

# July - August

## 1st August



Had some land scouts and some Gravesend Sea Cadets on board for 3/4 days each at the end of July.

We managed to be around for an old gaffer's race, nothing better than sailing through a whole host of old boats, and anchored by the beach at Bradwell for a treasure hunt!



## 8th August

We scraped and antifouled Sallie, Sea-Change's pretty little Colchester smack.



*Me looking cheerful with a big roller. Picture by Richard Titchener.*

## 24th August

The last two weeks we've done one long extended trip, with various groups on board, we first made our way to Pin Mill on the Orwell, to sit Blue Mermaid down on the blocks there ready for barnacle scraping and antifouling.



*Mud larks + freshly antifouled Blue Mermaid for a backdrop.*



*Dinghy sailors disappearing into the sunset in the Walton backwaters.*

After Pin Mill we moved down to the Walton backwaters and had some fun with the toppers we brought with us,



And we had the first BBQ + bonfire of the season on the beach, sailed over there in the toppers, with the barge boat as safety boat obvs, partook of some sandy sausages and burgers, did some penny whistle practice around the bonfire, and then towed the toppers back to the barge.



I'm so glad we stopped there for a few days, I hadn't done much dinghy sailing before, and never in a dinghy on my own. It's such a different feeling to having another person there with you, you only have your own instincts and decisions to rely on. I loved it. Need to do more solo dinghy sailing in the future.



Finally, this is our friend the racing pigeon (presumably) who we christened Albert. He arrived on board as a surprise extra crew member on the way back to Maldon and became beloved by all. He was fed rice, and made a little home for himself inside the steering box. Apparently he had also been visiting other boats in the area too (so we are not so special :( ). He travelled with us all the way back to our mooring in Heybridge, and was still there when we left.

He *has* left now, so I wish you good luck and much rice for all future boat hopping, Albert.