



From the archives

In The Solent 1929

Lymington Regatta on the Western Solent, on July 26th was a very old fixture revived. I enjoyed it as did, I am sure, all visiting yachtsmen. It was here the first of the English cutters were built at Inman's Yard, a hundred years ago. No regatta for first-class yachts has been held at Lymington in modern times, but Major Cyril Potter, the Commodore of the comparatively new Lymington Yacht Club, arranged this fixture with complete success. There is but little water on the river at low tide, but some eighty yachts were anchored in the stream, the big vessels lying off the Lymington Spit Buoy. I believe the club thrives so well now that it has over 400 members. The Berthon Boat Company, or Lymington Shipyard, is close at hand to provide for all the necessities of yachtsmen building, fitting out, repairing, and laying up.

I went up the pretty little tidal river in the launch to the clubhouse when the flag officers entertained us at a charming dinner party in the club. I suppose fifty or sixty

men and women; a smart function, as they say, the beauty and fashion of this part of the county. Mr Herbert Weld, of Lulworth Castle, was dining with the Commodore, and he lent several of the interesting Cups recalling the story of yachting and yacht building in Lymington River.

donated by James Horsfall

Lymington 1932

Lymington is a pretty old town with red houses nudging one another as though in the enjoyment of a good joke. At the waterside the feature of the place is the Old Lymington Shipyard, owned by the Berthon Boat Co. This picturesque yard is equipped with all the latest appliances, including an electric winch which serves many purposes; a long wire leading through fair leads, often out of sight of the winch-man, is capable of hauling out the largest of yachts. This yard is responsible for the very fine West Solent One-Design boats, a large fleet of which race regularly

in the Solent throughout the season. Their cabin accommodation making them more than a racing yacht.

Moorings are unfortunately scarce at Lymington; the Berthon Boat Co. have a few on their frontage, and they have staiths and quays alongside which yachts can lie; but for yachts left for a week or so, berths in soft mud are found, the boats being laid off again ready for the return of their owners.

Mr Dan Brand who builds small boats is also available for repairs and caretaking of yachts. He is to be found near the yacht club where there are moorings laid at the edge of the channel. If moored or anchored in the river, care should be taken to lay-out an anchor and line to the shore as the suction of the ferry steamers is disturbing to yachts, especially at low tide.

The Lymington Yacht Club's premises have been recently enlarged, and the club is very progressive, giving a race for the big classes at the annual regatta, which brings all classes of yachts to Lymington

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The ketch Gráinne from the archives



White Heather and Shamrock luffing at the West Ryde Middle Buoy during Lymington Regatta