

News from your cruising area

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SOUTH COAST & CHANNEL ISLANDS

Boat blaze

Two people aboard an Axopar 28 which burst into flames and later sank in Lymington Harbour were rescued by a passing fishing vessel.

Firefighters from Lymington and Brockenhurst, alerted just before 1500 on 22 October, worked with Coastguard teams to access and extinguish the blaze, but the boat had already suffered significant damage.

A Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service spokesperson said: "Two people on board were rescued by a passing vessel on the river as a significant amount of smoke began emanating from the boat."

The two people rescued were uninjured. The cause is believed to be an electrical fault.

Hoist collapse

An investigation was launched after a 40-tonne slipway hoist worth more than £400,000 collapsed and crashed over a sea wall onto the public footpath and foreshore below on 12 October.

The hoist, which was being operated by a driver at Falmouth Boat Yard at Ponsharden, landed upright in the water next to moored boats. No one was injured.

Director Nick Offord told PBO: "It's true we had an issue with our hoist but we are continuing to haul out boats."

Boat blaze in Lymington is believed to have been caused by an electrical fault



Sophie Heseltine at the helm of 'sip and puff' boat MissIsle alongside Mylor Sailability founder, Tracey Boyne

SOUTH WEST

'Sip and puff' making anything possible at Mylor

A specially-adapted keelboat which enables people with profound disabilities to experience sailing is now operational at Mylor Yacht Harbour, Cornwall.

The 'Sip and puff' vessel was gifted to the Sailability fleet of Mylor Sailing School, near Falmouth, by The Miss Isle School Charity on the Isle of Wight. Its gimbal seat

and electronic technology allows quadriplegic or tetraplegic people to sail in comfort while steering via a tube which they suck or blow to move the rudder.

After a summer of extra modifications by Mylor Sailability's founder Tracey Boyne and her team, MissIsle was ready for her maiden voyage, trialled by Falmouth-



Sophie gets ready

based Sophie Heseltine.

Sophie, who has cerebral palsy and is a regular aboard the Sailability powerboat, "couldn't stop smiling" while sailing and said: "It makes me feel like anything is possible."

■ www.pbo.co.uk/mylor

Boat sale donation

Former Sea Cadet Keith Gooch donated the £7,500 sale proceeds from his beloved 24ft motor-sailer to raise funds for a youth charity.

The Gosport Sea Cadets,

which has 70 members aged nine to 18, will use the funds raised from the sale to buy a replacement Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB), to deliver RYA level 1, 2 and safety boat courses.

Keith said: "When I decided to hang up my sea boots, I approached the Gosport Sea Cadets to see if they could make use of my 24ft motor-sailer *Alexandra*. I am very happy the funds from the sale can be put towards their fundraising project."

WEST COAST, WALES & IRELAND

Marina dredging

Dredging operations got under way at Deganwy Marina on 1 November and will last for two months. A dredge

discharge pipe has been laid in position latitude 53° 17.44' N, longitude 003° 49.73' W, marked with a yellow special mark with a quick flashing yellow light sequence.

Invasive worms

An invasive non-native species (INNS) of worm has been discovered on two boats in Ramsey, Isle of Man, after the boats were removed from the water for cleaning and maintenance.

The boat-crane operator alerted the island's Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) in early October after noticing an unusual growth on the hulls and propellers.

Both had been recently transported from Peel Marina



The tubeworm attaches itself to manmade surfaces and develops thick layers of calcareous tubes

to Ramsey for winter storage.

Samples taken by DEFA's marine scientists revealed the species is the Australian or trumpet tubeworm (*Ficopomatus enigmaticus*).

Dr Michelle Haywood, political member for the environment, said: "Invasive species like this can be spread from place to place attached to boat hulls, marine equipment and in bilge water, so owners should always take time to check and clean their vessels."

Dock dredging

The Canal & River Trust has recommenced its £1.5million dredging works at Gloucester's historic docks to increase the depth of the water and improve access for boaters to the UK's most inland port.

Some 20,000m³ of silt has already been removed from the docks. The silt build-up occurred during the exceptionally dry summer of 2022, having been brought into the docks with water from the River Severn, which was needed to supply the

Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and to provide water to the residents and businesses in Bristol. Throughout the dredging programme the docks will remain open for boaters.

SCOTLAND

Irish Sea record

Olympic sailing champions John Gimson and Anna Burnett, who achieved gold at the Tokyo Games in the Nacra 17 class, have set a Guinness World Record sailing from Northern Ireland to Scotland.

Departing Northern Ireland's Ballyholme Yacht Club at 1130 on 26 September "in a full on gale" aboard their Nacra 17, the duo reached Portpatrick in one hour, 30 minutes, 41 seconds.

This outpaced a 1995 time set by Ian Wilson and Johnny Mullan, of one hour, 41 minutes, and 28 seconds in a Tornado Catamaran. John and Anna's challenge was supported by Belfast-based Artemis Technologies and accompanied on route by three support vessels including *Pioneer of Belfast*, the world's first 100% electric commercially viable foiling vessel.

AGM round up

Find out what RYA Scotland has been doing to promote and protect boating by watching a full recording of the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Held virtually in October, the AGM is available to review at www.youtube.com/@RYAScotland.

Alternatively, download the board directors' presentation: www.pbo.co.uk/agm

Ireland to Scotland in one hour, 30 minutes, and 41 seconds



EAST & SOUTH EAST

Electric ferry

Essex's first sea-going electric ferry is now operational.

The Brightlingsea Harbour team bought an IP 24 former fishing boat, kitted it out as a passenger boat and added a Marlin 10 drive system – a 10kW 48V set-up – along with a lithium battery pack, supplied by Lynch Motors.

The new engine is "whisper quiet" and estimated to save 3.27t CO₂ and 1,552lt of diesel annually.

Grant funding of £5,000 came from Low Carbon across the Southeast (LoCASE), while the remaining £25,000 came from internal resources, offset by selling engines and parts.

The IP 24 *Colne Innovation* makes regular 11 return trips to



Ferry costs as little as 80p to recharge

Wivenhoe, carrying up to 12 passengers, at speeds of 5 knots or more. It is also available for private charter.

To charge the batteries from empty takes seven hours and costs £2.45, or from the typical 79% residual following a charter – just 80p. The equivalent cost for the traditional diesel ferry is £20-25 per charter.

Nine generations

Jeckells the Sailmakers is celebrating nine generations of the same family at the firm.

The latest recruit is 14-year-old Mason Curtis who has been working in the Sail Loft in Wroxham, Norfolk, on Saturdays and throughout the school summer holidays.

It all started with Mason's great, great, great, great, great grandfather who was a fisherman based in Great Yarmouth. William Thomas Jeckells could not afford to buy new sails so he made his own. When he returned to harbour before everyone else William realised that he must have done something differently. Unwittingly, he had made his sails with the panels running in the 'wrong' direction, according to the thinking at the time.

As the first smack back to land commanded the highest price for the catch, his fellow fishermen soon realised the potential of his sails, and William decided sail-making in a draughty shed was a safer, more comfortable way to earn a living, so, in 1832, Jeckells the Sailmakers was born.



Gloucester dredging: working in cooler weather minimises impact on aquatic plants and animals due to greater levels of dissolved oxygen in the water

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