

## Camsail Annual Report for 2019-2020

The season's programme of meetings was only just completed on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2020, the week before the first national lockdown because of Covid19. As we finished the season, we had 52 members, including 5 who had joined for the first time, having 'found' us through either U3A or our website. The average attendance at our meetings with speakers was just over 30.

The first speaker of the season, in October, was Bob Bradfield, the author of the Antares Charts for Scottish Islands. His repeated survey work, the detailed digital charts which result, and the accompanying pilotage information allow skippers to explore areas into which most would dare not go with only Admiralty charts to guide them.

Glen Manchett's very courageous endeavour to join the Clipper Race around the World as a complete novice gave us a truly inspiring account of what can be achieved by a man who is fit but not young. After attending preliminary training courses, he enrolled for all ten legs of the race. Apart from carrying out all his duties as a crew member, he was the ship's 'Mr. Fixit'. Glenn is an experienced senior engineer and he was kept busy doing all manner of vital repairs and jobs in all departments aboard. As a senior, effective, enthusiastic crew member for the whole circumnavigation with a changing international crew, he must have been a much valued crew member by the Austrian skipper Wendy Tuck.

In December we held our first A.G.M. at which the current committee were duly elected for 2020. So now after 11 years Camsail is a legal entity, and this and Camsail's events in 2019 were celebrated with mulled wine, mince pies and social time. We heard reports of the three trips which had been organised since the previous season: the visit to King's Lynn, the flotilla to Bradwell and the daysail on Rona II from the Rona Sailing Project. These trips had involved over 30 of our members, and are detailed in the previous season's report.

The pre-Covid part of the doomed year 2020 started very well for Camsail in January with a second talk by one of our members whose sailing arrangements must be the envy of many members. Stephen Burgess told us more about some of his experiences as a skipper for the Rona Sailing Project, particularly while racing. The boats, fully crewed and maintained by the Project, have taken part in Tall Ships Races for over 50 years. Viewing the photographs, many of our members would no doubt have enjoyed being on board, though they would probably not envy being in charge of a 60 foot boat with a dozen keen though novice youngsters!

The talk by Garth Cooper in February revealed his wide nautical experience: writing for 'Sailing Today', working for the C.A. and the R.Y.A. and editing/writing the latest edition of the East Coast Pilot amongst other undertakings. I expect that many of us have earlier editions and will now appreciate the meticulous care and work involved. I hope that many will reward themselves with the latest edition of this very useful book. Updates since publication are available from the website.

In March, two officers of Border Force explained the range of work with which they are engaged. They stressed how they greatly rely on reports from sailors about odd or suspicious behaviour (as well as on other intelligence) to intercept smugglers of many kinds, including of people and drugs.

The remainder of 2020 (the normal sailing season), has been very disappointing for sailors everywhere. Marinas were largely closed and those without household crew have had to sail solo or stay pottering on board. We had to cancel the three trips planned for the Spring and Autumn.

Peter Jones