

Waldringfield Sailing Club

Report to Parish Council – April 2012

I expect that most of you will by now be aware that the Sailing Club has decided to appeal the decision by SCDC to refuse the Club's application to install a pontoon on the beach. We have agonised over this decision. We are very well aware of the views of many village residents who are opposed to the pontoon. On the other hand we are also very much aware of the many club members who regard having a pontoon as a highly desirable asset for the Club.

The pontoon, if and when it is built, will be removed from the beach each winter.

I won't go over the arguments for and against which many of us have heard time and again. But I would like to emphasise that the Club is community minded: we don't restrict access to the slipway by the Maybush which is Club property and maintained by the Club; likewise the steps down to the beach which are not a public footpath and are maintained by the Club, and we have spent a considerable amount of money on reinforcing the sea wall under the cliff; all these things being accessible to the many in the village who enjoy the river bank, as we sailing club members do.

All those who supported or opposed the original application should get a letter inviting them to comment again, and I am sure many of you will do so. We do not expect a decision from the Inspector until the autumn.

But to move on to less contentious issues. We are very pleased with the extension to the Club changing rooms. I think that the new building blends in very well with the old and the construction phase went according to plan even though we had to transport materials along the beach.

And we have just had a very successful Easter regatta with 88 boats on the water, despite a biting cold north wind, including 26 visitors who enjoy coming to Waldringfield each Easter. This year was the 60th running of the Easter Egg regatta, and there was a three page write up of the history of the regatta in the Anglia Afloat magazine. On Easter Sunday the prizes were presented by Richard Hopkins who competed in the first regatta in 1952.

Last year, we hosted a very successful day for local schoolchildren from the primary schools in Waldringfield, Nacton, Bucklesham and Levington and everybody enjoyed that very much, so it will be repeated again this year, on Tuesday 3 July.

Our annual Taster day when we invite all comers to sample the delights of sailing on the Deben will be held on Sunday 8 July.

And finally, and in response to comments from the village, we have installed a bell which will be used as a finishing signal for boats finishing races in front of the Clubhouse. We will still use the klaxon for starts, but the bell should be less audible away from the river.

Thank you.

David Copp
Vice Commodore