can help, or want to know more.

**Public relations** is another area that has slipped as we've become busier. We used to be competent at getting information to the newspapers and timely reports of our doings to ourselves, our sponsors, and other skiff groups. If we have someone who could lend a hand in this respect it would be really helpful, and doesn't involve overmuch time. Call Richard to volunteer or to find out more.

### **Fathom Club**

We have a 100 club running, a mere £10 investment could return the HUGE winning prize to you. Details from Charles Jones, - c.jones639 ( at ) btinternet.com - First draw will be at the Revue – another good reason for attending.

and now back to the news report...

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## **2016 Season summary**

Well, without duplicating the information already circulated, let's briefly look at what we managed to accomplish this year.

There were some notable 'firsts' - such as the crossing of the Lake District and rowing in the world championships.

There were new skiffs launched at Craster, Amble, and Blyth, and we were there (usually with our skiff) for all of them. And, who's going to forget the launch of 'Elfie' as Ian and Elsie Robinson laid on a pop up feast at Little Shore and we set forth with four large blokes in a small boat and no one steering.

We were back at Blyth for the departure of the Tall Ships, and my, what an absolutely great day that was. Full marks to Blyth town for the entire event, and they scooped a well deserved accolade at the 'Best of Northumberland' Awards. Alas though, even though we were also nominated for a 'Best of Northumberland' award, we were beaten by an under 13's girls cricket team – and who's going to disagree with the judges on that?

Before all of that, we managed to refurbish our skiff, inside and out, under the extremely capable management of John Ellis, who was also instrumental in providing our running water supply in the LBH, and for keeping out wind driven rain and sand by adding baffles to the eastern doors.

We've welcomed many new faces to coastal rowing too, too many to mention in full, but I think a Special Mention to Toby for spotting all manner of seals, dolphins, whales and sharks from his look out seat as we conveyed him back to Alnmouth from Seaton.

## **Catching up on events**

In the last newsletter, I said that we would be holding an end of summer regatta in October but sadly the weather was against us, and we had to cancel the event.

But not the unveiling of the information boards in the LBH.

Bill Bourne, Chairman of the parish council, turned out in the bad weather and did the necessary to let our many beach side visitors read all about the origins and history of Lifeboats at Alnmouth.

Thanks go to the Alnmouth Local History Group and of the course the Fred Bettes fund for providing assistance with this project.



### **Hindmarsh Hall - November**

We were invited to decorate the exterior of Hindmarsh Hall with the community skiff for the Christmas craft fair, and we took the opportunity to talk with many members of the community who don't come along to the beach, doing some recruiting, as well as running a raffle. A very cold day when you were outside with the skiff, and not too much warmer at our table just inside the door either.



The raffle was very successful for us, and as well as donating some funds back to Hindmarsh Hall as a thank you, I can report that an Alnmouth resident won the first prize of a bottle of cognac, and as she has just moved into a new house she was delighted to receive “a wonderful house-warming present.”

Peter, from Edinburgh, won the bottle of wine, and suggested we keep it for the next event. As he is a frequent visitor, he is also invited to come for a row. The next four prizes were all won by local people.

We ended the day with names of ten folk wanting to row, or to keep in touch, and Dave was able to organise a session for newcomers almost immediately after.

### **Bamburgh & Beadnell - November 26th**

Another skiff for Northumberland is in the works, and we were delighted to go and help raise awareness and poach some potential rowers by parking *Pride of Aln* outside St Aidan's church for the carol service and lights switch on. Always good to get together, and we're helping out with the loan of jigs and suchlike.

### **Whatever next?**

So it looks as if our 2016 season is coming to a close. If the weather is good, we still intend to be out, so watch out for crew shouts, and we still have several folk who, for one reason or another, haven't been able to row despite wanting to.

### **Maintenance Season**

We had to stop rowing for quite a while last year whilst we did a thorough refit and refinish. This year we aim to be in dry dock for no more than a couple of weeks – probably early March. There is some work to do in the LBH though, which will serve to occupy some time in the dog days of winter. Those changing facilities are still in need of a clean up – and if only we could install that log burner and hot showers... (end of daydream)

Racks and stowage for equipment and timber will be the main items under consideration. With better changing, and good storage, we'll be ready for 2017. Let me know if you'd be interested in helping – I have one volunteer already.

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*Richard Wilson – December 2016.*