

PBO Regional news

News from your cruising area

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SOUTH COAST & CHANNEL ISLANDS

Digital first

Cowes Harbour is celebrating being the first to adopt a new digital payment solution for visitor moorings.

The smartphone payment system for all short stay visitor moorings of rigid inflatable boats and small craft was specially designed by parking and payments specialist Avalon Pay. It follows the launch of new charging points for electric boats in Cowes Harbour.

Cowes Harbour Commission CEO Gary Hall said: "After successful trials at Town Quay we have rolled out this process to Trinity Landing and have received very encouraging feedback from visitors that this saves time when berthing and is very simple to use."



Scan the QR code, enter a few key details and pay for your visitor mooring

Chandlery closure

Pirates Cave Chandlery closed its store at Gillingham Marina in early October.

Kent's largest yacht chandlery, which is also based in Medway near Chatham, will no longer have a manned shop at the Gillingham site. However berth holders will benefit from free delivery of orders to Gillingham Marina, which can be collected from the Pirates Cave Collection Centre next to the



The stricken trimaran under tow



Dafydd Hughes is expected to spend 200 days at sea

WALES

Round the world challenge under way

Welsh skipper Dafydd Hughes was the first entrant to depart on the Global Solo Challenge from A Coruña, Spain, on 26 August aboard his S&S 34 *Bendigedig*.

This round-the-world, single-handed, non-stop circumnavigation via the three great capes, prides

itself on being budget-friendly and environmentally conscious. Nineteen sailors are due to take part, with staggered departures, the fastest boats starting last.

Juan Merediz, Spanish skipper of Class40 *Sorolla* who is due to start in late October, was among those to

attend. He said: "I didn't want to miss Dafydd's departure. I wanted to meet him in person and encourage him!"

Dafydd's son James said: "He has spent the last three years preparing for this moment and I know he will be fine out there."

■ pbo.co.uk/globalchallenge

marina reception office, between 9am to 4pm Monday to Sunday. Orders can be placed online at piratescave.co.uk, or by calling 01634 295 233.

Dismasted trimaran

A Mayday call was made from a dismasted 26ft trimaran with two people on board, unable to manoeuvre, two miles south of Lizard Point, Cornwall.

Falmouth Coastguard tasked the Lizard RNLI lifeboat crew, who launched at 0951 on 30

September. On arrival on scene at 1005, the smaller Y-boat was deployed. One lifeboat crew member was transferred onto the casualty vessel to assist in cutting away the tangled, partially submerged rigging.

The slow tow back to Falmouth began at 1053 in 'poor' sea conditions, and diverted to the Helford River instead. After seven hours at sea RNLB *Rose* returned to her station at Kilcobben Cove.

Inaugural accolade

boatfolk's Haslar Marina won the first Sustainability Award of The Yacht Harbour Association (TYHA) Marina Awards 2023.

Presented at Southampton International Boat Show in September, the new accolade also saw Buckler's Hard Yacht Harbour 'highly commended' for its sustainability practices. Harbour master Wendy Stowe

said: "Encouraging visitors' environmentally-friendly behaviour and raising the awareness of good practice is an essential part of our role in protecting this very special place for the future."

■ [Find a full list of winners at pbo.co.uk/TYHA-awards-2023](http://pbo.co.uk/TYHA-awards-2023)

WEST COAST, WALES & IRELAND

Fouled mooring

Beaumaris Lifeboat crew spent three hours working in the dark to free a yacht from a fouled mooring near Menai Bridge.

At 2158 on 23 September the volunteer crew received a page from HM Coastguard. The relief Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboat was launched at 2213 to assist the yacht that was stern on to the tide and in danger of being flooded.

Once freed, the stricken vessel was towed to another

mooring near Menai Bridge and the four sailors were taken ashore to be assisted by the waiting Penmon Mobile Coastguard team.

A RNLI spokesman said: "The crew worked together as a team to extract this vessel from the fouled mooring which took skill and perseverance."

NI RYA AGM

The 20th annual general meeting of the Royal Yachting Association Northern Ireland will be held on Saturday 11 November 2023 at 11.45am in Carrickfergus Sailing Club.

The meeting will be held as part of RYA NI Connected 2023. Recruitment is under way for a performance committee chairperson and general director.

■ pbo.co.uk/ryani-agm

Lone sailor

Wicklow RNLI's volunteers launched in the early hours of 24 September to assist a solo sailor whose yacht had mechanical and electrical issues off Wicklow Harbour.

The 36ft stricken vessel was found a half mile north-east of Wicklow Harbour in rough seas with Force 6-7 winds coming from the north-west.

The vessel was towed back to the harbour by the all-weather lifeboat and secured safely alongside at 0245.

Wicklow RNLI coxswain Tommy McAuley said: "The hours of darkness always adds an extra challenge to a call out but the crew are very well prepared with the training they undertake throughout the year. We'd remind people when going on the water to wear a lifejacket and have a suitable means of communication to call for help should the need arise."

BoatLife 2024

An activity pool will be part of the attractions at BoatLife 2024 thanks to the family-run team at Rockley Watersports and pool sponsors GJW Direct insurance. Now in its third year,

the event, which is sponsored by Suzuki, will be held from 15-18 February 2024 at NEC Birmingham. Last year, 14,000 visitors attended.

Rockley spokesman Jack Clark said: "After last year's successful launch of the activity pool, we cannot wait to help get more people on the water at the show in 2024. The activities are free."



SCOTLAND

Youth director

Yasmin Price has been appointed youth director on the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Scotland board.

The voluntary role sets out to represent the voice of young people in the boating community and provide support and guidance to the board on behalf of youth participants. Yasmin currently works within a commercial RYA training centre as an operations manager and has gained extensive experience afloat with the Ocean Youth Trust as both a volunteer and as a sail trainer. She said: "I'm incredibly passionate about breaking down the barriers of watersports and introducing youths to an industry that might not have been on their horizon or available to them without direction."

Finlo Cottier, RYA Scotland CEO said: "Young people should help shape the future of the boating in Scotland to ensure the next generation gain from the benefits of getting afloat."

Moorings levy

Sailors are being urged to be aware of potential rising costs for mooring and berthing in Scotland.

The Visitor Levy Bill is



Port of Dover

currently being considered by Scottish Parliament with stage 1 scheduled to be completed by 19 January 2024. The bill proposes giving power to local authorities to decide whether to charge a levy on visitor accommodation in their area. Currently moorings and berthing for boats is included under the definition of 'accommodation'.

RYA Scotland said it would make a submission as part of the public consultation, which closed on 15 September.

■ www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/visitor-levy-scotland-bill

EAST & SOUTH EAST

Spring target

Following the launch of the new Outer Marina last April after years of delays, the Port of Dover has announced that the renewed Wellington Dock will be fully operational by April 2024, kick-starting the season for berth holders with a full set of facilities.

The state-of-the-art Wellington Dock will offer a mix of 135 tidal and non-tidal berths. A popular service at the Wellington Dock is the new boatyard, which opened less than a year ago. It can be used by permanent and visiting berth holders to maintain and restore yachts and other leisure vessels of large size.



RS21s on Women's Keelboating Day

There are also easy to use electric points, fresh water supply, laundry rooms, toilet and shower facilities and free wifi, and a fuel berth in the Outer Marina. The Port of Dover also has its own police team.

Women's keelboating

Queen Mary Sailing Club is celebrating the success of another Women's Keelboating Day aboard its RS21s on 2 September. The scheme has been running for two years.

Hannah Golton, Queen Mary's chief dinghy instructor said: "We had an amazing day on the water with 16 women attending and four female instructors assisting."

She added: "As it was a mixed ability day, it was the first time sailing for some women but with others having significant experience. This created a fun, friendly environment for all."

The event included lunch ashore before some friendly racing in the afternoon.

RYA regional development officer Steve Mitchell says: "This Queen Mary initiative is a fantastic opportunity to encourage and support women onto the water."

The next women's keelboat day will be on 4 November. The cost is £60 per person.

■ pbo.co.uk/keelboating-day

visit www.pbo.co.uk/news for the latest updates