

Annual report for year ended 5th April 2021

For every charity, 2020 was an exceedingly difficult year and Sailability has certainly felt the effects of Covid 19.

For those of us who love to get out on the water and be part of the thrill of sailing, it has been a disastrous year, as we have spent most of the year locked down. We had one sail with one sailor and carer that formed one bubble to see if it would be possible to manage a slightly larger event. We were unable to plan for bigger further events deeming it too be too unsafe because of the pandemic. Volunteers took the new dinghy, a Drascombe Lugger out for one shakedown sail in September before once again being locked down. The naming of the Safety Boat ceremony was cancelled.

Nevertheless, the Trustees have been busy in the background. Much of our income comes from the proceeds of our social activities, which last year were non-existent and so the Trustees have had to explore different ways of raising money. It was a group effort and between us we successfully raised money to help pay our expenses, which are there whether we sail or not. Some of the funds raised since April 2020 are as follow.

A tremendous achievement for Rye Harbour Sailability was to be awarded funds from The People's Postcode Trust. This award of £19,617.00 covered the purchase price of a second boat, a Drascombe Lugger. The Lugger with outboard arrived in September when we managed the one and only shakedown sail of the year.

The Trustees chose to raise funds through having a Christmas card professionally designed and printed. They proved to be incredibly popular. The sale of the cards with donations raised over £1,000 and with match funding from Barclays Bank Just Giving the final sum achieved was just over £1,760.00.

An application was made to the Aviva Community Fund and the charity was delighted to be awarded £700.

After a successful application to The Jempsons Foundation, another award of £200 towards vital safety equipment was achieved.

The Rye Harbour Sailability 100 Club is growing and continues to provide much needed funds. The club has 28 members raising some £840 per year for Rye Harbour Sailability.

After another successful application, the charity was awarded a grant of £500 from the Sussex Police Community Fund to go towards the cost of two Sailability sailing sessions.

Rye Harbour Sailability received an award of £1,145 from Sport England's Community Emergency Fund (CEF) to help towards the cost of insuring the boats.

Director, Byron Tomkinson, of Gemcoe Asset Management gave an extremely generous donation of £1,500 which funded the building of the charity website

www.ryeharboursailability.org

Eight Rye Harbour Sailability charity boxes have been distributed to local businesses. They will be collected in April 2021.

Rye Harbour Sailability signed up to Smile Amazon. The amount raised so far by Smile Amazon for the charity is £6.41.

An Opera Evening was planned for Saturday 19th June 2020 which has been postponed until Saturday 4th September 2021. Any other social events had to be postponed until later in the same year.

This has been a frustrating year for everyone not least for people with disabilities, their carers along with helms and crews who have not been able to get out on the water and sail

A decision was made at the end of the year not to take on the Challenger MK 3 Trimaran from the Challenger Association, albeit free of charge. It would not be feasible at this time and would add to our insurance and maintenance costs

At least 5 shakedown sails in the Drascombe Lugger are planned for the month of April 2021, to familiarise volunteers with the handling of the dinghy.

We have a small extremely hard-working core of volunteers but unfortunately have been unable to address the lack of volunteers to administer the work needed. The Trustees agreed that the charity had methodically been built into a successful Sailability charity, but that it lacked enough volunteers to guarantee a sustainable future.

Caroline Wylson
Chair Rye Harbour Sailability (RHS)