

Hi Everybody,

Lets start with a photo of our club on a wonderful Spring day when the beach attracted lots of walkers keen to enjoy the sunshine.



At the time of writing this we still haven't heard when we are going to be able to open our doors to members but, it is looking as if it will be the end of April or perhaps May. Hopefully by then, the weather will be a lot more friendly and we will be able to have the marquee up again, allowing outside seating and giving us the opportunity for distancing. Fingers crossed!

By then the Sailing season will be underway and we can enjoy not only sitting either outdoors or indoors with good company but finally relish the joys of getting our boats back out on the water. You may have noticed that we now have all of the Boat and Car park fully enclosed with the same heavy duty fencing to ensure that the whole area is now fully protected.



Please be aware that if you haven't been into the area to get access to your boat for some time that the code on the lock may have been changed. You can get this information by emailing angling@paghamyachtclub.com or sailing@paghamyachtclub.com or myself.

Annual General Meeting

A reminder that full information for the EGM and AGM will be sent out to you via emails two weeks before the 28th March as required by our Rules, and for those members who have not notified us of their emails, they will be sent through the post. If you know of a member in this position then please reassure them that this method will still continue as it has done in the past. Details will also be put on our website if they have difficulties downloading information.

Election of Officers 2020 - 21

Just to repeat that the vacant positions on the Committee are now being displayed on the website so if you are, or know of someone who you feel could contribute to moving the Club forward in any of these roles then please do let us know with details of a proposer and seconder. There is also a brief description of each role on the website.

We do look forward to hearing from you as they are important roles so please let me know at honsec@paghamyachtclub.com

Sailing and Angling Report

From RC Pete, still nothing to report apart from the good news about the fencing being completed.

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Social Membership

Right, question time again! We are still staying with questions about Sussex but, this time it is with people who were either born, lived or are still living in our county. What we need to know is which village or town?

1. Let's start going back in time with William Blake, that mystical poet and painter. Was he living in Bognor Regis, Rye or Felpham? There is a now a cottage and a road named after him in this place so if you have been there this should be easy.
2. I think you may know this one as there was lots of publicity when Dame Vera Lynn died last year, when two spitfires flew over her home. Was it in Ditchling, Hurstpierpoint or Sompting?
3. Do you remember Ronnie Barker? Who can forget him! I didn't know he lived so close. Was it in Brighton, Worthing or Littlehampton?
4. And now the resident ones! Sally Gunnell the 400 metres champion – is she living in Burgess Hill, Steyning or West Wittering? Clue – in 2011 she was elected Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex.
5. Finally, Sir Paul McCartney who must be putting the house prices up in this area. Is it Hastings, Peasmarsh or Bexhill?

To close, the answers to last week's quiz which started the Sussex theme.

So, any idea what year did Gatwick open as an airport? This is a bit of a trick question as it was officially opened by the Queen in 1958 but in 1934 it was licenced as a public aerodrome and as a relief aerodrome for London Croydon Airport. Wow! How things have changed! Can you imagine if Croydon had carried on as the main airport?

The one piece of information I always love to hear about is what a piece of land was used for before it became well-known. Just have a look at the picture of where the Gatwick terminals now are. Wasn't it beautiful?



Gatwick was a Racecourse from 1891 and the Grand National was run there until June 1940 when the racecourse was closed at the start of the second World War. After the war the stables and defunct course was still used for horses by private trainers until late 1950s when there was still a house and acres of land that was being farmed. You'd never believe it when you try to get to Gatwick nowadays.

Moving on to our coastline, I didn't know that Brighton had hosted the European Song Contest but, in my defence in 1974 I was in High School in the USA so that probably didn't make it to the American news then! They had just impeached Nixon so I guess that took precedence as ABBA as the winners with Waterloo also didn't make it over the pond to me as well. Did you get that right?

OK, back to the question where I know there will be some argument. I have been told that Littlehampton with 324 metres is supposed to be the longest beach in Sussex but I have also been told that Birling Gap and Seaford Beach are in competition, so

I am hoping that we will be given some good news in the near future about the date when we can open up the Club doors so that Jo, our RC Social member can be let loose to come up with some more exciting events for you than my quiz! I know she has been bursting with ideas, names and emails so you have been warned!

Stay safe,

Jill

Honorary Blogger

Pagham Yacht Club

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www.paghamyachtclub.com