

# BLACKWELL SAILING

## Newsletter 2022

### Normal Sailing nearly Resumed!

2022 has seen Blackwell Sailing return to 'Business as Usual' with the return of many of our long-established groups that have not been able to attend over the past 2 years due to the pandemic. We have also seen the return of more independent sailors boosting our numbers to pre pandemic levels.

### Happy Retirement David!

At the end of February, David officially retired as Manager of Blackwell Sailing. We would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to the founder of the charity for all his work in developing Blackwell Sailing to what it is today spanning over the last 30 years! We wish David a very happy retirement and have been pleased to see him return as a volunteer on numerous sailing sessions during 2022!



Jonny Cormack has taken over from David and says: 'What a great first season I have had at Blackwell, thank you to David for the cross over period and all the advice he has passed on. Also thank you to the trustees and volunteers who have made me feel so welcome. I have really enjoyed meeting all the different groups and individuals that use the centre and seeing what a positive impact Blackwell Sailing has on so many people.'

David handing over the Blackwell 'Tiller' to Jonny!

### Groups

It has been great to see **Kendal Day Service** using the centre for their regular Friday sailing sessions again. Horticare, Whinfell, WOSP and Windmill have all returned this year and enjoyed getting back in to sailing after such a long break.

*'Its been great to come back to Blackwell and see the guys enjoying not only the sailing, but socialising with the volunteers and instructors. Something they have missed during the pandemic'*

We have also seen a return from **Beaumont College Carlisle & Barrow, Chrysalis Centre, Eddington Centre, Whinfell School, Underley Gardens and Vision Support Barrow.**



*'The members have enjoyed the sailing this year, thank you to Blackwell and the team of volunteers for all your hard work'* Pat Eland Chrysalis Service Manager.



## Sight Advice South Lakes

We worked with Sight Advice South Lakes on a small project to get 2 young people through their RYA sailing qualifications this year. Thanks to Royal Windermere Yacht Club for their support in providing this boat to help Douglas McCleery gain his RYA Level 3 Dinghy Sailing Certificate in September.

Douglas has been a regular sailor at Blackwell over the years and now heads off to Cambridge University for his first year of studies. It is great that we could recognise Douglas' sailing ability with a formal qualification which he can take away with him. William Hutchinson also managed to gain his RYA Level 1 qualification with us.

## Yacht Charter

In April we were given the opportunity of a charitable yacht charter from UK Sailing Academy who are a sailing charity based on the Isle of Wight. John Crosbie skippered the 45ft yacht for us and we took a crew of 5 from Blackwell with a mix of sailing members and volunteers; Lindsey Cooper, Sarah Watson, Ben Lusted, Jordan Lusted and Jonny Cormack.

The team started their trip at Hamble Point Marina and visited Yarmouth and Cowes on the Isle of Wight before returning to Hamble on the mainland.

Lindsey has written a lovely account of the trip which is attached to the end of the newsletter.



Jonny says: *'It was great to see the team bond so well and work together. Even living in such a small space for 4 days together, everyone had fun and had a very memorable experience.'*

We are hoping to offer a similar trip to some more of our sailing members and volunteers in 2023....watch this space!

## Fundraising News

During 2022 we received two large grants from Sir John Fisher Foundation and Freida Scott Trust for our core running costs and have been successful in grant applications from Cumbria Community Foundation, Lakeland Disability Support, Rumic Trust, RYA Sailability and BAE Systems.

Furness Rotary, Cumbria Soaring Club and the Ducker family have also made very kind donations to us.

Without these funds, Blackwell Sailing would not be able to operate, so we thank each and every organisation or individual that has given grants or donated to us.

We are currently in the process of applying for grants from Sport England's 'Together Fund' and Screwfix for our maintenance budget.

## Five do 5 Windermere Challenge In memory of Amanda Wilson

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022 5 ladies set out on a unique challenge in and around Windermere in memory of their friend (and ours) Amanda Wilson - by running, dragon boat paddling, sailing, swimming and walking around Amanda's beloved Windermere. The aim was to raise funds and awareness for three charities close to Amanda's heart. Blackwell Sailing being one of these charities.

The ladies completed the challenge and managed to raise over £1000 for Blackwell. What an amazing achievement and a lovely way to remember Amanda.

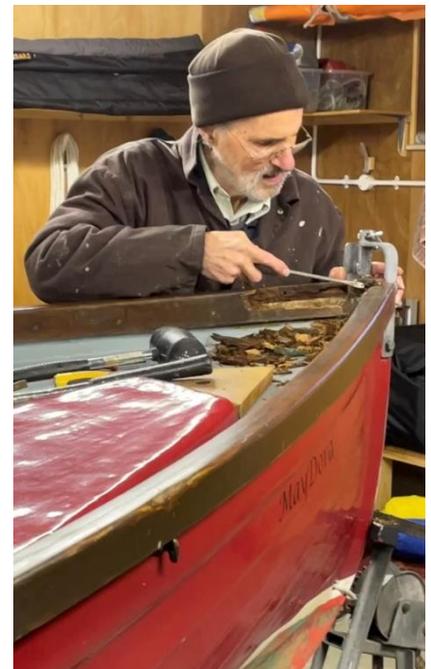
Julie Bland, Sarah Boyle, Julie Dugdale, Lynn Nelson & Lisa Smith



## Maintenance

The maintenance team have been back in action again during the winter months. All boats were checked over, cleaned, polished, woodwork re stained and floorboards re painted to the usual high standards.

We are very fortunate to have some very skilled wood workers amongst our team of volunteers. One of these being David Chatterley, who has completed a fantastic repair job removing and replacing a rotten piece of wood on the bow of May Dora, one of our Whammels.



## Vital Group

The Vital group have been Sailing this season on their usual Thursday evenings led by Mel.

It was great to bring back the weekend camp this year after being unable to do this for the last couple of years. A big thank you goes to Ghyll Head for providing the camping spot and their TP on a very wet and windy August evening!

## Winter Walking Group

When we are not sailing with Kendal Day Service during the winter, we are walking!

The walking group started up again this year after a long covid break. We are starting off gently and hope to build to some more challenging walks as we move forward.



## Andy Wild (*Written by David Hall*)

Those of us who knew Andy, were very sad to learn of his death in January this year. Andy's positive and cheerful attitude was astonishing and I very much looked forward to the days that he booked to come sailing with us. He wanted to learn as much as he could about sailing and as quickly as possible so that he and his wife, Nicola, could sail on their own from Fell Foot Park. Andy was able to write about what the sailing meant to him and gave permission for me to use his words for grant applications. He also let me know about local sources of funding that he had come across. Andy and his family knew that he did not have long to live. They were so very appreciative of the support we were able to give and the days he had out on the water.

## Chris Ducker

We were also saddened by the news that Chris had died very suddenly and unexpected this year. Chris was a good friend and neighbour who had helped the charity very generously at the time when we were raising funds for the building. Together with Corrine he also kitted us out in Slam sailing gear when we moved in (2009) and always took an interest in how things were going for Blackwell Sailing in the years that followed. We would like to thank Chris's family for the collection they made for Blackwell in memory of Chris at his funeral.

**Thankyou for all who have sailed and supported Blackwell Sailing in 2022. We look forward to the 2023 season starting in April.**

## Acknowledgements

Since our last newsletter we are grateful for the support and/or donations we have received from: Harold and Janet Lefton, Sir John Fisher Foundation, Frieda Scott Charitable Trust, Cumbria Soaring Club, Cumbria Community Foundation, Lakeland Disability Support, Will Clark Fund, Furness Rotary Club, Bendrigg Trust, Maiden Marine, Royal Windermere Yacht Club, The Ducker Family, Rumic Trust, BAE Systems, RYA and RYA Sailability. And of course, all our Volunteers!

*Life through Sailing - Sailing through Life*



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## Blackwell Sailing Trip 2022 by Lindsey Cooper

Early one Saturday morning at the end of April, five excited but slightly nervous sailors who didn't really know each other meet up at Oxenholme train station to begin their next sailing adventure. We travelled by train to Hamble point Marina where we meet John the 6<sup>th</sup> member of our crew and our all important skipper who would teach us so much over the next few days.. For a few of us this was our first time sailing such a big boat and sailing on the sea which was very different to our usually beautiful Windermere, I'm nervous just crossing the ferry line in case I get stuck on it but here we had much bigger obstacles like the Isle of Wright ferry and huge container ships that made our boat feel so small! We had all had one practice session in a similar boat on Windermere before we left but doing it for real seemed very different!

The first challenge for myself was working out how to board the boat, move about it and more importantly find my way below deck to the food and my bed. Being a full time wheelchair user who is unable to weight bare this was going to take some team work from me and my fellow crew mates. We had been shown on our practice day how we could rig up a winch/abseil off the boom so that with the help of some climbing kit, rope and a sling I could access below deck, so we set about trying to rig it up. We did get some surprised looks from others using the marina when I popped up dangling off the boom laughing and giggling but our set up seemed to work safely.



Having made sure we were all ship shape and ready to go we spent the first afternoon just heading out in to the channel of the river Hamble getting used to the boat and how to handle it whilst learning the all important information like which rope did what and how everyone liked their tea! Once we started to feel more confident we headed back to Hamble marina and set out to explore the local area to get some dinner at a local pub. It was then time for bed before we started our sailing adventure for real the next morning.



Day 2 we all awoke early and were excited to cast off and set sail on our real sailing adventure! After breakfast and a few last minute checks we headed down Southampton Water out into a soggy Solent. With plenty of tea and snacks of the home baked variety to keep us warm and take our minds off the rain we took it in turns to steer and help set the sails as required. There was lots of traffic out on the Solent for us to avoid but with the help of our trusty skipper, and working together, we headed west for the morning putting the anchor down at the mouth of the river Newton to allow us to stop for lunch. After lunch we continued west to Yarmouth where we would spend the night. The lads were keen to go off and explore the local pub while a few of us stayed aboard to prepare a lovely pasta dish for tea and once all the dishes were done we all went ashore for a look around the sites of Yarmouth then returned to our boat to be rocked to sleep by the motion of the water in the harbour.

Day 3 we awoke to much nicer weather, we set off after breakfast heading back east and although there was not much wind we still set the sails and were surprised by the good progress we were making and were able to reach Osborne Bay for a lunch stop. After lunch the little wind we had dropped and we were against the current so we did some practice under motor and it was fair to say that Ben really enjoyed getting some practice steering at speed and even tried a few doughnuts and they weren't the type you eat!



Before heading up the Medina river to Cowes where we were going to moor up for the night, we also had a practice of what to do if we had a man over board. We were all pleased when we managed to save Kevin (who was actually a lifebelt) safely out of the sea and this was rewarded with more tea and cake! That evening we stayed at Cowes and went to the anchor pub for our final dinner together which was really tasty. With full bellies we decided to try walking some of it off by exploring Cowes finding the Royal Yacht Squadron and the lifeboat station as well as stocking up on the all important coffee before heading back to bed to be gently rocked to sleep again below the decks on the boat.

The last morning was an early start. We made our way mainly under motor power as we needed to head back to Hamble marina so that we could scrub the decks and get everything ship shape before disembarking so John could return the boat to UKSA and we could all head home on the train. We had only been away for four days but we had all got to know each other well and had enjoyed each other's company with lots of laughter. We may of started as near strangers but we parted friends with happy memories.



Thanks to everyone involved in making this an exciting trip with long lasting memories!