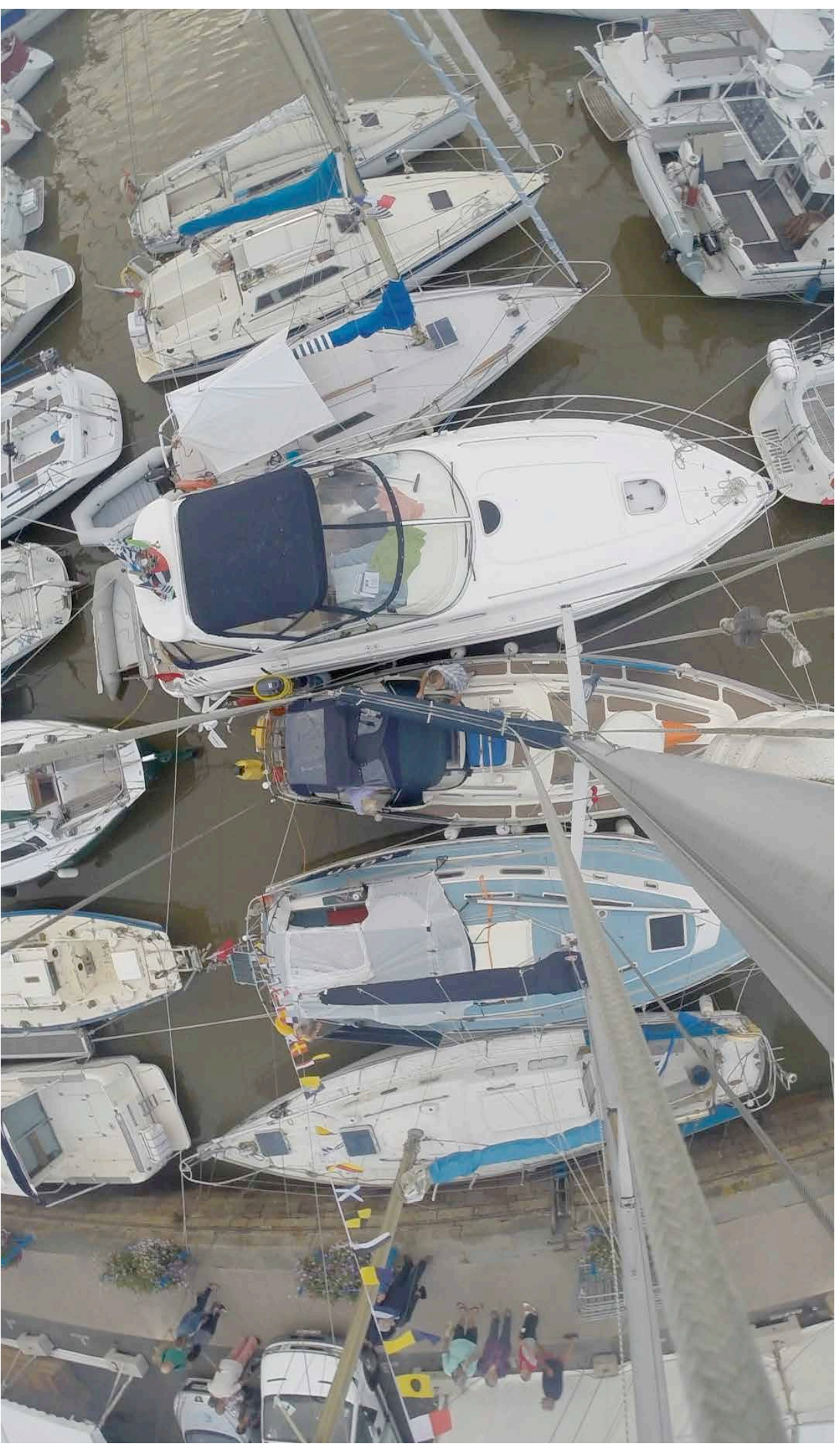


# Emsworth Cruising Association November 2015



## Commodore's Comments

The autumn trees as we drive down to the boat look very beautiful now. The floods we get as the leaves drop off in the first winter gale and block the gullies and gutters are less so. For the first time in ages we're taking Witch Hazel out of the water this winter in an attempt to get back in by Easter. Unfortunately Good Friday in 2016 is on the 25th March, so it doesn't give a lot of chance for the rain to stop pouring and the winds to cease howling before we re-launch. We've just finished our sailing year with a quick trip to Southsea Marina- and then to the King's Theatre for the Portsmouth Players truly excellent production of Sunset Boulevard. Coming back, the skies were so black I took the headsails off soon after passing HISC. I always like to keep my sails dry, don't you? Our AGM has come and gone. It's that meeting clubs have during which members get really brilliant at hiding behind the club house pot plants.

We have to record many thanks to Dick Tyrrell who is stepping down after doing a lot of Committee Work almost since he joined our worthy association.

## Welcome to Suzy



### Hi Suzy

Many thanks for agreeing to take over the role of ECA Rear Commodore House. This was approved at the AGM last Saturday so - congratulations! - you are now our new RC House!

The next social event is the Autumn Supper at the Sussex Brewery on Saturday evening 14 Nov 2015. Dick has booked for 25 places and is managing the event.

We will wait for your new home to be connected to the Internet world before inundating you with all the electronic traffic. **Charles**

Greetings to Suzy Dorsett who is taking on the role of Rear Commodore (House) once the dust settles after her recent moving day. Nicky is also leaving the Committee this year- but I'm not saying goodbye to her in case she stops giving me roast potatoes. **This means that we need a new Rear Commodore (Cruising).**

The next event will be the November supper at the Sussex Brewery on the 14th and the Christmas Dinner will follow on the 12th December. AND in between there is the amazing 3rd Annual Big Boat Cruise to St Malo on the weekend commencing Friday 27th November. To get the special mini cruise rate you have to quote a code as you book which you should have received by email or it's obtainable from our website; if you haven't, get in touch and it will be whispered discreetly to you.

Have a good Autumn- I'm off to find my thermal underwear.

**Charles Harrison**  
**Witch Hazel**

*Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the individual only and not necessarily those of the Emsworth Cruising Association. No responsibility can be accepted for any inaccuracies or omissions.*

Photo, front cover: from the mast top of Carina in Paimpol 2015. Koto & Tamarisk moored either side.

# The Theatre Rally - October 2015

This was a rally of two parts: hence this is two part report.

## The Boat Bit

As we're not keeping the boat in this winter, we decided to have one last sail and as we were going to the theatre in Southsea nipped into Langstone Harbour where we first met *Witch Hazel* back in 2007. We were joined in this experience of witnessing Hayling Island from the other side by Tony Browne. In some ways, Langstone is regarded as something of a poor relative to Chichester; though they were both formed and used in similar ways. However when the commercial traffic moved out, Chichester got the Oscar for outstanding natural beauty and became a star. Langstone is undeniably very shallow and has a very narrow entrance. Some of what has been built around it more recently doesn't do it many favours and sadly they've lost the ferry to Hayling Island. On the other hand, the fascinating Fort Cumberland lies on one side, it's got seals and birds and a chunk of Mulberry Harbour that looks as if it's escaped from the Tate Gallery.

It was a great sail down there and the staff at *Witch Hazel's* old home was welcoming. The Marina has a sill and the entrance channel is very bijou but our main problem was getting down to the shower block and 'beautifying' ourselves before the taxi arrived. We cut it a bit fine and the driver was tapping his fingers meaningfully on the wheel before we got to the cab.

After our night at the theatre, we returned the next day, leaving at 12:17 (precisely) and butting our way against an advancing tide. But the wind was NNE and the waters strangely flat so we crossed the bar in style and headed for shore in the Horrible Dinghy.

## The Theatre Bit

An annual visit to the Kings Theatre is becoming part of our social scene at ECA

(though it probably counts as a rally as group travel is indicated). The Kings is a wonderful Edwardian theatre in Southsea replete with painted nymphs, beautiful brass work and wedding cake plasterwork. It's also the larger of the venues used by the multi-talented Portsmouth Players. This year, their autumn musical was *Sunset Boulevard*; Andrew Lloyd Webber's take on the amazing Billy Wilder film. It concerns the final decline and fall of Norma Desmond, a former silent movie star who is neurotically self-obsessed, completely emotionally grasping and also pathetically vulnerable—she is not, to put it mildly, the sort of person you'd want to live next door to.

To make this evening even more intriguing, this massive part was undertaken by the ECA's very own Sheila Elsdon. Married to Derek Ellinor (of Badgie II fame), Sheila was definitely not type cast for this role, being perfectly charming and rational at all times. However, we knew from her portrayal of the Mother Superior in *Sister Act* last year that she is an excellent actress with a lovely expressive voice. So we were confident she could do it!

As it turned out Sheila's performance was amazing! Performing a character who never stops performing for one second is incredibly difficult: it's easy to slip into parody. But I found Sheila's take on the character had me actually sympathising with the fascinatingly monstrous Norma! Sheila managed to show facets of the character I hadn't really understood from other performances. (Gloria Swanson in the original role was compelling but just a little too *genuinely* terrifying!). In this production, you could see just *why* the workers in the film studio were so excited to see her again. You could see why Joe, quite apart from the expensive presents Norma pushes onto him, allowed himself to be

## The Theatre Rally (continued)

pulled into her literally fatal orbit. The show stopper song: *As If We Never Said Goodbye* became literally show stopping as Sheila's acting and singing abilities came together magically. You really got the impression that Norma's only real love and source of happiness was genuinely motion pictures. In losing her work along with her star status she had lost everything that made life meaningful so she became the complete egomaniac, betrayed by the world and blaming it bitterly for its lack of understanding.

The ending of the play also came across as genuinely tragic. If not handled properly it can be down right melodramatic. You witness Norma (never the realist) descend into total insanity while, it must be mentioned, literally descending the stairs of her mansion dressed as a 16 year old Hebrew princess in robes with butterfly wings and an art deco headdress. (For clarification you really need to see the movie!). The last moments of the play had

a wonderful, ironic, cinematic quality and were literally spine-chilling. If space permitted, I'd also pay tribute to the other cast members' great performances- I will probably do so in the pub at our social events for some time to come. It was definitely the best night I'd had in the theatre for years!

**Nicky Harrison**  
**Witch Hazel**



Tom and Catherine receive their Seamanship award at the restaurant before the show.

## Situation Vacant-Rear Commodore Cruising

There is a vacancy for 2015/6 for this very important, key, organising position within the Club. After all, getting out on the water together is what the ECA is all about.

For a real, honest, job description, ring Nicky Harrison or Dick Tyrrell who have both done the job and will advise you as to the highs and lows of this pivotal position in the Club-

You do not need to attend all the rallies as Volunteer Officers of the Day (OoD's) will coordinate each Rally's actual berthing and dining bookings.

Salary & Benefits: Much Enjoyable work, Our Thanks and larger boat numbers at Rallies. Plus you get a 'posh' ECA Flag Officers Burgee to fly from your starboard signal halliard on the boat (having a boat is useful, but not vital!).

Skill set: Previous service in a Press Gang or Telephone Sales will be useful each winter when persuading OoDs to choose and run a Rally next season.

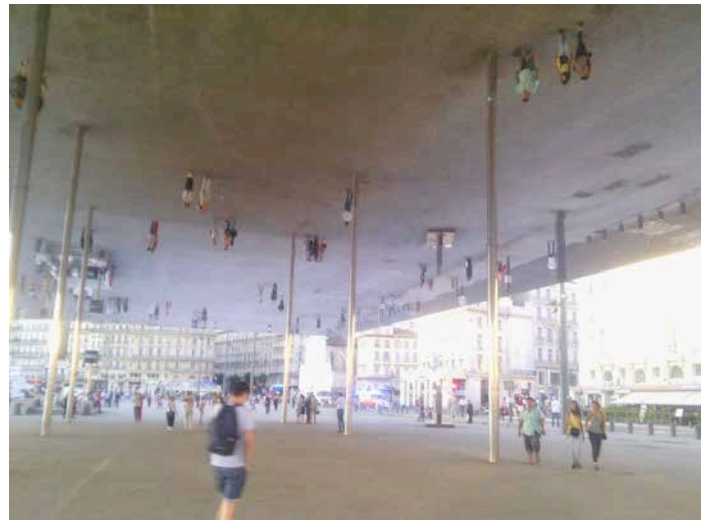
Career Prospects:

If you do a good job, you can end up as Vice-Commodore or Commodore of the ECA!

Annual Photographic Competition  
This year due to unavoidable diary clashes the  
Photo Competition will be held on  
**Saturday 14 November 2015**  
during our meal at the Sussex Brewery



(L) Rome moorings July evening – (R) Bonifacio Corsica July Morning by John & Anne Baldwin as all on this page



Calvi Corsica above: below: l'Herault

Marseille Quay June evening



Narbonne Canal de la Robine

Elwing 2's Adventure in Dutch rain and Sun continued from last month  
by Tony Browne



**Wed 29/7**

The weather forecast is still strong WSW & wet so I don't want to go out into the open water of the IJssel Meer. The alternative is to go back & head for the Overijssel route which wanders around & comes out behind the SW Flevo Polder. Don't get quite that far and find a small yacht haven at Giethoorn. It's still raining but the new waterproofs are doing their job properly & I find a restaurant before I get soaked.

**Thu 30/7**

Continue the back route to Zwarte Sluis & the Zwarte Water. A long straight channel leads to the Ketel Meer where I cross to the Flevo Meer & start the circuit of the Flevo polder. Get as far as Elburg where I've been before by bicycle. The community HM isn't helpful on the radio (it does look full) but get a berth in a box in an independent marina.

**Fri 31/7**

The back route behind the polder is about 100

km long & 100 m wide so it's not just set the autopilot and go to sleep: even a few moments inattention takes you out of or the wrong side of the channel. And there are bridges (both fixed & opening) & locks. The Elburg bridge, after the harbour, has a large notice saying to use VHF channel 85 & a small notice saying to phone them. I use the VHF & get told that's no good: I have to phone! I refuse (I haven't got one,) & they reluctantly open it anyway. Follow the channel & stop at Almere Haven, on the polder side. I always thought the polder was boring: it's pretty new and has no history or old buildings. Almere haven doesn't seem too bad: the town centre seems quite reasonable but the yacht harbour advertises pontoon electricity & WiFi & doesn't have either. (OK, it does have electricity but only 4 sockets per 14 berths, which is pretty poor arithmetic.)

### **Sat 1/8**

Notes from here are from memory as my computer refused to power-up after this. From Almere to IJmuiden started with a fuelling stop at Muiderzand marina. Then into A'dam via the Schellingwouder bridge & the Oranje locks and 18 miles of (big) ship canal to IJmuiden. The Seahaven marina has what may be the world's longest (visitors) pontoon, about 1/2 mile, not good news if you take the 1st available berth as you come in.

### **Sun 2/8**

Sail from IJmuiden to Scheveningen, easy NW breeze. The marina is fine but the yacht club (restaurant) is closed for August so its a rather longer walk for grub.

### **Mon 3/8**

SW breeze, on the nose, so forced to motor to keep the tide from Scheveningen to Roompot, though with the mainsail up for stability. Unfortunately the boat bounced on a wave and the sail split just above the 1st reef, right through the leech.

### **Tue 4/8**

Nasty looking weather forecast with nastier looking clouds so stayed in. Bought the latest Patricia Cornwell from the shop in the caravan park.

### **Wed 5/8**

It always looks on the chart as if it ought to be possible to get further, but Roompot to Blankenberge generally seems to fill a day's trip. Used the new club marina as the others all seemed to be full-up. Nice friendly assistants including 1 lassie with a suspiciously good English accent; turns out she was brought up in Hong Kong & Dublin. Even managed to find a supermarket, by asking in the VVV (tourist info). There's nice tourist maps available but, as usual they only tell stuff like: where's the town hall or the dentist or the beach, never anything that's actually useful like where's the supermarket.

### **Thu 6/8**

Straight forward passage from Blankenberge to Dunkerque. Apparently there's a supermarket here as well, although I've only ever found it once and amazingly for a French town, there's only 1 boulangerie and it's closed, always!

### **Fri 7/8**

Dunkerque to Dover where there's still a Calais ferry problem. According to plans in the Marina office they're going to build a new LARGE marina in the main harbour, east of the inner pier, & cut a new lock through to the inner basins. This will bypass the old bridge which was always breaking down.

### **Sun 9/8**

Can't manage to get all the way back to get into Emsworth, so stage at Littlehampton. Warning to anyone else who gets there on Sunday or out of regular hours: Don't go off the pontoon without your mobile phone or you won't be able to get back to your boat. The only notice is on the HM's office door which doesn't help if you left your phone on the boat. Luckily I get let back in by a friendly local who's squatting on the pontoon waiting for the tide to get to his own mooring.

### **Mon 10/8**

The return to Emsworth is an evening tide so I simply go with the flow and wait on the outer pontoon until the tide returns. My berth is, of course, occupied so I use the visitors pontoon in the marina instead. It takes 2 days before my own berth is clear but it's only a short walk home.

Provisional ECA Dates for 2016 to be **pencilled** into your next years diary or just to note as probable into your phone's calendar function.

9 to 10 Jan 2016	Frostbite (first attempt)
23 to 24 Jan 2016	Frostbite (second attempt)
6 to 7 February 2016	Shivverers Rally
13 to 14 Feb 2016	Valentines Rally
<b>20-Feb-2016</b>	<b>At Home</b>
25 to 28 Mar 2016	Easter Rally
23 to 24 April 2016	EYH / ECA Joint rally
29 April to 2 May	Early May Bank Holiday Rally
21 to 22 May 2016	Small Boat Rally/ Push the Boat Out
28 to 30 May 2016	May Bank Holiday Rally
1 to 6 June 2016	Yarmouth Old Gaffers Festival Rally
<b>09-Jul-2016</b>	<b>ECA 50th Anniversary Party - evening</b>
23 to 24 Jul 2016	Dance on the Duver Rally
27 to 29 Aug 2016	August Bank Holiday Rally
2 to 4 Sep 2016	Cowes Classic Powerboat race
16 to 18 Sep 2016	Southampton Boat Show Rally
1 to 2 Oct 2016	Chichester Rally
<b>08-Oct-2016</b>	<b>ECA AGM</b>
<b>5 or 19 Nov 2016</b>	<b>Social event</b>
<b>November weekend</b>	<b>ECA Brittany Ferries St Malo Cruise</b>
<b>03-Dec-2016</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>

Blue indicates the event is doubled if the first date in the month gets blown away

**Bold are indoor functions so are not weather dependant**