



Moray Gig Newsletter

Issue No. 37

www.moraygig.com

June 2014

From Chairman Gary Hunt: Looking at *Bien Trouvé* yesterday reminded me that it was just two years ago when we road-hauled her to London and rowed some 13 miles down the Thames as part of HM's Pageant and Diamond Jubilee Celebration. Despite the miserable weather on the day, I have fond memories of what we all achieved in representing Moray, both crew and supporters. Pleasingly the Moray crests on BT's bows are still there enhancing the beautiful lines of the craft. The crew for that memorable event remain involved with the Moray Gig and certainly the younger crew members have had something to add to their



Gig maintenance in a poly tunnel in Keith

CV and to talk about at a job or university interview. Meanwhile our organization has not stood still. The majority of the GB team taking part in the next Atlantic Challenge

International Contest of Seamanship come from Moray and the lead trainer and coxswain for that team is Gavin Sim (a Banffshire lad) who started with us some 6 years ago. The contest is being held in Brittany during July. I wish them well as it will be a hard two weeks' training and then a week competing against 11 other determined national teams; the Irish are good at rowing, Belgium and France have good sailors and Italy always puts on a good ceremonial affair. I should mention the excellent competition attributes the other nations have but I will leave that to one of our team to write a



Gavin Sim, Team Trainer and Coxswain for France 2014

report for you in the next newsletter. Meanwhile our fleet is expanding. To get youngsters onto the water and involved in teamwork more easily we are going to build a St Ayle's Skiff.

The intention is to give them more opportunity and responsibility by letting them work together in a simpler craft, but with distant supervision, so that progression into BT is easier and responsibility for her can come earlier. There are many skiffs being built around the Moray Firth and as part of our support and involvement with this community we gave several members of Burghead Rowing Club an opportunity last Saturday, 31st May, for some rowing practise but of course we couldn't help but let them sail our Gig as well; it is not all about rowing! The first outing of the season was with

a group of ladies aged 70 years plus. This adventurous group meet up in Scotland somewhere once a year to undertake an activity and have fun. They were good and capable and managed sailing and rowing very well however they showed their true age when driving the RIB at full throttle!



Burghead Rowing Club Sailing BT

Thank you all for your support by whatever means that allows us to provide a service to many which I'm sure continues to provide them with a wonderful experience and opportunities for the future. *Gary Hunt*



Burghed Rowing Club preparing to sail



Burghed Rowing Club sailing!



Team at work cleaning the hull



Young members of the crew that will be going to France



Mark Ellis sanding the oars



Ian Samson revealing a very straight water line



Ann Rossiter manning the stand in Grant Park, Forres



Ian Samson adjusting an oar port leather

Bien Trouvé attended the Ben Romach Vintage Vehicle Theme Day in Forres on May 4th and will be present at **Piping Hot Forres on Saturday June 28th**. The team set off for France on July 4th.

Administration of Moray Gig outings is carried out at the Elgin Youth Cafe. Tel: 01343 548500 E-mail: gig@elginyouthcafe.org