

CAMSAIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2022 – 2023

In March Camsail had 51 paid-up members. Throughout the season, attendance has generally been between 30 and 40.

Sean Connery's talk in October really had little to do with yachts and turbines, but it was an extremely interesting and well informed account of the offshore and wind farm industry. The seaboard of our islands, our coastline, exceeds that of any other country in Europe, so offshore wind is big business. Sean also told us of the financial help (many thousands of pounds each) given to coastal communities effected by their installations.

The story of the ill fated 1979 Fastnet race was told by the skipper of a boat largely undamaged by the awful conditions during the hours of the race. Dr. Imre Vadasz is a very experienced, wise and very well informed yachtsman, in whose care any crew would feel that if anyone knew what to do in a precarious situation, it was him. Although he and his crew were very scared, none was injured. He explained the effects of increasing wind velocity from force 8 to force 12, with great understanding and some well placed humour. I would say that he bowled his audience over with his most engaging talk.

Attendance at the AGM and Christmas gathering was depleted because of Covid. After the election of the Committee, we received the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports for the previous season. We then heard interesting illustrated reports of the two May trips to the NT Nature Reserve at Orford Ness, and of three other sailing trips which our members had experienced. We concluded with the normal Christmas refreshments, a time to socialise with other members.

The first meeting in the new year was taken up by our member Charles Joint telling us about a delivery trip he did as a member of the Kuwait Offshore Sailing Association. The not uncommon problem the boat met was serious entangling the prop in a large fishing net which had no marker buoy. Charles went overboard with headtorch and spent an hour cutting it away with a knife.

From the Irish Sea and Kuwait, our February meeting was concerned with an enterprise nearer home. Eric Reynolds, a wealthy entrepreneur, bought a fairly humble 130 year old boatyard in the upper reaches of the Deben in Woodbridge, which formerly belonged to A A Everton. He developed the site, trying to conserve some feeling of its antiquity. In the largest building we saw how a team of skilled carpenters were making an accurate copy of the Viking ship discovered at Sutton Hoo around 1939. The teams were using tools resembling those used by the Vikings, in a meticulous way which will take years to complete. He showed photos taken at an open day, and there many spectators marvelling at their pains taking work.

Our last meeting followed the theme of ancient wooden boats which if abandoned on the coast would leave no remains after several hundred years. Our only knowledge of the Viking ships which invaded our eastern shores comes from a complete vessel which was found at Sutton Hoo. This was a burial ship loaded with treasures, commemorating a V.I.P.,. The site now contains a replica ship plus replicas of the items found on board which are now in the British Museum. We were grateful to Paul Constantine for this interesting talk.

On May 3rd, a group visited the International Boatbuilding Training College at Lowestoft College, which was enjoyed by all.

We thank John Peregrine and Malcolm Dee who have taken on various additional secretarial tasks for Camsail since March.

