

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE SCILLIES CREWS @ IoS2014, GO PENDEEN!

Please e-mail comments or editorial to Jill at jillhoather@googlemail.com or Sue at suenankynoo@btinternet.com

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It was July 2005 when the first Gig-gle was launched. In those days, we had one wooden boat and no training boats, thus necessitating 'Avarack' to be towed to Newlyn or Marazion, depending on tides and weather, in order for us to row. As you can imagine this could be very confusing, and the need for a newsletter (paper initially), showing the tides and training times, along with other snippets of information, was thought up. The name Gig-gle was very apt as so many funny things happened in our early years. Gradually, as with most things the Newsletter has grown and changed, but essentially it has still kept us informed. With the growth of the internet, constant communication with all club members has become very easy, keeping us all up to date with training, meetings, race events, fundraising and developments, and the Gig-gle as we know it has become a little outdated. The last one you received was number 85 and, maybe we should continue with the numbering, but we are now planning to produce a bigger, printed newsletter, probably 3 times a year. This will also be sent to you via e-mail but it will be available to put in pubs and shops etc., and hopefully encourage a few new members.

There are contributions from our lovely 'words' lady, Anna, Emma as always on Race Reports and 'geeky gig stuff', a copy of Ben's very funny story that he wrote and so bravely read at the 'Geevor' launch day, Shirley telling us about Junior development and Sue Nank and myself putting the whole thing together. We hope you enjoy your first copy and hope that more of you will begin to contribute to further publications. Jill



'A night (or more), at the gym'

After the long wait to start using Bolitho Gym Dan, Geoff, Isaac and Charlotte managed to make our first access night and begin improving their fitness. A good start, but I had to laugh as I left the house with Geoff to pick up Sally and Eric for the second session. In all honesty it was probably the last place I would have expected us, as a group, to be off to, and the vision of what was to come definitely tickled me! There were eight of us 'working out'!! that night, beginning with the warm up routine that Mike set up for the juniors, which resulted in just a little variation in the footwork, but we decided that some exercise was better than no exercise and had good fun. We all noted our success levels on the machines and hoped that with a few more visits all this work was going to pay off. 'Scillies' here we come'.

A few more weeks of this work and, though I still find it sooo..... boring, and that rowing machine is nothing like the real thing, it really did make the difference to the stamina levels when it came to the 3 Rivers Race. Yes, I am now convinced it has to be done, (even though I hate it), and next year it will be a gym session a week for me. Jill



Junior Section

In October, when the clocks changed and we lost daylight by 4pm on a Friday afternoon, we started our winter programme in the Gym at Gems Bolitho School where our indoor rowing machines are stationed. This was the first time we made use of the Bolitho Gym and under the tough guidance of Mike Ellis who put the Juniors through their paces every week they all improved their fitness and technique. Some of the older Juniors turned up on a Sunday morning for general rowing with the adults which gave them extra practice and that little bit of an edge when it comes to racing against other Junior crews.

By February half term we were all back out on the water again but this is a transition year for our Juniors. Pendeen Under 14 crew was formed 2 years ago and they have

done amazingly well, winning some races but always making it into at least second or third place. This year, three of them have to move up into the Under 16 group, so for the first time we have an Under 16 crew and an Under 14 crew. This has meant that some of them have had to adjust to rowing in a new position, so for their first race of the season at our own 'Plastic Pig Event' at Sandy Cove in Newlyn it was a bit of a tester! They all rose magnificently to the challenge, our new Under 16 crew took first place way ahead of the rest of the pack and our new Under 14's came second only just missing out on first place. This is a really good start to the season where we shall see great things from our two new crews this year. The next two events are Zennor's Race meeting again taking place at Sandy Cove Newlyn on the 17th May and Rock's event on the 8th June where we would hope to retain our first place position that we achieved last year. (See photo)

One of our Juniors who is now 16 and for the first time is able to take part in the World Pilot Gig Championships on the Scillies this coming weekend he will be rowing with our Men's 'B' team and we wish Stephen all the best luck in the world and hope he enjoys his first race with the adults and the whole 'Scillies experience'. Stephen is in the vanguard as we have two more ready to 'take on the world' next year!!

Watch out World, Pendeen Juniors are coming!

If you are 16 or under and interested in trying your hand at rowing or know someone who is, give me a call on 01736 361862 or e-mail shirleymikepitts@gmail.com

Shirley Pitts

Junior Co-ordinator

'An icy training Session'

On one of those cold, wet winter Sunday mornings, when you really would rather stay in bed, but you know that you will feel better if you get out there and row, even if the wind keeps you doing 'indoor' training in the harbour, spare a thought for the rowers who train all year round on the St Lawrence River, Quebec. A recent visit, when the wind chill took the temperature down to -39c we found similar boats to ours out training amongst the icebergs. These boats were used for bringing fur pelts and other goods down the river for sale at the trading posts and would work all year. They have four rowers and the cox also has a paddle to steer, but when the going gets tough and the ice is solid the rowers simply pick up their boat, carry it over the ice flows until they reach more water and then row it again. Just like gig rowing it is now a sport for a traditional working boat with race events at regular intervals, throughout the year I believe. Jill





Anna's Ditties

Rowing today: 23rd Feb

Too unruly to go out into the wild bay today.

Newlyn Harbour has a pontoon called "DUDLEY".

It is red. Dudley the red pontoon.

The big fishing boats empty bilge from their steely innards, it smells of gringe, scrud, fidge, muldge, and Scredda.

The lugger, "The Children's Friend," has had its wooden heart broken by the storms.

The sea-bed longs to claim her, but she's not having it. Not yet.

The weather is coming in apparently.

Coming in where I wonder?

My house for a cup of tea?

The swordfish for a pint? It would like to I'm sure, but it's not welcome here, or up Porthleven, or Down Lamorna, or over Newquay. So, sling your hook weather, and come back when you've calmed down

1st March.

Out of the harbour at last.

Tide so low though, that we creep out like stealthy cats, paddles disturb the silt of ages.

Old moorings show themselves like twisty spectres that once held boats long gone.

Out in the bay, a Russian ship, The Mikola, long as Market Jew Street, rusty as a jailer's key, sits in the peace of our waters, away from The Mother Country that doesn't know which flag to raise and its people fight for they want to be.

The sky has a silver rinse and the ocean has spring in its step.

Well rowed ladies of Pendeen and Newlyn.

An hour of steady click-clicks...

Rowing today.

We slip out of the narrow gaps as if carrying contraband, rum and lace, brandy and doubloons.

Sea a turquoise aquamarine, quiet as a sock draw.

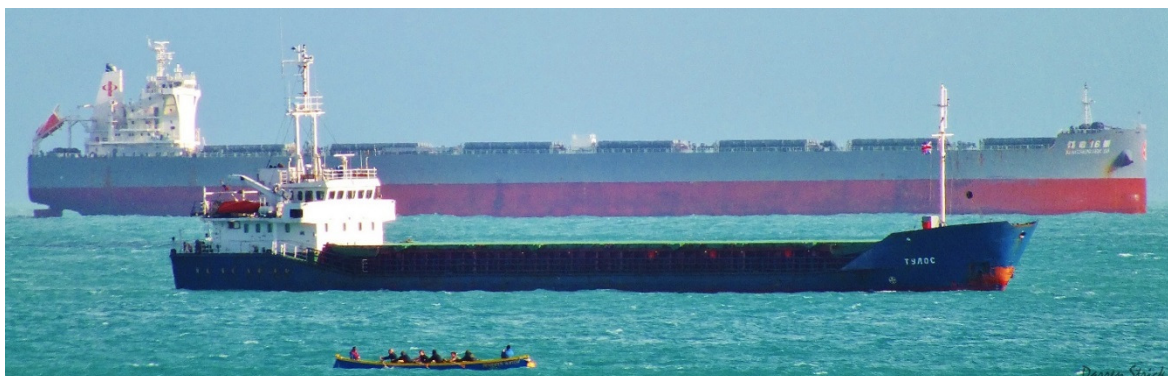
Past the gape of Penlee quarry, past the rust and burnt umber ferns on the cliffs, not a gannet or gull in sight. They must know something.

Second row, a streak of blue sky to tempt us, rumours of rain backing off up to the Lizard.

Then, out at Low Lee, in it comes, slanty and wetter than a bucket of fish, sea bad tempered, a sneaky mist with its friend the wind.

Back to the loving arms of Newlyn harbour, Neil the cox a human shiver, the rest of us Wet- Ass -No- Fish.

Back home dry-clothes-warmth creeps over me like a sigh



The Launch of 'Geevor' write up by Reverend Alan Rowell.

One happy occasion I will never forget is the afternoon of Sunday 9th February. The sun was shining on us and the sea was calm- at least within the Newlyn harbour walls.

And I was there, in my full vicar's robes – including the white stole for joy, seated at the prow of our incredibly beautiful new boat – Geevor. The youth team of six were at the oars, and at the stern, acting as cox, was Andrew Nancarrow.

The same Andrew who'd spent the last 6 months actually building the boat! And what an amazing achievement- every detail looked made with care, and every part seemed to require a different sort of wood. I sat there trying to decide what the different woods were.

Both Penlee lifeboats- the big one and the inflatable – accompanied us and our other three gigs. My heart swelled with pride – to remember a time we weren't rowing village at all, but now we have four boats, two wooden and two "training".

After a lap of honour round the harbour there was hot soup and heavy cake – then back to Pendeen to parade from the Radjel, to the Trewellard Arms, and back down to Geevor Café. You won't be surprised to hear that the spread they put on for us was magnificent.

And, as the awards were made, it was wonderful to hear how our Gig Club has improved the health and happiness of so many local people.

Of course I do know that there is a great deal of hard work behind the scenes to make such a success of the club. Like any important work it must have its frustrations. There must be times those good people ask themselves "*Why do I do this!?*"

Maybe then, they'll remember that wonderful afternoon and know it is all worthwhile. **AR**

'Geevor' by Anna Murphy

**Here's to Geevor
Nancarrow built,
New boat.
Fresh to water
Never met a wave,
Nor seen the wide yawn of the ocean,
Nor felt the wind on her bow
Nor the sun on her stern.
May her heart, and ours,
Beat to the click, click of oars.
May she enter many a race
With good grace
And win a few.
May young and old,
Woman, man and child,
Every condition of humanity,
Row in her,
And feel the breeze on their cheeks.
Welcome to this salty world Geevor.**



Big Thank You's

To [Geevor Mine](#) for supporting us with the launch, to [Count House Café](#) @ the mine for a wonderful reception, to [Heather's Coffee Shop](#) in Pendeen for all your support, to the [Trewellard Arms](#), thank you Jill & Martin's for all your support & the champagne ☺
Thank you to all who made the day so special for the club, especially chairperson [Jan Barton](#) who led the day with amazing organisational skills, well done one & all.



'A day at the races' by Ben Brown

It was just another typical day for a gig racing event. Down at Sandy Cove, several members from Pendeen Gig Club were setting up the marquee and other equipment. Dan, who was sorting out the BBQ, knocked it over, so he had to put it all back together. Debbie and Sally were setting out the tables, Jill and Shirley Pitts were sorting out the raffle prizes, and Liz and Shirley Rees were sorting out the food and drinks.

Unfortunately, Shirley Rees dropped a box of rock cakes, which Mike had made, and Liz knocked a couple of tables over - sending cakes flying everywhere.

Meanwhile, Avarack was being carried down to the shore by the boys. Things were going just fine, until Neil accidentally tripped over a rock - causing him to stumble backwards into Tristan, who went backwards into Geoff. Geoff went backwards into David Clough, who went back into Owen. Owen went back into Chris, who went back into Dixie. One by one, they all fell backwards like a row of dominoes. Unfortunately, they all let go of Avarack. Mike, who was furious, bellowed at them to get up. So the devastating episode continued, until finally, Avarack was set down in one piece. But, it didn't end there, because Tristan fell into the boat when he tried to put a stretcher in place.

Soon all the other clubs started to arrive with their boats. First it was Zennor, then Mounts Bay, then Cape, then Hayle, then Falmouth, then Coverack, then Newquay, then St Ives, then St Agnes, and finally Truro. Mounts Bay had carried their boat all the way from Marazion, because the tyres on their trailer had been punctured. One by one the boats were lined up.

More and more people from other clubs arrived at the beach to set up their equipment. In no time at all there were people buying food and drink that Pendeen had provided. Sadly, Dan had forgotten to bring burgers, sausages and onions for the BBQ, so everyone had to have bread; and Geoff spilt tea all over his shirt. Then there was the coxes meeting, and finally the races.

First of all it was the Ladies' A race. Shirley Rees, Sue Nankervis, Liz, Jan, Jill and Marge Simpson were rowing; and Homer Simpson was coxing. Pendeen rowed out to the start line along with all the other teams. The boats got into position, waited for the 'flags up' signal, and away they went. Pendeen shot forward like an arrow, rounded the turns, and flashed back to the finish, before the other boats were half way through the race. The ladies leapt overboard and hopped like rabbits to the marquee, while Homer Simpson sat down on the beach and scoffed a hundred donuts.

The Ladies' race was next. Debbie, Sally, Charlotte, Linda, Mini Mouse, and the Little Mermaid were rowing; and Mike was coxing. Unfortunately, Mike fell into the water three times before he finally managed to get into the boat, but the team were just as successful as the A team. Mike ended up losing his voice after shouting his head off all the way through the race.

Then it was the Junior race. At first there were only five juniors, but Daffy Duck turned up on a broomstick and saved the day. Humpty Dumpty was coxing. The juniors blazed over the finishing line before the other boats, with Jess in the lead. When Humpty Dumpty tried to get out of the boat he fell and cracked himself.

After that it was the Men's A race. Owen, Neil, Dan, Chris, David Clough and Tristan were rowing; and a very drunk Jack Sparrow was coxing. Unfortunately, Jack Sparrow fell in the water five times before he finally managed to get into the boat. This was just the beginning of a chain of chaotic events to come in the race. As Avarack made for the start line, Neil 'caught a crab' and snapped a pin; and so did Dan.

Things didn't improve when the race started. In fact, they went from bad to worse because Jack Sparrow, who was so drunk, was steering the boat all over the place, causing it to ram into Coverack. Ian, who was coxing Coverack, ended up falling overboard, so a seal had to take his place. At one point Avarack rammed into Hayle - causing their boat to ram into the first mark and capsize. Further on, David 'caught a crab' on the end of his oar. He tried to shake it off, but the oar flew out of his hand and floated away. Owen was having trouble too because he kept leaning further and further back at the end of every stroke, until he fell right over backwards off his seat.

It didn't stop there however, because the Flying Dutchman appeared, with Andy Basey on board. Jack Sparrow couldn't make one of his dramatic escapes, because the Kraken appeared. The Kraken seized Avarack, and carried her, with her crew and captain, down into Andy Basey's locker for eternity.



Spring Race Reports:

Three Rivers Sunday 9th March

After months of the worst weather in living memory, I wonder if the rowing community ever expected to get together on a nice sunny day and race, especially on this first event of the year. Somehow Caradon achieved this miracle, as the weather on Sunday 9th March was truly glorious.

There was a massive turnout of 59 gigs, although not all were in both races. Clubs from as far away as Bristol and Swanage had all gathered for this first real chance to test fitness, stamina and in some cases, like ourselves, their shiny new boats. This was 'Geevor's' first event and there was a lot of interest on how she would perform. New gigs often let in water, in fact the new Dutch gig Zeeheld launched at Scillies last year leaked so badly she was hardly used over the weekend' and with such a long race this could have been a major problem. Andrew Nancarrow's gig building skill was proved, as our new baby finished the days racing without the need for the bailer!

Realistically our ladies crew use this race as stamina training and it truly is a gruelling event. With race novices among the crew, they were thrown in at the deep end amongst some very strong crews, however despite finishing at the rear of the field they acquitted themselves well and took away valuable experience. Initial results on the day showed our ladies with the slowest time but several days later, once a few errors had been ironed out, it showed that we had actually beaten the Lyme Regis gig Rebel by 5 seconds. Despite their understandable disappointment, they are determined to build their stamina and with more ladies in the club available to row this year we are in a good position to build racing crews.

With a rapid changeover, the men were soon out on the water. Like the ladies race there were four heats, with a minute or so between each heat being set off. Like the ladies crew the men were placed in the last heat, so most of the field was already racing hard when we started. This was a timed race, but it always better to have other gigs around you to race against. The crew of Dan, Owen, Neil, Chris, Phil and Geoff soon pulled ahead of all but one gig in their heat (that being one of the mighty Caradon crews) and then started to overtake those in the heat ahead of them, starting with Mevagissey before they passed under the Railway Bridge. Constantly gaining and passing more gigs along the way, a particularly good last turn gave them Coverack in Lark, amongst many more of the previous heat, though never quite catching that Caradon boat. By the finishing line they were way ahead of a good number of gigs, indeed Rame's Penlee Point only crossed the finishing line as our men were getting out onto the beach. After the times had been worked out and errors corrected Geevor was placed 31st out of a field of 52.

Everyone seemed pleased with Geevor and she certainly attracted more than a few admiring glances. Let's hope that this proves to be the beginning of a successful season for our club.

Emma

'GIG GOSSIP'

NEW CLUBS AND GIGS

Another gig rowing season is now underway with all our thoughts on the World Championships on the Isles of Scilly, I thought you might be interested in what has been going on in the wider gig world.

Each year brings more new clubs as our wonderful sport spreads ever further and with it comes another crop of new gigs, like our beautiful 'Geevor', the pride and joy of their respective clubs. Older gigs have been sold on, some being renamed so it is hard to keep up with what is going on. Those who know me will realise I like to keep records of all the gigs, so here is the gig gossip update for 2014.

New clubs have been set up in:-

Poole, Dorset
Exmouth, Devon
Yarmouth, Isle of Wight
Porkellis Moor, (based at Stithians Lake)

New gigs launched this year:-

Nipper –Barnstaple
Geevor- Pendeen
Zawn -Flushing and Mylor
Arveth – Hayle

Cattewater have a gig under construction and no doubt there will be others that I have not yet heard about

In addition there are a number of new GRP training gigs, with many clubs who had held out against the trend, such as Weymouth and Roseland now owning "plastic pigs" A new manufacturer "Fusion Pilot Gigs" has also started making GRP gigs and with Trevor Deakin having built about 90 at my last update, there must be over 100 of these training gigs now in existence.



Other older gigs (and some not so old) have been sold or are moving on:-

'Speculation' has moved from Bude (originally from Newquay) to Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight. She has retained her name but been repainted (to look exactly like one of our GRP gigs)

'Catalina' has moved from Cattewater to the new club at Porkellis Moor and renamed 'Porthkellys'

'Isis' has moved from Hayle and been bought by Mike Gilbert of Langstone Adventure Rowing. He is hoping to set up a new club in Portsmouth

'Helford' has moved from Helford to the new club in Exmouth

'Vilt' of Flushing and Mylor (only launched last year) is off to Holland after the Scillies

There are a number of CPGA specification gigs that you will probably never see. These are:-

Soazig - based in Auray in Brittany

Invermore - based in Arklow in Ireland

Malcolm G - New

It will be interesting to see the developments over the next year as the sport continues to grow. Emma

Diary Dates:

Saturday May 10th 10am to 1pm Gig 'Taster' Day Newlyn Pontoons

It is a fun sport at any level, exercising throughout the body and you will be surprised how quickly you can learn. Come and meet us and enjoy a free rowing session.

Race Events we hope to attend.

Saturday 17th May

Sunday 8th June

Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th June (weekend)

Saturday and Sunday 21st and 22nd June at Saltash

Saturday 28th June

Sunday 29th June

Sunday 13th July

Saturday 19th July

Saturday 26th July

Saturday 2nd August

Sunday 3rd August

Saturday and Sunday 6th and 7th Sept

Saturday and Sunday 20th and 21st Sept

Zennor Races at Sandy Cove

Rock

Mevagissey Tribute Championship

Mixed and Vets Championships

Mounts Bay

St Ives

Under 14's Championships at Hayle

Porthleven

Rame ?

Coverack

Under 16's at Newquay

Ladies' Championships Newquay

Men's Championships Newquay

Club Kit: All enquiries and orders for kit should be directed to Shirley Rees at srees171@googlemail.com or 07824446543.

Rowing Times:

REGULAR TIMES: Summer All at Newlyn Pontoons

Junior Rowing; Friday 4 for 4.30pm at Newlyn pontoons

Tuesday and Thursday Evening: From 5.30

Sunday Rowing; Social, mixed rowing from 10am



Contacts:

The club has its own e-mail address: pendeengigclub@hotmail.co.uk or contact club secretary Geoff Hoather on 01736 786006 or 07837277891.

For more news and views see Pendean Pilot Gig Club on Facebook

Our website www.pendeengigclub.co.uk is online. Check us out for info

Visit the CPGA to find out more about gig rowing @ www.cpga.co.uk

Any contributions for or comments on the Gig-gle can also be sent to jillhoather@googlemail.com

Welfare Officers: Tristan Johnson & Debbie Sedgeman 07739753327.

