



# BLACKWELL SAILING

## Newsletter 2020

### **Almost ready to launch in March!**

During the months of last winter we had been working away as usual with the boat maintenance. All the boats were in good order, cleaned, fixed, polished and ready for use!

We had been walking on Fridays, as usual too, with the Friday group (see picture). Amanda and David had been taking it in turns to walk with them.



We had been awarded a very generous grant, again, from Sir John Fisher Foundation and then, with additional funding from RYA Foundation, we had planned to step up the volunteer training this year with a full-on Volunteer Training Week at the start of April. First Aid, Safety Boat refresher training and the usual Start-Up sessions were all set to go with many of the volunteers already signed up but then AARRRGH!!!! Don't even have to tell you what happened next, because you will know - that it just didn't/couldn't happen.

### **Communication during lock-down**

So this was very strange for everyone, but people kept in touch by phone, email, Facebook pages etc and some were able to report that they caught up on their gardening, DIY, music, artwork etc. But always more interesting was to hear about our sailing members and volunteers getting outside on walks, bike rides, canoeing –



never mind all this virtual stuff! As the restrictions lifted a bit and spring turned to summer there were more stories coming in and being passed on.....

### **Pam Black**

Accompanied by Barbara, Pam was able to climb up the famous viewpoint above Windermere.

*“On several occasions this summer Pam and I have enjoyed trips up Orrest Head. Plans are in place to extend the accessible path to the summit but like so much this year the work has been delayed due to Covid-19. However Pam and I have been up as far as the top gate and enjoyed good views through the changing seasons. Pam’s old scooter struggled on the steeper sections and if I was slow to push the motor would cut out. However Pam now has a smart new scooter which is both more comfortable and more powerful. Sometimes she races up the hill so fast that I have to step up a gear to keep up, resulting in a good work out for me! More recently we have been up Biskey Howe and almost up to the summit of Post Knott but that was quite an adventure as the path was very rough in places!”* Barbara Crompton

Note that even when confined to dry land Pam is still wearing her sailing jacket, D.H.

### **Joyce Manning**

Joyce has also kept in touch. During the first lock-down period in April she was rushed into hospital having had a mild heart attack! It was very worrying, but when I actually got to talk to her, Joyce reported that she was being well looked after, in a



separate part of Lancaster Hospital so not too worried about the virus and waiting for an operation. All that went pretty smoothly and Joyce was soon back home and making a quick recovery. She was able to get out and about with Karen as restrictions lifted, being in a care bubble with her. Joyce’s sister Judy was also able to visit as well to sit outside and chat.

In September Joyce had a special birthday. She was able to organise a distanced party at a venue with lots of space and ventilation, with just a few select people invited. I had to pretend I wasn’t too disappointed that I was not one of the chosen ones!

### **The McCleery Family**

The first news I received about one of our sailing members actually getting to go sailing again it was from Simon and Douglas.....

*Douglas and I have managed to get out a number of evenings over the summer in Coral. There's always a peaceful serenity to sailing in the evening.*

*Douglas is always the helm, with me providing some level of crew competence. We have been practising some racing courses around the buoys in the north part of the lake, judging angles, wind direction and speed. It has been a*



*great, yet quiet summer, but we did get out in Coral as a family to enjoy a picnic and celebrate Douglas incredible GCSE results!*

*We do miss everyone at Blackwell and send our best wishes to you all.*

*Yours aye! Simon and Douglas*

Other reports of how the groups were getting on came through. Whinfell School got in touch and some more from Kendal Day Service. I have heard that Colin Jackson has been helping out on the farm at home and able to go out for walks around the village. He is currently tidying up with his leaf blower. I had a chat with the Edington Centre, tuned into the Chrysalis Facebook page to watch their videos, and received some news from Beaumont College as well. Many are now in smaller groups and day services are closed or very much reduced with a lot of people getting the support they need from home. Some people are getting out for walks with one-to-one support. Friday walkers/sailors Bernie and Amy were able to carry on with walks each week and kept in touch regularly. The picture here was taken this week and shows the view they had from Cunswick Scar near Kendal. Annie, Rebecca and Emma came to our Zoom AGM and told us about how they are getting out to the allotment or for walks to keep fit.



Some of the volunteers were able to get out in their own boats and Amanda was working hard to get the racing started off again at the Yacht Club. Still restricted though, you have to sail with someone else in your own household “bubble”. Sadly, in September, Amanda had to resign from her position here as Assistant Manager for health reasons. We wish her all the best for the future and have thanked her for all the great work she has done for us over the last couple of years. We hope that she will keep in touch and that we will see her again next season.



**And then finally, finally..... we managed to start sailing again ourselves from Blackwell.....**

This happened towards the end of September, after getting the PPE supplies, risk assessment, new instructions and action plan in order

we launched a couple of boats and we were able to offer sailing to the independent sailors. Those who can sail the Access or RS boat without a volunteer or instructor on board were invited to come and have a go. Three, out of the five Wednesdays we had available, were actually very good for sailing and the sailing members who were

able to come and have a go very much appreciated having the chance. Here's what they had to say.....

*"I was so delighted to be invited back to take a boat out during the last few weeks of the season. After seven months of lockdown my helper and I were really in need of spreading our wings and, with the great winds we had, flying up and down the lake. Our spirits soared. Thank you so much. I can now look forward with hope and expectation to next season."* Jean Crosbie



*"Learning new skills. Learning how to tack more efficiently and to gybe with more control has been part of the game, sometimes played with more success than at other times!"*

Andy Wild (pictured with Nicola)

### **Recent local support**

We have been very fortunate to receive some more funding from the Rotary Club of Windermere. They have given us a very generous donation to enable us to replace the old 2 stroke engines that we have on two of our Whammel boats, Joanna and Frieda. We are looking into the possibility of going electric, now that more powerful ones are available, but we still have not resolved the problems of what sort and how to fit them. If this is too complicated we will buy 4 stroke engines (which are also quieter and more reliable). Windermere Rotary have helped us many times over the years (they donated the blue Access boat, above) but I am sorry to report that they are now folding up due to the drop of membership. I am told that Paul Harkness and the few remaining Rotarians might well join other Rotary Clubs in the area so it might be that we can ask for some support from them in the future.

We have also received some funding from the local Masonic Lodge Fund. Most of this is for a new jetty hoist. The existing hoist is not quite high enough for electrically powered wheelchairs so we need to replace it for next season.

### **Peter Truelove**

We were very saddened to learn that Peter died very suddenly on 30<sup>th</sup> September. Those who knew Peter and those of us who sailed regularly on Tuesday evenings will, I am sure, always remember him for his kind way of supporting us, his humour, his friendship and all the knowledge and experience that he was so willing to share with everyone. He will be very much missed.

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*Life through Sailing – Sailing through Life*

