



January 2026 Newsletter

LYMPSTONE SAILING CLUB

Social Calendar

The Kitchen refurbishment has been completed to follow on from the changing rooms renewal last year to give us a clubhouse, the envy of many sailing clubs across the land. Thanks again to Margaret Turgoose for organising and overseeing the work.

January 9th sees the start of our Mariners Munches through until Friday 27th March. We still have three dates to fill so please contact Judith.carter@hotmail.com if you would like to volunteer. If you are not already participating, this is your chance to get to know our wonderful new kitchen.

Friday evening bar opening from 7.30 will continue through the long winter evenings.

It is over two years since we last raised prices in the bar. As you will know well, the price of drinks in pubs has gone up significantly over that time. We have reviewed our prices and have a bit of bad news and some good news. The first bit of good news is that we have been able to freeze, for a further year, the price of the vast majority of our drinks including all beers, all spirits and almost all softs. On wine we had a choice of either raising the price or lowering the quality, we chose the former. From 1st January 2026, wine prices will increase to £4 a glass/£13.50 a bottle.

Finally, we have had to raise the price of tonic to £1.20, but the good news is that we are reducing the price of Spiced Rum to £2 – its not often you hear that nowadays.

DATES FOR THE DIARY IN 2026:

River Exe Café Trip - Tuesday 19th May

River Exe Regatta - 20th/21st June

Winter talks 2025/2026

The remaining talks in this winter programme are as follows:-

30th January 2026 - "Dash & Daring Do" - A brief history of bravery" - Colonel G. Wheeler

27th February 2026 - "Diego Marcia, blue water sailing and a mid-ocean rescue". Martin Edwards, WO2, Royal Marines - arranged and sponsored by our junior section.

27th March 2026 - "My journey to the world skydiving record" Paula Hood

Commodore's Corner

I have only been 'in office' for a month and already things are starting to slot into place. Thank you to those who came along to Commodore's drinks to wish me well. I think I had the opportunity to speak to nearly everyone in a very packed clubhouse and I appreciated the encouraging comments that were made. Also, a thank you to all those who have written to wish me well.

Over the weekend after the 'drinks' it was great to see the PB2 course in full swing on amazingly calm water. Fresh helms are always needed to provide the all-important safety support to all of our on-water activities. With a second PB2 course running in February, plus people signing up for Day Skipper, First Aid and VHF, its good to see you all getting prepared well in advance for next season.

The new Committee held its first meeting earlier this month, a turnout that was depleted somewhat by Christmas Carols and flu. We welcomed Liz Wells as Secretary (see her bio later) for the first time whilst some of us switched seats as we started to put in place plans for 2026. Watch this space to see what to expect.

I have been asked several times about adding a handrail to the clubhouse stairs, so a big thank-you to Keith (House) who has put his skills to good use to upcycle an old oar for the purpose. Your Committee can only make this club work for you if you let us know what you want, big or small. Grab any of us at any time and let us know what would make a difference for you. We can't promise that we can do everything but we will try.

There are plenty of 0% alcohol drinks in the bar so you have no excuse for not coming along to the bar on Friday's during dry January, see you there 💎💎.

Peter

New Safety Boat Bosun

Last month we put out a call for a New Safety Boat Bosun to replace Steve Archer who has filled the role for the last six years. Simon (Sid) Kyte has taken on the role ably assisted by Deborah Mitchell who have already been busy recovering the race mark ready for their over-Winter cleanup.

When you use a safety boat, please remember to complete the log so that Sid knows what issues there may have been and how many hours it is to the next service.



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Lego Club Christmas Party

The middle Saturday of December saw the Lego Club's Christmas party in the clubhouse. The club was rammed with happy children enjoying the lead up to Christmas. The day was enhanced by the special visit from one of Santa's elves (Santa was too busy himself) and artificial snowfall from the clubhouse balcony. Thanks to all the adults who created another memorable family event at the sailing club.



Club Christmas tree

Some of our juniors had great fun contributing to the decoration of our lovely christmas tree which stood in the church with the other village club's offerings during the first half of the month. See photograph left.

The tree remains on show for just a few more days, but now on the small balcony at the clubhouse along with the Owl and the Pussycat advent window put together by the lego club parents. .

A small team of members also decorated the inside of the clubhouse to contribute further to the festivities.

Thanks to all who gave of their time and their talents

Boat for sale

Devon Dayboat for sale with road trailer. Excellent family boat. For details contact John Welton johnwelton68@gmail.com or 01395 271915





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Training opportunities

If you would like to get involved in our dinghy sailing programme but not sure how to, come along to a meeting on Wednesday 14th January at 7.30pm in the sailing club (note the change of date from previous notification) to find out more about dinghy sailing and racing at LSC and discuss how we can help you get on the water more. If you have any questions beforehand, please contact Margaret on margaretturgoose@aol.com

Please be advised that RYA training arranged through the club is also an option open to you so if you have any ideas of courses you would like us to organise please contact Claire on general@lympstonesailingclub.co.uk.

Junior Sailing 2026

After the success of our Junior Sailing coaching last season we are starting to think about next year and what we can offer. If you junior is interested in finding out about sailing at Lymestone come along to a meeting on 16th January at 5.30 in the sailing club. Any questions before then email Claire on general@lympstonesailingclub.co.uk

Bio of Liz Wells, our new Hon. Sec

I learnt to sail dinghies and paddle canoes some 30 years ago at Westminster Boating Base on the Thames. My first offshore adventure along our SW coast was on the tall ship, Leader. I am proud that I was among two of the twelve 'guest' crew on deck for lunch on Day One, whilst others found their sea legs (stomachs).

In 2000, moving down for work with University of Plymouth (Exeter campus), I was determined to live near water. I found Lymestone! Courtesy of a 'Try Sailing' event (thank you Martin and Adrienne Hebdige), I joined LSC, crewed for the Commodore (Don Govan), learnt to helm a safety boat (Don Jellard rose to the challenge of a nervous student) and acquired Wizard from Chas McLennan-Wiggin. I ran the winter talks programme on his watch as Commodore. With ferries, motorboats, rubbish barges, a seven metre tidal range and apparently ever-shifting winds as the river loops its way under bridges round to Chelsea or downstream towards the Thames Barrier, it is said that, if you can sail on the Thames, you can sail anywhere - but, as I soon learnt, this doesn't take account of sandbanks on the Exe!

Nowadays, my primary craft, a kayak and paddle, allows for an intimate relation with the water. On shore, I can often be found supporting the Club on a Friday evening, and I continue to enjoy sailing, albeit vicariously from the end of the wall.

Club Membership

Another quick reminder about membership renewals for 2026. Note that our membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December and if you haven't paid yet you need to do so now. Thank you for your continued support of the club. If you are not sure if you have paid or not, a targeted reminder will be sent out shortly to those who definitely haven't paid.

Any enquiries relating to membership should be directed to Laura Sissons at

membership@lympstonesailingclub.co.uk

Sailing in 2026

As we enter the New Year and look out at the harbour and the estuary with our boats safely tucked away, being gently prepared for the coming season by some and some yet looking to work on theirs, and with our LSC racing marks safely on land, we reflect on a good year of sailing for many of our members despite the unfortunate tide timings which impacted when events and races could take place. This year however, the tide timings are, once again, more conducive to a fuller on-water schedule, supported by on-shore training, such as first aid and RYA Day Skipper Theory as well as some on-water training and open events, organised and supported by Claire Whiter, Mike Gall and Margaret Turgoose.

We look forward to building on the success of the youth section and encouraging more children and adult members to take to the water and join in this year - even if racing is not your thing, there will be plenty of opportunities to take to the water in your own, or a club boat to sail in company in a safe and friendly environment. The focus now is on preparing for the coming season with the support of our bosuns and as many volunteers as we can muster, so if you have the time and the energy, please do contact the team to see how you can help!

We look forward to publishing the new programme next month to give you plenty of time to prepare for the fun of the club's on-water related activities but do please also get back to us if there are any ideas you have which will make the year even more fun and all-inclusive!

In the meantime, Happy New Year and Fair Winds! Eddie & Jan - sailing@lympstonesailingclub.co.uk

Committee for 2026

Commodore: Peter Turgoose
Vice-Commodore: Paul Burke
Rear-Commodore: VACANT
Hon Secretary: Liz Wells
Hon Treasurer: Rob Grieg-Gran
Hon Membership Secretary: Laura Sissons
Hon Sailing Secretary: Eddie Corrigan/Jan Teague
General Committee (Junior Sailing): Claire Whiter
General Committee (Comms): Allan Henderson
General Committee (House): Keith Kleinstuber
General Committee (Training): Mike Gall
General Committee: Judith Carter

If you are interested in filling the vacant Rear-Commodore position, please contact any member of the committee