



MMA CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER Christmas 2021

The earth revolves around the sun, spinning as it does so. You knew that already! Hot air rises and cold air sinks. You probably know that as well. But did you also know that the Isle of Wight is situated approximately on the boundary between two major global air masses marked by the Polar Jet Stream? Because this boundary moves with the seasons the jet stream meanders about the sky. This in turn means that our weather is constantly changing, unlike some areas such as the Caribbean where the weather, in general, is the same day after day. Having lived in the Caribbean I can tell you, without expecting sympathy, that this gets pretty boring after a while! To me it seems that the current Covid pandemic is somewhat like the weather: every day the situation seems to change and once again we are talking about a lock down over the Christmas holiday. As in dealing with the weather, all we can do is minimise the effects by protecting ourselves as much as possible, keeping out of it where we can, and taking notice of warnings.

We had strong winds and high tides recently and the dinghy park is looking slightly dishevelled to say the least. A basic requirement for dinghy parking at The Folly is that you keep your boat in seaworthy condition and your plot reasonably tidy. Unfortunately there are currently too many boats with wind-damaged or loose covers. Unless your boat is protected from the weather it will deteriorate quickly so please try and check your boat regularly to ensure you are complying with the conditions of storage on the membership renewal/application form. The conditions have changed since last year so it is worth reading the small print before you apply for 2022 membership.

In my last Newsletter circulated earlier in December I had to tell you about the organised theft from our compound one night in July of four inflatable dinghies. I saddens me to have to advise you of yet another theft, this time of a kayak that was securely locked to the toast racks. Ultimately the security of dinghies is the responsibility of the space-holder (Condition of storage No. 7) but nonetheless your committee is keen to take all reasonable precautions to deter thieves as much as possible. Better lighting; CCTV; locked gates; higher boundary fencing: these are all being considered. The problem is that short of turning the site into Colditz a determined thief will usually find a way in. Hopefully planned Greene King security enhancements for the pub will help MMA. Meantime please make sure that your craft is properly secured with a high-quality locking device such as used for motor cycles. An old section of chain or length of wire rigging can be severed in seconds with a cordless angle grinder. Many small craft insurance policies do not cover theft unless the craft is kept in a locked building or in a locked compound or locked to a permanent fixture.

The MMA Laying Up supper on 12 November was a great success. We are looking at holding a Fitting Out supper, again at The Folly, next Spring, possibly not too distant from the AGM on 18 April 2022.

We are hoping to hold the AGM as a live, as opposed to virtual, event at the Riverside Centre in Newport. More AGM details in the new year. Meantime there is still much uncertainty about the Covid situation which seems to be changing daily. Much like the weather!

So, that brings me back neatly to my first paragraph. Please stay safe over Christmas. Think about treating your dinghy or kayak to a nice new padlock for Christmas. If you are able to check your plot in the dinghy park during a Boxing Day walk, that would be very good use of time.

With very best wishes for 2022.

Peter Jackson
Chairman
Medina Mariners Association