



MMA CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER MAY 2021



It seems an age since the prospect of a major breakdown of the NHS seemed very real. Just how we were individually going to survive the impact of Coronavirus was a matter of uncertainty to say the least. Now, just over a year later, thanks to the huge efforts of all those who contributed to the provision of an effective Covid 19 vaccine we have a realistic prospect of being able to again enjoy to the full our boats, kayaks and dinghies in one of the best areas for recreation afloat in the world. Welcome to my first Newsletter of the 2021 boating season.

Over the winter a few hardy souls managed to find ways of getting afloat within constraints imposed by social distancing. However with ports closed to visitors most of us complied with exhortations to “stay at home”. After 17 May outdoor socialising was allowed, albeit under strict Covid conditions. The MMA dinghy sailing and kayaking programme is now rolling, albeit with two of the first three events being cancelled because of the weather. However with encouraging support from MMA members I look forward to Saturday afternoon sailing during the summer months when tides serve. If you wish to enjoy some low-key boating in a safe environment please check the scheduled meeting dates and time on the MMA website or on the dinghy park notice board.

On Monday, 19 April 2021 17 members attended the annual AGM, held for the second time as a Zoom video conference. It was a great pleasure to have on the agenda “Appointment of new committee members” and I am most grateful for those who have stepped forward to help manage our Association. I am pleased to say that the 2021 MMA Committee is up and running. Hopefully changes will be seamless and we now go forward after lockdown with every assurance that MMA will continue to thrive. Your new team is as follows:

President – Colin Gilbert

MMA Committee

Chairman – Peter Jackson

Secretary – Janet Rule

Membership – John Gregg

Treasurer – Adrian Heng

Bosun – Colin Caldicott

Social – Mary Philips

Committee members – Chris Brooks, David Butler, Eric Ray.

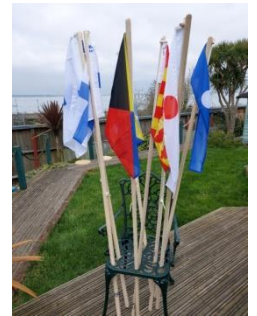
Essential contact details are given on the MMA Website.

At the recent AGM I was able to say that the MMA is in sound financial health. We owe this largely to the expertise and diligence of Colin Gilbert who served as our Treasurer from 2016 until handing over to Ady Heng last month. Colin, who joined in 1990 largely to take part in the MMA “Round the Island Single Handed” races that took place for many years, has been an active member taking a full part in cruising, dinghy sailing and social events with a veritable fleet of boats seen at and around the Folly. It is with great pleasure that I welcome Colin as our new President.



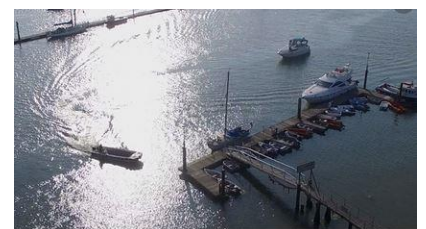
John Greg has stepped in as the new Membership Officer and this has relieved some of the pressure from Colin Caldicott who remains on the Committee but wearing a new hat of bosun/dinghy park manager. Colin has been busy recently shifting abandoned dinghies to make more space available for active members. We also have provision for more racks for kayaks, the popularity of which has soared during lockdown. Mary Phillips, who through her long service as MMA Secretary has done so much to preserve continuity over the years, has kindly agreed to remain on the committee in a new role of Social Secretary. Finally I am delighted that CJ Brooks, David Butler and Eric Ray all agreed to re-election. Their contribution in practical terms has been invaluable and they are usually the first to appear when a call for help goes out.

I hope you have had a chance to study the programme of dinghy sailing and kayaking afternoons posted on the website, facebook and the main notice board at the dinghy park. This year, in order to include in particular those with work and school commitments during the week, timings have been moved to Saturdays during the summer when tides serve. Unfortunately of the first three sessions planned two were washed out by wind and rain. Nonetheless, surely the weather has to improve soon and I am optimistic that we might be able to take advantage of the new set of sailing flags so that some informal and low key racing can take place. MMA has been asked to dispose of some mirror dinghies that are no longer wanted by their owners. Prices are very reasonable indeed and this is a great way of introducing children or grand children to the “Swallows and Amazons” experience for which the River Medina is so suited. Please contact Colin Caldicott if you are interested.



MMA is a charity, and our charitable funding reserves have allowed us to join with local harbour authorities to provide a new defibrillator to be installed outside the Folly Ventures office. The Folly Inn is not well placed to achieve speedy treatment for any coronary episode that might occur either afloat or around the dingy park or public slipway. Installation is imminent. Hopefully we can help save lives.

The team from Folly Waterbus makes a significant contribution to our enjoyment of the river Medina. As well as the taxi service they help maintain good order and regularity in an area distanced from Cowes and Newport Harbour Authorities bases; they keep an eye throughout the year on our boats moored offshore in fair weather and foul, and are always ready to pass a line to those requiring assistance afloat. MMA has helped Folly Ventures weather the Covid storm and in recognition of this they offer two free return water taxi tickets between The Folly and the Folly pontoons and moorings for each member of MMA. To



claim your free ferry voucher please see Dave Foyle at the water taxi office.

I much look forward to the resumption of our social programme. We already have the annual visit of Marchwood Sailing Club on the calendar for Saturday 26 June. Again East Cowes Sea Scouts will be running the barbecue. When last held in 2019 it provided a great



opportunity for a most enjoyable gathering of both MMA members and visitor alike. Do make a note in your diary and join in if you are able. Again, the date is Saturday 26 June from 5.30pm onwards. Bring your own food to cook. Drinks can be purchased at The Folly which re-opened on 17 May under new management. The links between MMA and the Inn are

fundamental to how MMA operates: food and drink; toilet facilities and not forgetting that Greene King is our landlord. Notwithstanding pre-covid service issues The Folly Inn needs our support as much as possible as they emerge from lockdown. We plan to hold a social event there later in the year.

My shed is full of “boat stuff”. Beaulieu Boat Jumble is unfortunately something of the past and smaller local boat jumbles have been Covid casualties. We would like to see a boat jumble taking place at the Folly before too long. If any MMA member feels able to organise a suitable event please let either myself or The Secretary know.

Greene King’s plans to institute parking control using probably CCTV with an automatic number plate recognition system have been placed on hold during the pandemic. I shall try and obtain an update as soon as possible. Meantime, your committee has agreed to look at the purchase of equipment to provide improved security surveillance of the dinghy park. A technical appraisal is underway and if you are in a position to contribute with advice or information please let Colin Caldicott know.

Finally, a reminder about the need to display your MMA sticker when parking. That helps us work with the Folly Team should vehicles need to be moved when you are away cruising. Also please ensure that you have your 2021 sticker displayed on your dinghy.

With best wishes to all MMA Members for an enjoyable summer and safe emergence from Covid.

Peter Jackson
Chairman
29May 2021.