



## **HURST CASTLE SAILING CLUB NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2025**

Welcome to another newsletter, bringing you information about events for you to attend in the next few weeks and plans for the future, including the need for volunteers to help run the club.

### **IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT EVENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.**

**FEBRUARY WINTER TALK:** This will be on February 19<sup>th</sup> and the topic will be the winter birds on our coastline, given by Anthony Knox who works for Hampshire County Council in our area. The talk will be an overview of the work Bird Aware Solent undertakes during the winter months to educate the public and help mitigate bird disturbance on our coastline. Our aim is to increase awareness of the wonderful array of overwintering birds that call the Solent home during the winter months and how we, as users of the coast, can help the birds thrive.

Note the start time of 19.00 hours. Coffee and biscuits afterwards.

**HCSC AGM Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.** Yes, it's that time of year again when organisations check their accounts for the last year and agree plans for the future. Above all we start to worry about who will carry on the work of keeping the show on the road. I am afraid HCSC is no different. A number of committee members step down each year and this year we are losing our Commodore, Vice Commodore and Rear Commodore Social as well. So we are looking for volunteers to help with the running of the club. Notice of the AGM will reach you during February, and will bring with it nomination forms for committee members

and the Flag Officer posts. Don't be put off by the formality; nor by the responsibility. Whilst special skills are useful, the committee also needs people with common sense and a willingness to ask questions. Joining the committee is a way to find out more about how the club keeps going and meetings are usually quite jolly.

The AGM will start at 19.30 hours and will be followed by wine and nibbles and socialising. Please bring a plateful of finger food to contribute. For members who can't attend in person, the meeting will be live streamed with the opportunity to participate in discussion and voting.

**MARCH WINTER TALK;** March 19<sup>th</sup> at the clubhouse at 19.00 hours. See below in Andy's contribution.

## **HERE IS SOME SAILING NEWS FROM ANDY P**

### **JUNIOR SAILING 2025 - Recruiting More Young People!**



The Sailing Committee is already planning next year's Junior Sailing programme with six fortnightly Sunday sessions between the end of April and mid- July leading up to Junior Sailing Week around the first week of the school summer holidays. Three further Sunday sessions are planned during September and October. The programme combines a mix of fun activities and informal training to develop young peoples' sailing skills whether they are beginners or already have some experience. We are

hoping that, like last year, we will have leadership from both an external RYA instructor and from some of our own experienced club sailors.

Using the club's own fleet of dinghies which are suited to a range of abilities and with support boats always in attendance, our Junior Sailing is heavily subsidised by HCSC and offered at very low cost to children or grandchildren of HCSC members.

As one grandparent wrote to us after this year's Junior Sailing:

*'The progress the boys made in learning to sail in such a short space of time is a credit to Alistair's excellent coaching. They enjoyed their few days immensely; I am sure they will be keen to participate in Junior Sailing next year. Thank you again for organising such a wonderful sailing experience for my grandsons.'*

At this stage, we are looking for expressions of interest, without commitment, so, if you have children or grandchildren aged 8-15 who might be interested in joining us (or joining us again!) and would like to receive further details, please send an email to [sailing@hcsc.org.uk](mailto:sailing@hcsc.org.uk) with their names and ages.

### **WINTER TALK - Wednesday March 19th**

The Sailing Committee is finalising details of an additional winter talk to place at the club on Wednesday March 19th. Likely to be of particular interest to the active sailors in the club, more details will follow soon but please reserve the day.

**HCSC WEBSITE** As previously reported, a group of techie-aware members has put in hours of work over the last year on the design of our new website. This is now coming to fruition and it is hoped the website will go live later in February. Currently some key people are having training on how it will work and how they will be able to directly input

information about their HCSC area of responsibility. We will let you know when it is ready for members' and public consumption.

## **COMMODORE AND VICE COMMODORE ROLES**

This is a personal contribution and does not reflect any one else's view.

Asking the question, "What do these roles do?" Like any good manager they have to make sure that jobs get done, not necessarily to do everything themselves. They check if the committee is doing what they said it would do. They encourage, support, and generally provide leadership especially to new committee members and Flag Officers. They do hold final accountability if things go drastically wrong.

So what would happen if these roles were "vacant". Would everything stop? Probably not – at least for a year because the programme is already in place. A lot of HCSC "work" is done by the Rear Commodores and the people they have gathered in their own committees. Plus, some things get done because there are experienced members around who know the ropes.

Perhaps enthusiasm and new projects (like a new website) would wear thin over time? What would happen to "leadership"? So, I put it to you, if we don't have volunteers to take on these posts, what would happen to the club in the long term?

Or should we operate instead like some sort of collective around the general committee table? We would have to mark formal positions as "vacant" and rotate the chair. Is that what members would like to happen? Has the hierarchical model had its day in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? How does generation Z operate?

Just a thought.            Jean W (an ex-Commodore)

## **HURSTSPIT2LYMINGTON PROJECT**

This important environmental project has just issued its latest newsletter in which they are replying to some of the questions and comments they received at public consultations. Whilst their projections and planning

cover the next 50+ years they have raised concern about the future of sport and leisure water activities around Keyhaven and Lymington. The newsletter does say they will work with local sailing and yacht clubs. You can find it on their website: [www.hurstspit2lymington.co.uk](http://www.hurstspit2lymington.co.uk) or you can request your own copy by contacting the team on [Hurstspit2lymington@environmentagency.gov.uk](mailto:Hurstspit2lymington@environmentagency.gov.uk).

**REMINDERS** 1. Have you paid your membership subscription? The deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup> has passed. Did you pay the amount you wanted to pay, bearing in mind the fee increase which was agreed last year?

2. Mark your personal possessions in the Gear store because there is going to be a clear out.

3. The AGM is on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 19.30 hours.

4. Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. Your information, opinions, photos etc. You can use the email: [newsletter@hcsc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@hcsc.org.uk).

### **JANUARY SAILORS AND KAYAKERS**

A handful of people took to the water last week in a brief moment of better weather. They were too busy to take any photos. Instead, here are two taken locally to remind us that Spring is not far behind.



**COLD WATER SHOCK** This is a physiological reaction which takes place very quickly on immersion in the cold water. It can take your breath away, making you more likely to panic and increasing the likelihood of swallowing water. It is not hypothermia which takes longer to develop. It is dangerous. Please have a look at the RYA advice on their web site. Best of all avoid it by thinking before you go out on the water.

And on that sombre note, you have reached the end. Thanks for reading this far. Hope to see you at the AGM, either in person or remotely. Enjoy February.

Paul M (Commodore)

Jean W (Editor)