

# DAYBOAT NOTES

News from the Yachting World Dayboat Association  
DECEMBER 2013



**Happy  
New  
Sailing  
Year**

# DAYBOAT NOTES

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Well, another year over and from the following club reports and articles, you will see that our class is still very much alive and kicking, and it's great to see articles from new contributors.

Your Association's prime activities centre around promoting the Dayboat, arranging Dayboat Weeks, and safeguarding the Association assets, primarily the boat moulds, and I can report that all of these activities are progressing well.

Our showcase promotion takes place each Spring at the Alexander Palace Dinghy Show and our space is booked again for March 2014. In addition, Poole YC will be hosting a 'Try-a-Dayboat' day in May where anyone can meet the Poole Dayboaters and sail a Dayboat.

Plans for 2014 Dayboat Week at Rock are now well advanced and if you are thinking of joining the fun, you should book accommodation as soon as possible. Your committee has now started to prepare for 2015 by researching a number of possible venues – we're always open to suggestions so if you have a favourite venue or have a new venue in mind, please let one of the committee members know. An obvious candidate for 2015 is Castle Cove at Weymouth but unfortunately they're booked up until 2019.

You will see that the new hull mould which we purchased in early 2013 has now produced its first Dayboat which was delivered to its new owner last month. Now that the mould has been proven, it completes our mould replacement programme for the foreseeable future.

My thanks go to all the Association committee members and all of the club Dayboat organisers for continuing to make our class so friendly and enjoyable.

From your committee, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2014

John Lokier DB 632 Don't Panic



## RYA Dinghy Show 2014 - 1 & 2 March

Once again we will have a stand at the Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace. Any offers of assistance with setting up or dismantling the stand, or spending an hour or two helping on the stand on the Saturday or Sunday would be appreciated.

Bob Davis DB641, Lucky

Tel: 01794 368118, email rd@rd-associates.co.uk

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*Cover picture: First from the new mould - DB 674 Liquid Luck owned by new members Julie and Peter Drake. We welcome them to the Association, and to Poole Yacht Club.*

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## THE COMMITTEE

John Lokier	Chairman	Poole	01202 698584
Phil Lokier	Secretary	Poole	01202 698584
Bob Davis	Treasurer	Poole	01794 368118
Tim Parkinson	Webmaster	Thornbury	01295 811585
David Cake		Poole	01202 730257
Sue Clayton		Poole	01404 376273
Kath Davis		Poole	01794 368118
Adam Gray		Gravesend	07756 112824
Sally Hewitt		Poole	01985 214745
Peter Hewitt		Poole	01985 214745
Geoff Honey		Gravesend	01322 229751
Iain Macpherson		Bosham	01243 575652
Cass Macpherson		Bosham	01243 575652
David Macfarlane		Bosham	07538 528699
Paul Winterflood		Gravesend	01322 274438

Please contact any Committee member for advice or information

## The Philbrick Quilt

I was absolutely delighted to win the Philbrick quilt at this year's Dayboat nationals. Having known Lesley, it was a real honour to be asked to provide a home for it. It certainly is a very special reminder – both of sailing and of Lesley – which I will treasure.

Diana Parkinson, DB565 Avocet

*In the last issue I mis-named Lesley; my sincere apologies to Gerry, Simon and all those who knew her. Ed*



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## NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

### Thornbury Sailing Club

We have no DB class racing any more so I can't report on that aspect of DB sailing. However a year ago in DB Notes I described the Grand Pill Challenge I issued to the dinghy sailing members of TSC. I initiated this challenge to encourage those TSC dinghy sailors up for something more challenging than sailing round the cans. Dinghy cruising enthusiasts were equally encouraged to participate.

Basically the idea was to see how many of the numerous pills (creeks) identified on the Admiralty Chart from Avonmouth to Sharpness & Hock Cliff can be reached in a minimum number of trips.

In the event few took up the challenge although a number of boats did sail up to Grange and Cone Pills on 6th July under the auspices of one of our Free Sailing Saturdays, when safety boat cover is provided for dinghy activities other than racing.

Having issued the challenge it was clearly up to me to demonstrate that the extreme pills were feasible in one tide. Tony Ryan and I sailing Avocet achieved St. Pierre Pill, the furthest downriver pill, on a day when it was blowing a good force 5. This meant we had enough boat speed to counter the flood tide on the way downriver and the ebb on the return.



Bullo Pill, 15 nm upstream, was a different matter. After three attempts on strong spring tides we got within a quarter of a mile before having to turn back to ensure we could get back into Oldbury Pill before the water ran out. However, we are now reasonably confident that we have a successful strategy mapped out to achieve success next year!

For those readers thinking this is all about smooth sailing up a river I include this photo of one of the standing waves you encounter in the upper Severn Estuary (unlike the Bore they are static in location).

Tim Parkinson DB565 Avocet

**DAYBOAT WEEK 2014 at  
Rock Sailing & Water Ski Club, 25 - 29 May**

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## Bosham Fleet Notes

There have been some highs and lows this year.

After the strong growth in numbers and turnouts in 2012, we have seen a significant reduction in turnouts in 2013. Largely this has been due to the consistently strong winds that seemed to blow pretty much every time we went afloat for our Saturday Classic Dayboat races.



We did however manage to complete 11 of the 12 scheduled races and Judy Roberts and Liz Adams in Frin, 617 took home the coveted Galatea Trophy, sailing without handicap, as well as top DB in the handicap series. The ladies were followed home in the Galatea by David and Fiona Macfarlane in Yellow Peril, 597 and the fast improving Seatons, Alastair and Jacqui in Debutante, 616. Barry and Jan Colgate were second placed DB on handicap.

We welcomed 6 visitors to our open meeting in July, joining 10 home boats for the three race event. The sun shone, the wind behaved and we enjoyed some excellent racing. Peter Hewitt & Katherine Hodgson (Poole) just managed to pip James Davies & Adam Gray (Gravesend) for top honours with Colin & Chrissie Blewett (Poole) 3rd overall on count back from David & Fiona (Bosham).

As in previous years, members of the Bosham fleet provided B&B for all the visitors and the days racing was preceded by a drinks reception on the club terrace followed by an excellent dinner. (... *and very good it was too - thanks Barry & Jan for the B&B - ed*)

For the coming year there are already major plans being made for Dayboat Week in Rock with a record 7 Bosham boats definitely committed to attend.

A note for your diaries: 2014 Bosham Open meeting will be on Saturday 5th July.

Good sailing in 2014!

David Macfarlane DB597 Yellow Peril

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## Poole Yacht Club Report

Writing this report is never easy, the years all blur together and what there is to be said has already been said. This year is a bit different, we have several relative newcomers to the fleet (everything is relative) who have persisted with the challenge of making a Dayboat go fast. Mike and Jackie Cutler in Kerfuffle are showing some consistency, working their way up the fleet and Dick Sears and Andy Cake take turns at steering The Black Pig, and are both definitely getting faster, too. Bob and Margaret Clewer cleaned up again this season and needed the proverbial wheelbarrow to take their cups home from the prizegiving! So we all need to remember that it is the taking part that counts.

Peter and Julie Drake have joined the club and the class with a brand new boat, DB 674, Liquid Luck which looks pretty stunning. They are not newcomers to sailing so we can look forward to them getting into the action at the front of the fleet.

One of the challenges of being class captain (and about the whole Association come to that) is to encourage new sailors into the class and to this end we will be holding a "Try a Dayboat Day" at Poole early next season. The provisional date is the early May Bank holiday, Monday 5th May.

The Dayboat season at Poole came to an early end when the club hosted the 2.4m World Championships in September and took over the Dayboat pontoon. It reminded us that the harbour is a fantastic place to sail. Many of our Dayboats are not raced but are in regular use for cruising and family sailing – the perfect boat for a wonderful harbour.



*Local photographer Mike Millard gets close to the 2.4s at Poole*

***Remember to visit the Association website***

***[www.ywdb.co.uk](http://www.ywdb.co.uk)***

***Information - News - Boats & Gear for sale***

***and lots of DB photos***

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## Poole Dayboat Open



The Saturday race around the harbour islands started in near perfect conditions, but with more wind forecast later in the day. Sue Clayton, in Hullaballo, used her years of experience of sailing in the harbour to establish a substantial lead and appeared to be uncatchable. Second place was closely contested with Colin Blewett, Pete Hewitt, and Gerry Philbrick staying pretty close together. The forecast wind arrived in time for the long reach back across the harbour and the planing conditions proved perfect for Colin and Chrissie Blewett who disappeared in a cloud of spray to take the gun. Sue and Emma were second and Pete and Sally were third.

Sunday was another windy day. Some chose to stay ashore but those who did venture out enjoyed, (endured?) close and exciting racing. Unfortunately the wind was strong enough to cause gear failure forcing several retirements. Bob Clewer's son, Andrew, (no mean sailor), took the helm of Déjà vu and sailed consistently to win overall. Pete



Hewitt, crewed by son, Andrew, was second in spite of falling out of the boat and capsizing. James Hewitt, sailing Mandarin, was third. Michael Hewitt, in Men Behaving Sadly Again, was fourth, completing the family outing. Martin Sheppard enjoyed the conditions and was fifth followed by James Davies (another visitor) in his new boat, Icarus.

*2013 class champion can fall in too!*

Peter and Sally Hewitt DB659, Merlin

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## TOLLESBURY Sailing Club Dayboat Fleet .....

..... well, just the one boat.

I was first introduced to the Yachting World Dayboat way back in 1977 by David Struthers of Dave and Debbie (DB378 Tapio) fame, long before they became a matched pair!

I worked with David at Gravesend from about 1976 onwards and, knowing that I was a keen dinghy sailor at Tollesbury, he asked me if I would go out to the Isle of Grain to look at a clinker sailing boat that he was considering buying. The boat turned out to be Talisman (DB451) which had been lovingly refurbished by an engineer at the Power Station. This was my first sight of a YW Dayboat and I was very interested and impressed. After much soul searching, delay and deliberation, David, the canny Scot, not too keen to part with his money, did eventually make an offer and throughout this intervening period of time, I was thinking, if he doesn't buy it, I will. However, he purchased the boat and enjoyed several years of sailing in her.



This encounter whetted my appetite and I was subsequently given the telephone number of Lew Walker at Leigh-on-Sea. I called him one evening and spoke for about an hour when he furnished me with the quality, details and attributes of the YW Dayboat together with the background, history and ownership information on the boats that he had built, culminating in him directing me towards one that was for sale at Thorpe Bay.

A detour through Thorpe Bay on my next visit to Tollesbury meant that I became the proud owner of YW Dayboat 'Diem' (DB401), a beautiful varnished wooden boat, constructed by L.H.Walker & Co., together with a second suit of new sails. That was November 1979 and it's been part of the family ever since.

The boat was taken to Tollesbury but not used for a few years due to the commitments of a very young family, and the fact that we lived in the Gravesend area and we only visited Tollesbury on occasional weekends.

However, by the mid eighties, once the children had learned to swim, Diem was returned to the water onto a tidal mudberth mooring, where it has been based and used from ever since. Diem is sailed around the Blackwater Estuary and the creeks and swatchways of Tollesbury Fleet mainly for pleasure purposes and occasionally in the Tollesbury Sailing Club handicap racing with some measure

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of success, more frequently now by my 30 plus years old son and daughter than myself. Sarah the elder of the two was in a carry cot in the car when Diem was purchased, so its use is now extended to a second generation.

Tollesbury Sailing Club was founded in 1936 and with the exception of the war years has organised dinghy sailing races and some cruisers racing every season since then. In the early years, the boats sailed were mainly clinker dinghies and a variety of One designs, followed by classes of Enterprises, Fireballs, Fleetwinds, Graduates, Solos, Lasers and currently GP 14s, plus a very well supported cadet fleet. "Diem" is the only YW Dayboat at the club and to the best of my knowledge, the only one of its class to sail from the club throughout the 56 years of my membership. It does provide both relaxing cruising through the local creeks and channels and extremely exhilarating sailing when racing in sufficiently strong winds.

Diem is a traditional wooden clinker boat built by Lew Walker in 1964 and retains all of the original design features of varnished hull, wooden mast and spars, side bench seats, buoyancy bags, flat wooden floors and a heavy steel centre plate. She has never required any significant repairs or maintenance and simply receives a coat of varnish and antifouling each spring before being returned to her summer mooring. It gives us all great pleasure, enjoyment and satisfaction to sail such a well designed, sound and expertly constructed traditional sailing dinghy.

Incidentally, I have capsized her, just the once.

David Legerton, DB401 Diem

## Solway Yacht Club

DB 344 "Brillig" continues to sail regularly at The Solway Yacht Club in Kippford on the "Scottish Riviera". The highlight of 2013 was her appearance in Kippford Sailing Week when I lent her to our good friend David Clarke to sail with his crew Lynne Watt. They finished every race in style, competing in the Handicap 2 Fleet and despite being by far the most elderly boat in the fleet, were a very creditable 11th overall, with an 8th as best finish.



Ian Purkiss, DB344 Brillig

*You may sail the only Dayboat at your Club, but we still would like to hear from you .....*

*..... contributions to [kathdavis@btinternet.com](mailto:kathdavis@btinternet.com) by end June for the next issue*

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## Gravesend Sailing Club

Those of you who recognise this view of Gravesend Sailing Club will notice a recent addition, our floating\* pontoon. You may also notice that the pontoon is not connected to the shore, more on that later. Cranes and ladders (we also may have one or two snakes) will still be used for launching, note the distance from the top of the ladder to the bottom. However, once launched the helm can paddle over to and tie up on the pontoon while crew will be able to walk onto the landing instead of descending up to 30 feet via the vertical route.



The pontoon has not been permanently attached to the piles as the contractors need it to bed into the mud. I don't know the exact date when work will be completed however, all components have been fabricated. Only 50% of the piles are visible, the other half are now buried in the mud/chalk that forms the river bed. Well we survived the recent tidal surge and as I write the tidal barrier outside the basin remains closed.

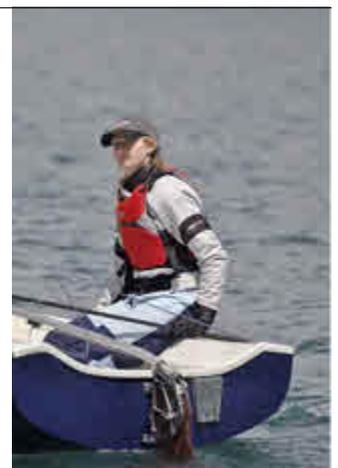
A view of the completed landing stage will appear in the next issue of DB notes. If you can't wait that long why not come and visit us and try it out for yourselves. Our regular visitors are always given a warm welcome.

*(\*Paul assures us it does float - more pictures next time! Ed.)*

Paul Winterflood DB535, Ozone Friendly

## Dayboat Week 2013 – Opportunity Race

The Opportunity race is open to all Association members, except those helming boats in the Points series at Dayboat Week. The Crews', Ladies' and Cadets' trophies are awarded according to the race results. The thinking behind the race was to get a better turnout than we had had in the past from holding separate races. At Torbay this proved to be the case with 16 boats on the start line. The racing was held close to the shore producing some tricky conditions.



### Results

1st Emma Clayton (pictured), DB650 Hullabaloo winning the Cadet Trophy  
2nd Natalie French sailing DB659, Merlin, winning the Ladies Trophy  
3rd Diana Parkinson, DB585 Avocet came 3rd winning the Crews Trophy.

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## First Impressions - Torbay 2013

So.....how is this for an idea then? Sail a friend's Yachting World Dayboat once, decide you quite enjoy it, do a round trip of 800 miles to buy a boat that you've only seen in a picture and then, hey, why not enter the YWDB Nationals in Torbay?

Such was the planning for our first Yachting World Dayboat week. There was hardly any pressure to enter from the Macphersons or Martells and the daily persuasive phone call from Barry Colgate was scarcely any sort of coercion. It was therefore with a certain amount of trepidation that we found ourselves in Torbay, comfortably accommodated in the marvellous Mews that Barry had found, which rapidly seemed to become the West Country branch of the Bosham Sailing Club bar. Home from home!

Being newcomers to the fleet, we were introduced to so many people, whose names we sadly failed to remember first time round, but the overwhelming feeling we had from the fleet, was one of immense friendliness. Everybody was happy to talk YWDB's and to exchange tips and ideas.



*Jane and Vis Vitae*

On the first evening, half of the fleet were assigned mentors from the other half. Imagine our delight when we were given David and Fiona MacFarlane as mentors. The look of haunted desperation on David's face lasted for scarcely a millisecond and soon they were giving us extremely useful tips and suggesting that we kept close to them as we raced over the next few days. Well, through no fault of theirs, that was the last we saw of them all week on the water! David continued to proffer encouragement in an increasingly desperate way, especially after a conversation

when it became apparent that we assumed that a mentor was for life – not just for YWDB week!

Torbay was a great place to sail and even when we chose not to race in some very windy conditions, the harbour wall became a marvellous viewing platform to watch those brave, hardy souls who ventured out.

And what a great day we had when the gale hit and we decided to have a YWDB outing to Dartmouth, via the pleasure boat, get ensconced in a warm pub for lunch and come back to Paignton, in a monsoon, on the steam train!

We had a wonderful week and met some lovely people, who we're looking forward to meeting up with again in Rock 2014.

Jane Weller, DB 618 Vis Vitae

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## More Mould Talk

As reported in the previous 'Notes', the Association's new hull mould was completed last year and replaces the previous mould, which has served us well but was deteriorating to the point where hulls moulded from it required much additional work to achieve a good finish. The first hull out of the new mould, DB674, is now on the water (see front cover and opposite).

A bit of history (from the Association website – some members may be able to add some more detail)...

The first clinker hull mould was built by Beachcomber Boats, who produced four boats in the early 1980s, starting with Kittiwake (DB585). Production was transferred to Porter Brothers in 1985. Porters built 49 boats (some were bought as bare hulls to be fitted out by owners) until 1998. The last of the Porter-built boats (from DB 649) had the later deck mould with built-in buoyancy in the side tanks. Then followed a difficult period between 1998 and 2007 when the Association was without an established builder, although a short link with Salterns Boatyard resulted in the production of one Dayboat. The situation was resolved in 2007 when the Association appointed Chris Somner as its builder of grp clinker boats. Chris has since built 12 Dayboats (from DB 659), built our new deck mould (from DB 669) and now the new hull mould.

Although most of the boats built since 1980 have been grp clinker hulls, 12 wooden boats (including three smooth-hulled cold-moulded boats by Don Young) and one smooth-hulled grp boat have also been built during that period, making a total of 77 boats in 33 years.

Although the Association has been building up reserves for some years, it has been possible to finance the new hull mould (which cost around £13,000) only because of donations from members, including significant donations from Gerry Philbrick and from the Dayboat Class at Poole Yacht Club, and because nine members have provided unsecured loans of £500 each. These donations and loans are greatly appreciated. The intention is to repay the loans within 5 years, with the first two loans being repaid in January 2014. To enable the Association to clear these debts as quickly as possible any further donations to the Mould Fund would be very welcome. For example, an average donation of £5 per Association member each year would allow us to repay three loans per year, rather than two, and would see the Association 'in the black' much sooner.

With the new hull mould now available, we can have confidence that the future of our class is secure. Dayboats are robust and durable and older boats remain competitive for racing, but we do need to encourage a steady supply of new boats into the established fleets and, perhaps, we shall see more Dayboats at more clubs throughout the country.

Bob Davis Hon Treasurer, DB641, Lucky

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## The Making of a Dayboat

- thanks to Chris Somner for posting the progress on Facebook.



One...



Two .....



Three .....



..... and they are off!

You are invited to  
DAYBOAT OPEN MEETINGS 2014

**BOSHAM SAILING CLUB - Saturday 5 July**

Contact David Macfarlane - davidmac100@gmail.com - 07538 528699

**POOLE YACHT CLUB 26/27 July (provisional)**

Contact Pete Hewitt - Sa11yHewitt@yahoo.co.uk - 01985 214745

**GRAVESEND SAILING CLUB \***

Contact Geoff Honey - geoff.h2@ntlworld.com - 01322 229751

*Dates will be posted/confirmed on the website when known*

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## Don Tanner 1921 – 1981

There are many Dayboaters who, for a variety of reasons, will go down in the history of the Dayboat class and I think it would be a shame if some of them at least were not recorded in our history for years to come. Don is one and I suspect there are a lot of our members to whom the name means nothing apart from engravings on numerous trophies both national and at his home club of Poole.



Don was born in Bournemouth to a well known family of bakers, he served in the RAF and later became manager of Spinks prestigious motor traders in Bournemouth.

Don was a friend of my father Eric, who introduced him to sailing, initially in a Poole Hawk 16ft, an over-canvassed dinghy and soon discarded in favour of the Dayboat. They sailed for a couple of seasons in DB125 Moonraker and in 1958 came 2nd in the nationals to a cold moulded boat DB119 from Lillipuut SC. What a stink that caused! The upshot being the class was for many years divided into A and B sections racing for separate trophies, the smooth cold moulded boats being regarded as faster.

Don bought DB88 an odd shaped boat being noticeably narrower in the beam forward, I don't know who built her or where she ended up, but she was very fast upwind in a blow and a bit sluggish in lighter airs. My father commented to me when Don bought DB88 he would be "tail end Charlie" how wrong he was! ✓

Don sailed in his first nationals in Brixham 1960 finishing 9th out of 31 entries 2nd again in Brixham the following year but down to 35th in Poole in 1962 (due to breaking the boat and only finishing 1 race) out of 42 entries.

It was in 1965 that Don won his first nationals at Plymouth and in somewhat controversial circumstances. Briefly, DB 381 (a cold moulded clinker boat sailed by local sailor Jimmy Donne) had a collision with DB205 (John Cake) the protest committee failed to disqualify either and Jimmy Donne was declared national champion. Not surprisingly the RYA heard the appeal and disqualified DB381 as a result Don Tanner won the championship although he always regarded this as a somewhat hollow victory as DB381 was clearly the faster boat.

Don went on to win the nationals in 1966 (Southend), 1968 (Helensburgh), 1971 (Salcombe), 1975 (Southend) in his new boat DB 550 a Gibbons boat and again in 1978 (Southend).

Don died suddenly in 1981 having served as class chairman for many years, a man of exceptional integrity and talent both on and off the water. Having sailed against him for many years I shall always remember Don for his highly competitive (and ruthless) sailing, the hardest man I ever sailed against in those years. God bless him.

Richard Cake, DB583 Instant Sunshine

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## From Facebook

Ray Lewis who sailed DB481 at Minehead on the Bristol Channel from 1978 to 2012 asks whether we could support this appeal by his son to provide old sails as 'sun shelters' for schools in Peru.

### Peru schools need your sails



### Our prototype 'shadow catcher' in Lucre Secondary School Sheltering students from the intense Andean sun

In July 2014, students from Churston Ferrers Grammar School will travel to the Cusco region of Peru, on a 3 week expedition working in 10 schools linked to Torbay schools. These educational links began 8 years ago... so this is a long standing partnership worth investing in.

The Peruvian students and staff have requested that we create shaded areas, as the sun is incredibly strong at the altitude of 3000m. To create a sustainable solution we're appealing for unwanted sails, donated from the local community.

We have an ambitious target of 50 sails, which will be rigged in their playgrounds as shade canopies. We would be happy to come and talk to you about the project and how you could be involved.

If you think you can help by donating a sail, or for more details please contact:

David Lewis: [david.lewis@churston.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:david.lewis@churston.torbay.sch.uk)

01803 842289 (work)

Want to join? Register (easy) and then search for 'Yachting World Day Boat' and ask to join - it's free



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### **Dayboat Week Rock 2014** **Saturday 24th – Thursday 29th May**

Rock – Sun, sea and the home of Doom Bar

Rock is an established and popular venue for Dayboat Week.

Varied sailing conditions in the Camel estuary make for good racing that can be viewed from the Clubhouse.

When the weather is good (which it will be next year) it is very, very good.

The boats are kept on drying moorings on a sandy beach.

A friendly club and we are assured of a great welcome.

A full social programme ...

.... and a good holiday centre for the non-sailors

**COME AND JOIN IN**



### **TRY A DAYBOAT DAY**

**Monday 5 May (provisional) at Poole Yacht Club**

**A gathering of DBers who will take newcomers for a sail ....**

**...or just sit, chat, drink tea and eat cake.**

**Come along - look at the new boats - meet fellow sailors.**

**Contact Pete Hewitt**