

THE SOUTHWOLD SAILORS' READING ROOM

NEWSLETTER 2016-17

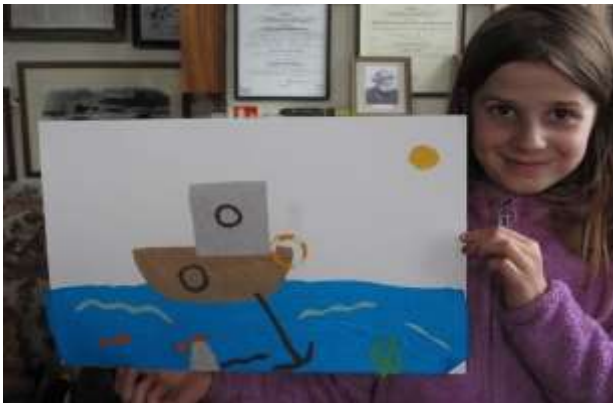
Dear Member,

Welcome to our fourth newsletter!

The past year on East Cliff has seen changes and celebrations. We welcomed in our new Chairman, High Steward of Southwold and local businessman Graham Denny, and were also awarded a *Certificate of Excellence* by Trip Advisor, as the result of receiving many positive visitors' reviews. It's uncertain if the two are linked . . . but Membership has increased once again over the year to more than 260 - the highest it has ever been!

This year we have hosted a rich variety of events, with both education and fundraising in st mind. On 21 May a walk-in art workshop was held by Jennifer Hall, a local printmaker and sculptor, and Suffolk artist Heather Hodgson. The event was supported by *Touching the Tide*, a Heritage Lottery funded Landscape Partnership scheme along the East Coast.

Jennifer and Heather chose The Sailors' Reading Room for our unique collection of model boats and ships. Over 25 children were inspired to do a lot of colourful collage work, ably assisted by parents and visitors.



On 13th June the 1st Southwold Guides group visited The Reading Room as part of their th celebrations for The Queen's 90 Birthday. They were hosted by Doug Pope and Stephen Wells. This very successful visit was arranged as part of our on-going efforts to introduce young people to The SSRR.

On 27th June the actor Nicholas Collett gave a superb one-man show in The Reading Room as Lord Nelson, in *Nelson, The Sailor's Story*, which he wrote, and has toured around the

UK, The USA and Australia. Lord Nelson surveys the modern world from the top of his huge Column in Trafalgar Square and makes pertinent observations about pigeons and twenty-first-century life, whilst re-living his naval achievements and some personal regrets.



Nicholas Collett kindly donated the proceeds of £200 from this very powerful performance to The Southwold Sailors' Reading Room.

The following day local historian and Southwold Museum archivist Bob Jellicoe gave an excellent talk called *A Long-shore Life* about the local fishermen and boat builders who would have been around when The Sailors' Reading Room opened in 1864. Bob talked about the infamous beach companies who controlled the local waters, and their fast yawls built for salvage work and piloting. Reputedly the fastest and most celebrated of these boats was *The Bittern*, whose original rudder still stands outside the building today.

Events in the planning for 2017 include a further talk by Bob Jellicoe and a (snooker) table-top re-enactment of The Battle of Sole Bay, in May . . . with full commentary.

The Snooker Finals night was held on 6th April.

Deputy Town Mayor Ann Betts presented both The Billiards Prize and the Snooker Singles Award to John Everson, whilst Alex Moran and Gary Farnam received the Snooker Doubles Prize. Thanks to Gary Farnam for managing the Snooker again this year, and he comments that since the installation of larger pockets all games are faster and the breaks are bigger.

If Members would like to book the Snooker table please contact Gary on: **07941 242 965**.

On 21st April the Annual General Meeting of The SSRR was held in Southwold Town Hall. Our retiring Chairman, Teresa Baggott was thanked, most sincerely, for her excellent time in office, and in turn Teresa presented the WASS Cup to *'the person who has gone the extra mile for The SSRR during the year'*.

This year the cup was awarded to retiring Hon. Secretary Anthea Marriner, with a special mention of her husband, Ben for their tireless support of The Sailors' Reading Room in all weathers. Thank you Ben and Anthea! Graham Denny was elected as our new Chairman, and we welcomed Kimberley Martin as our new Hon. Secretary.

Other fund raising events this year included Anthea Marriner's bountiful cake stall in Southwold Market place on 28th July. This year the stall was dominated by a humungous iced cake produced by Ian Denney . . . thanks must go to all helpers and cake makers, who together raised a very impressive £301.05 for The SSRR.



Ian Denney's Tombola outside The SSRR during the August Bank holiday weekend has become a regular and popular attraction on the Southwold sea front, attracting visitors and local people alike. This year Ian raised almost £200. Prizes for next year's Tombola can be donated in early summer, to Ian Denney at the Southwold Lifeboat shop.

There is now a dedicated number for all enquiries, including ordering our wide range of merchandise. Please call **07547 836 494** to place an order for our Christmas Cards, which this year feature Nancie Pelling's exquisite depiction of 'The Three Ships'.



These are available from The SSRR for £2.50 for a pack of five.

Following the success of the last SSRR jigsaw puzzle, we are very pleased to be producing another limited edition 1000 piece jigsaw, to be launched on 29th April 2017 in The Sailors' Reading Room. This will be photomontage, of the Beach Yawl Bittern, the most celebrated boat of its kind on the East Coast.



The puzzle's image will be made up from outstanding photographs of the scale model, taken by the celebrated local photographer Stephen Wolfenden. An order form/invitation to the Launch is enclosed, and please RSVP with your jigsaw order by the end of February.

Finally an appeal for assistance. We are building up our library, so if you have any seafaring books or books about the local coast and boats which you'd like to bequeath to The SSRR please let us know. Also if you can help in any way, such as manning a merchandise stall for a couple of hours, or joining our Committee and taking a more active role in helping to maintain the future of The SSRR, then please contact The SSRR directly, either by telephone: **07547 836 494** or by e-mail: info@southwoldsailorsreadingroom.co.uk We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the next AGM, on **THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2017** held at Southwold Town Hall.

On behalf of us all on East Cliff we wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2017.

Vincent Austin & Laurence Vulliamy