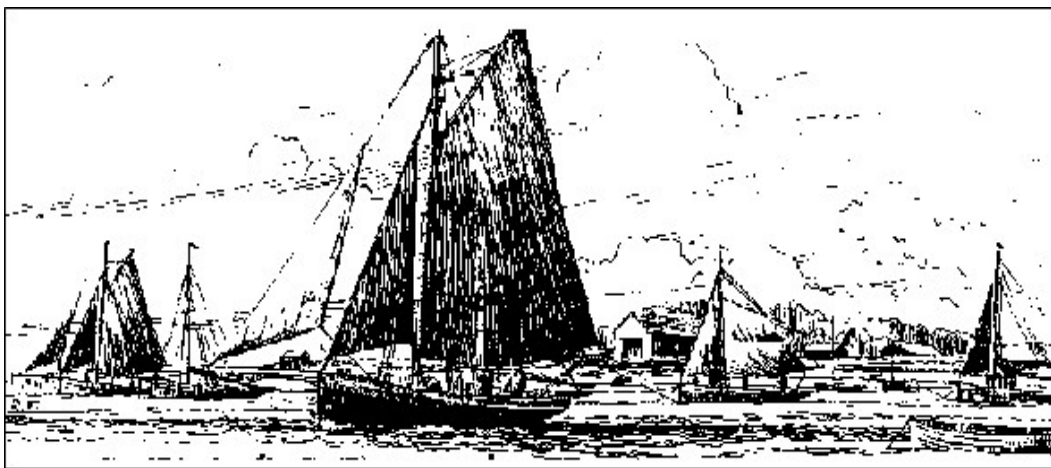


Roach Sailing Association Newsletter – September 2025

www.roachsailingassociation.org



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Chairman's Report *by Shaun Hetherington*

As the season draws towards its close, it is once again time to look back over the year. Writing this first Chairman's address is tinged with sadness having lost long standing members Simon Joel & Ivor Jones both had been members for many years and they are both missed.



Work on Simon's boat Halloween (*left*) has continued at a pace, with a number of members getting involved and it is good to see her afloat at Sutton Wharf.

We are pleased to welcome Ian Murdock with his boat Ioni, and Trevor Turner with Lapwing, as new members. Also Steve Dowding as a returning member with Stortebecker.

Many members enjoyed a good turnout at the RSA Farnbridge Rally back in August which was well organised and a firm favourite in the calendar. This and other events also provide a good opportunity for members to crew and socialise.

Barry Lewis (Paglesham) & John Greenwood (Sutton Wharf) jointly taking on roles as Bosun have been very good at helping members. Barry has commenced a major tidy up at Paglesham. Work developing the new RSA website also continues.

My own season has taken Briar Rose to new cruising grounds. I started the trip with fellow member Graham Pelling as crew so he could complete his round Britain Challenge by making it from Burnham to Plymouth. Later he joined me again from Dartmouth to Cardiff. I pressed on over to Ireland and having covered the South & West coasts of Ireland, am currently on the North coast in Coleraine. I aim to cross back over to the English coast for the winter before heading north to Scotland at the start of 2026.

I hope to see as many of you as is possible at our laying up supper on 22nd November. On that note, can I please ask that all racing trophies please be returned to John Langrick for engraving.

--oOo--

Laying Up Supper

This year's Laying up Supper will be on Saturday 22nd November 2025 at the Garons Golf Complex, Garons Park, Eastern Avenue SS2 4FA. We suggest arrival at 19:00 for seating at 19:30. The choice of menu is as follows, please let us have your menu options when you make your booking:

Starter

- Seaside Prawn Cocktail- served on salad with a Marie rose sauce and smoked paprika.
- Crispy Fried Brie Wedges- melt in middle wedges served with red onion chutney & garden salad
- Chicken Pate- Smooth chicken pate served with red onion chutney, garden salad & toast

Main (All main courses accompanied with a fresh vegetable medley)

- Roast Turkey Crown, served with a rich gravy, chipolata, cranberry sauce and roast potatoes
- Roast Topside Beef & Yorkshire Pudding- Served with a rich gravy and roast potatoes
- Grilled seabass – served with New Potatoes and a lemon and dill sauce
- Mushroom Wellington- Baked in a short crust pastry and served with a vegetable jus

Desserts

- Raspberry and White Chocolate Cheesecake
- Cheese and Biscuits
- Fresh fruit Salad

Followed by coffee and mints

The price will be £32 per person. Please send your menu request upon payment to Mick Robinson who has kindly agreed to make the arrangements. The deadline for orders is 8th November. Please transfer your payment to the RSA account below,

Roach Sailing Association Sort Code 20-79-73 Account 80751138.

Please email mickwr55@gmail.com with your menu choices. Please include your surname and "laying up" as the reference.

Steak and Oysters Afloat

Sunday 12th October, Bring your own steak, gather local oysters, raft up together in the Roach for lunch. Barry Lewis coordinating.

--oOo--

Bosun's Corner

Sutton Wharf

It has been a busy time at Sutton wharf this summer as some boats have remained hauled out. Brian Brown is progressing well on his Contessa 32 and Jose never launched Golden Prospect this year. Kantara is hauled out as is Fortuna and Vida Loca. Goshawk is also in her cradle. Work has been frantic on Halloween and she is now in a mud berth having attention to her doghouse.

Please remember to try and keep the tea hut tidy and wash up your cup after use.

We have arranged haul out dates as follows.

- 22–24 Oct,

- 5-7 Nov,
- 20-21 Nov

Of course you can haul out in your own time, but if we can coordinate it helps the yard and our logistics.

It is important we point out that volunteers, when we launch, lay up, raise masts and help other members with their boats, this is done on a voluntary basis, and at your own risk.

Paglesham

Our space at Paglsham is in need of a tidy but please mark your dinghy and trolley as we have many 'orphans' that we need to dispose of. Barry is coordinating this. We will be having a yard day in the new year so hopefully get rid of a lot of rubbish. Please note we do not have facilities for waste disposal so please take your own rubbish home.

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Racing update

At the time of going to press, four races in the Cruiser Series have been run (though the Whitaker Cup was abandoned for lack of wind), with 9 boats taking part. Two races, the Lifeboat Cup and Roach Plate, are expected to be rescheduled in late September/early October.

Boat Name	Points in series
Eole	8
Imothes	5
Momo 3	5
Martinique	4
Cooch II	1
Margo	1
Vida Loca	1
Agean	0.5
Orissa	0.5

In addition two 'fun' races, the Old Codgers Cup and Don McDowell trophy, were run during the Fambridge weekend. Both were won by MOMO 3!



Agean



Momo 3 and Eole



Cooch II



Imothes



Eole



Orissa

Some of the RSA race entrants

Latest RSA Blogs

As well as race reports and other news, the new RSA web site Blogs page includes the following articles.

Southerly 105 Rebuild *by John Greenwood*

John and Michella Greenwood took the burned-out hull of a Southerly 105 yacht, rebuilt it from the deck and interior up. You may have seen COOCH II sailing on the Roach with her new schooner rig. This is the story of her rebuild.

Pudmuddle goes West *by Richard Bessey*

Richard and Justine set off from Sutton Wharf on 1st May in their 21 ft wooden boat PUDMUDDLE, destination the river Severn, via the Thames and Kennet and Avon Canal.

You can find all the RSA blogs here: <https://roachsailingassociation.org/blog/>

If you would like to post an article/blog on the RSA web site, please get in touch at info@roachsailingassociation.org.

More on the RSA web site

Thanks to Rob Ayre, who has put in a lot of hours designing and building the new RSA web site.

<https://roachsailingassociation.org/>

Here you will find

- RSA sailing, and social Event calendar
- Racing and cruising updates
- Blog pages (on-line news and topical articles)
- Newsletter archive going back 30 years and more.
- Information about boatyards and moorings

Work is still ongoing so you might find some parts of the web site incomplete. If you have any comments on the web site, please get in touch via info@roachsailingassociation.org or the Roach email group, or the RSA Whatsapp community.

The old RSA web site (at roachriver.org.uk) will be discontinued soon.

----oOo----

Ivor Jones

read at Ivor's wake by Daid Hanchet

I consider it a great honour to be asked by Ivor's family to speak today as we gather to honour the life, deeds and achievements of a talented, caring and constant relative, friend, colleague and companion.

I first met Ivor back in 1973 when, straight from University I arrived at the Planning Department of LB Islington for my "first job". Ivor was already established and he was immediately someone who you knew you could turn to for advice. He didn't make a song and dance out of correcting over-ambitious reports or recommendations, but in his own quiet way might say something like, "Are you sure the Councillors will understand that?" "What about putting it more like this....?"

And so, over the weeks and months, mentor turned to companion and we would go to the pub for lunch and sometimes go straight from work to a concert at The Royal Festival Hall. We seemed on the face of it rather incongruous – he with his Oxford University and London University background, his daily commute from Rochford, and weekends at home in Essex helping his Mother, and me with my Redbrick University background, girlfriend and penchant for parties; but the simple fact was that we enjoyed each others company.

And then the revelation came – Ivor told me about his boat! I had always enjoyed dinghy sailing and at that time had my own, but Ivor's stories about sailing on the East Coast in his 21foot Blackwater Sloop "Marshmallow" were simply captivating and when he asked me one day if I would like to accompany him on a summer cruise the decision to say "yes" was one of the quickest I have ever made! In truth, Ivor didn't really need a crew because his skills and knowledge of the boat and the waters she sailed in were unparalleled. I was asked to go as a friend and sailing companion. What a compliment!



Like a lot of things in his life Ivor didn't rush into friendship and even less seek company on his boat. But to his real friends he was considerate, patient and loyal. Never judgemental and always quick with a good deed or an understanding and reassuring comment. Even once when I nearly blew up his boat by over priming the ancient Taylors paraffin cooker he never lost his cool. He simply commented "They are tricky to get going. No harm done; shall we open a bottle of red?"

Mild, considerate, loyal, loving, intellectual, consistent and modest are some of the characteristics that mark out this wonderful person. I am proud to have been able to call him my friend and sailing companion over some 50 years and already I miss being able to call him or, better still, visit or arrange a trip. His departure brings to an end a distinguished sailing career. His knowledge of The River Roach and the boatyard at Paglesham was unsurpassed. With others he was a catalyst in setting up the Roach Sailing Association and it is testament to this that today the Association is represented by its President and two past Presidents as well as several senior members.

But, there are only so many tides even for the most able sailor and sadly Ivor has left us in person but his legacy lives on, as long as all of us here carry on and, even then, as long as the gulls call and the Roach ebbs and flows.

On behalf of all your former colleagues and friends and associates formed over many years I say - "Thank you Ivor for being there and for being you".

---oOo---

Simon Joel *By John Langrick*

It is with great sadness I have to announce the passing of a senior RSA member and personal friend, Simon Joel. We all send our condolences to Barbara and Simon's family. We are all grateful for the 20 years Simon served on the committee as Treasurer of the RSA, and we all miss his comradeship, fine judgement and sense of humour.

I remember Simon purchasing Hurley 22 STRAVAIG from Jonathan, and sailing her for several years. He qualifies as an East Coast Sailor by going aground on the bend of Devils Reach, since known as Simon's Corner. He always had a yearning for a classic wooden yacht and he then purchased BRIAR ROSE and brought her back from Chichester. He did lot to restore her and she shone under his care.

In latter years Simon had a stroke but struggled back to health and was able to meet his grandchildren which he doted on. Unfortunately he felt unable to manage BRIAR ROSE and sold her on to Shaun. Instead he became an eager crew on my boat Imoths. We regularly raced and cruised with the RSA up the east coast in company of other RSA members.



Still hankering for a wooden classic, he purchased Halloween from Rodney. Unfortunately she needed urgent surgery to both ribs and centrecase. Over the last few years I had the pleasure of helping Simon to restore Halloween. Much of our time in the yard was spent on drinking tea and talking about our grandchildren. Unfortunately not enough time on Halloween but overall a great way to spend a few hours. Sadly after many plans (and years), we never got Halloween back in the water.

When Simon passed, it began to appear that ultimately Halloween might be broken up. This would certainly have upset Simon, (and many others), greatly and so a number of RSA members grouped together to form a consortium 'Halloween Heros' to save her.

Sadly, Simon never saw her re-launched but she is now sitting proudly in the water at Sutton wharf, ready for her next phase of life. I know he will be looking down and chuckling as he saw the five salvage pumps that just kept her afloat as we moved her to a mud berth. He would have been delighted to see how well her planks have taken up. Still a bit more cosmetic work, but Halloween will sail again.

We will all miss you Simon.

----oOo----



Shuttlewood smack Kate, Norman Bishop's Snapdragon, and Ivor in Marshmallow



Ivor scrubbing off Marshmallow in Paglesham Pool



Simon Joel's Stravaig



Simon's Briar Rose

Memory and Hope

You may have seen Nigel Bishop's MEMORY out sailing this year, a welcome sight after several years absence from Paglesham Reach. Frank Shuttlewood built her for himself in 1958, and raced her for some years. She was owned by several Paglesham people but was in a sorry state when Nigel bought her in the '80s, hogged, planking parted from the stem and stern missing. He put her to rights and raced her regularly, including the RBYC Centenary regatta in 1995. Now he has restored her to sailing condition again.

The following article, originally published in 1961, gives some background to MEMORY and sister vessel HOPE.



Paglesham Built *by George Pattison*

Sometimes when the class are reading or the drudgery of marking demands relief, I think of her, in the sun or in the rain, afloat or on the shining mud amongst the other boats between Paglesham Creek and Shuttlewoods big shed, which was put up after the great gale of 1881 had blown down its predecessor.

This is a corner of Essex maritime history that still keeps something of the character all these creeks and yards must have had before the motor car and the diesel train and the outboard runabout appeared. Alongside the shed lie the remains of the old Runwell, built in 1834. In this same shed, Frank Shuttlewood's father began as an apprentice, and here built in 1903 the barge Ethel Ada. She was just one foot shorter than the shed, so it must have been a short squeeze. She was the last Paglesham-built cargo barge.



Frank's own boat is called Memory, and there are several others rather like her, open, clinker built, bluff bows, fine underwater sections forward, but fairly flat floored for the rest of their length. Our Hope is the latest of the fleet. She is 16ft long with 6ft 6in beam, a gunter rigged sloop with heavy iron centre plate. Her timbers are all mahogany on American elm, with oak stem and stern posts, pine thwarts, and parana pine stern seats. The spars are grown solid spruce. The lower edge of the stretcher which supports the stern seat is always carved in a butterfly shaving which has been the yard's trade mark for at least fifty years. The names are carved on the transoms, and the rudders are no deeper than the keels, but long and shallow like those of sailing barges. A special peculiarity is the doubling on each garboard strake which, with a slight rocker given to the keel, enables the boats to be pushed easily across the mud. Single-handed they can be moved up or down hill, and a mud berth is reached at all states of the tide. except when at very low water the stony margin deters one from the experiment.

All these features give the boat character, and some of them clearly grow from the experience of centuries around the Essex estuaries. Hope and her sisters have that fitness for purpose, the beauty of traditional and evolved local design which one recognises in the building of farm wagons and the thatching of houses. "Design" is really the wrong word for these boats are built to eye on a half midship mould. There is no one man with a pencil and a drawing board and a slide rule and another who must follow his instructions, forcing the materials to conform, and an accountant watching both of them. There is only Frank in the big shed, littered with spars and gear, glancing along a plank, working with the wood, easing a little there, forcing a little here. He knows the traditions of his craft as it has been practiced along this coast for generations, as his father learned it in the days when builders like the great Shrubsall of Ipswich and Greenwich were setting the pace. When Frank looks at the lines of his boats as they come along he must be seeing not only the timber, its grain and its nature, and not only the picture of the hull as he intends her to be, but the seas and the tides and the winds which are her element, for he knows these too as he knows his trade and keeps his hand in by sailing most Sundays in the local races. There is no club at Paglesham, but then you would not expect one in a village where this notice can appear on the boat shed:

Owing to next Saturday being the Village Fete there will be no small boat racing

but a race will be held on Sunday. The Produce Association will provide a race officer

Editor's note: ten year was to pass before the RSA was formed, yet racing at Paglesham had been going on for many decades. Our racing trophies have entries from 1946 onwards.



Memory racing with Nigel and Heather McDowell



Memo back on her old mooring in 2025



***Watercolour of Memory and Samphire (Paul Bishop)
by Rodney Choppin***

