



Galway Hooker Sailing Club
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LOVEEN ON TOUR

Read all about the Loveen's Summer tour of Galway Bay and the upcoming trip to the Netherlands.

MEET THE CREW

This month's crew member in the spotlight is Conor Pokall.



SAIL TRAINING

Galway Hooker Sailing Club has now been designated a Sail Training Centre, with details in the article following.

A SUMMER OF SAILING

with Ciarán Oliver

Well, despite fairly changeable weather, there has been lots going on the past couple of weeks. We had our annual Irish Sailing inspection and well done to all the crew who were involved in getting all the paperwork, boats and safety equipment all ready and lined up for inspection.

We'll also be looking forward to seeing the Loveen take her place among all the other traditional boats in the Netherlands. It was great to do our 'tour of Galway Bay' and meet so many people on the way. Was a real honour for some of our crew to get to sail Loveen to their home ports on the Aran Islands. Massive thanks to all the locals who helped us along the way.

Work is going mighty on Caper Beag and great to see the crew working away on that project. Can't wait to see it out on the water soon. Hopefully, we will get some more good sailing weather for the next couple of months and I hope to see you all out on the water at some point!

VISIT FROM RTE RADIO 1

This week the club, along with Galway Bay Boat Tours, hosted RTÉ Radio 1 and had the pleasure of sailing with Ray D'Arcy and Niamh onboard Lon Dubh.

Our crew came out in force and took them on a wonderful morning sail from the Claddagh. Anam Cara was also out for a sail and had Daniel Concannon from Sea Scouts on the helm doing some last minute training before setting off to the Netherlands.

The team visited the workshop and heard the Loveen story. They were extremely impressed by all we are doing and enjoyed experiencing the salty sea air that our club thrives on.



IRISH SAIL TRAINING CENTRE

Galway Hooker Sailing Club recently had an inspection from Irish Sailing. The club met all Irish Sailing standards so we are now a recognised Sail Training Centre in addition to our existing designation as a Powerboat Training Centre.

The team from Irish Sailing were very impressed with our club, in particular seeing how many people were getting out on the water and all the training that that takes place.

Well done everyone who was working behind the scenes to make it all happen.

LOVEEN TOURS THE BAY!

Over the past couple of weeks, the Loveen went on a tour of Galway Bay. The first leg of the journey was from the Claddagh to Barna.

She then sailed to Spiddal where she was tied up at the pier and much admired by local people.

A trip to Aran followed, where the Galway Bay Sailing Club were hosting the Lambs' Week festival. An overnight camp on Inis Mór was followed by a trip to Inis Óirr before returning to the Claddagh to prepare for her trip to the Netherlands.

12 crew and 3 boats were involved and all were delighted with the trip. Photos below are from the various legs.



MEET THE CREW

Introducing Conor Pokall who joined the club in August 2021 after following club activities on Facebook. Obviously, we had to ask about his surname. It turns out that his father, from Dortmund in Germany, met Conor's mother who is from Galway while holidaying in Grand Canaria. Initially, the couple lived in Germany but moved here with their three children in 1999. Young Conor had no trouble settling in as he is related to lots of Galway families. He is looking forward to developing his sailing skills this year having had a few trips on the water last season. He has also completed a Powerboating course and is interested in giving rowing a go.

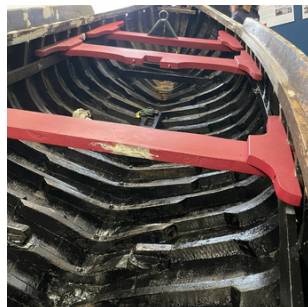


As he likes DIY projects he has got involved in the restoration of the boats, maintenance of the fleet and is helping in the design of the new club museum. He is combining his artistic and his technical skills to add visuals to the podcast Loving Old Boats.

(<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1819632/10158919>)

If you want to hear Conor speak about his extended family, club experiences and stand out moments, follow the link below.
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1819632/1076554>

KJS TUESDAYS & MORE



Our KJS sessions are continuing on Tuesday nights. Great progress has been made on the Caper Beag, with many hands making light work, see pictures above.

Additional sessions have focused on knots and safety. Claddagh Quay has been used for rigging sessions.

It's a great way for our members to get to know each other, have a cuppa and learn something along the way.

TOUR OF THE BAY



HERITAGE WEEK TALKS

National Heritage Week runs from 13th to 21st August. The dates couldn't suit the club better as on Sunday 14th people will be gathering at Claddagh Quay at 18.30 to witness the traditional blessing of the bay. This will be an excellent start to a week when we are hosting four talks, all of which demonstrate the challenges faced historically by fishermen.

Speaking at the first event are Dr John Cunningham (NUI Galway) and C oil n   hIarn in. Both will recount stories of crews lost at sea. C oil n's centres on an abandoned schooner found drifting on the east coast of Lettermullan in 1879. The boarding of the vessel by some locals had tragic consequences. John will focus on the fate of the crew of a hooker the St Patrick who, having set out from Claddagh on 13th November 1876, encountered a storm which swept them out to sea. The fishermen were dubbed The Three Shaughrauns. To find out why they were so called and what happened the crew of the schooner, come along to Claddagh Hall at 19.30 on Thurs August 18th.

On Sunday 21st August which happens to be Water Heritage Day, we will be back in the Claddagh Hall at 19.00 to host two speakers, Donncha   h Eallaithe and Dr M iche l   Fathartaigh; author of Birth of a State: The Anglo-Irish Treaty. Donncha will recall tragic events in 1917 when fishermen lost their lives due to German mining of the bay. M iche l will speak on the fishing policies implemented by the new state and their impact on the west coast. He will also speak of the events in Cleggan Bay in October 1927 when 18 fishermen from that area lost their lives in a storm.

These talks are part of the club's participation in the Galway City Council Decade of Centenaries Programme. We are grateful for the City Council funding which has enabled us to host these talks and develop a photo exhibition highlighting the hooker boats, the skills of the boat builders and the heritage of the Claddagh community.



Blessing the Claddagh Fleet - from an 1888 sketch by Charles Whympers.

ROWERS

The rowing arm of the club continues to grow with lots of members giving it a go and making the most of the nice early mornings and evenings.

A recent visit from the Dutch club RV de Krom culminated in a BBQ at the Boathouse. The club are from Woerden and hope to be along to support Loveen at Nawaka.

Food was supplied by the Wildfire Gourmet in their unique firetruck and a great evening was had by all.



LOVEEN TRAVELS TO THE NETHERLANDS



A boat's natural home is on the water but in this case Loveen, the 97 year old Galway hooker, will embark on a journey of her lifetime! Along with 40 Galway Sea Scouts, their leaders and families; she will travel via road and ferry to represent Irish traditional nautical heritage at Nawaka, the Scout International National Water Camp that's held every 4 years in the Netherlands with over 7,000 participants from all over the world.

Scouting Ireland is the largest youth-based organisation in Ireland, with 45,000 members. Once a youth member joins scout groups, they will join over one billion other scouts. Port of Galway Sea Scouts (24th Galway) is a vibrant, energetic scouting group that has youth members ranging from 6 years to 18 years. They follow an exciting programme based on the national adventure skills framework, including sailing, paddling, hill-walking, pioneering, backwoods and camping. At the heart of scouting is youth empowerment.

At the heart of this story is Loveen, a gleeiteog originally built in Galway in 1925 and gifted by the Dolan family in 2011 to become a sail training vessel for the Port of Galway Sea Scouts. But the sea scouts needed help to make her seaworthy and so the Galway Hooker Sailing Club and it's numerous volunteers came together to bring back Loveen to her former glory. In October 2021 she was launched and today you can often catch a glimpse of her sailing in the Claddagh and on Galway Bay.

This month, Loveen will join a flotilla of other national sailing vessels at Nawaka, which takes place between the 8th and 17th August. During Nawaka, Sea Scouts from all around Europe will gather in Landgoed Zeewolde (40 Km east of Amsterdam) in the Netherlands. Nawaka is a fantastic event because of the large number of participants and the scouting 'vibe' throughout. The activities in which the groups can participate make the camp an unforgettable experience.

Sea Scout groups are encouraged to bring their own national sailing vessel to the 10-day festival, so it can be part of the water-based programme, a shared learning experience & a vibrant cultural exchange for all participants. Port of Galway Sea Scouts are bringing 40 children and the Galway Hooker Loveen. 10 support crew from the Galway Hooker Sailing Club, will also attend to assist the scouts, and also use this trip as an opportunity to showcase and promote Galway's marine culture and heritage in Europe.

If you would like to bid Loveen farewell on her voyage, she will be on display in 3 locations across the city on Friday August 5th. This gives you the opportunity to come and take a photo, chat to the crew and bid fair winds:

Salthill Prom: 10.00 - 12.00

Claddagh Quay: 12.00 - 13:30

Galway Bay Seafoods: 13:30 - 15:00