

CAMSAIL PROGRAMME

2025 – 2026

Winter Programme for Sailors

Living In or Near Cambridge

CAMSAIL is a club which meets monthly from October to March to enjoy a wide range of illustrated talks, given by invited speakers and club members, and provides an opportunity to socialise in a nautical atmosphere (albeit in central Cambridge!).

Our meetings are on the second Wednesday evening of each month at 19.30 for 19.45. We meet in the Cambridge and County Bowling Club, Brooklands Avenue, CB2 8FG. The club is situated towards the west end of Brooklands Avenue on the north side, and parking is available there. There is a bar open before each meeting.

There is an annual subscription (to cover the cost of the venue and speakers' expenses), but those new to us are welcome to attend one meeting without charge or any commitment to join.

December 10th : Members' Evening

Camsail AGM; election of Committee for 2026; a chance to share sailing experiences and to get to know other members better (with Christmas refreshments), including reports from the Camsail trips of last season.

November 12th : Smuggling on the East Coast

Andy Beharrell: This talk looks at the golden age of smuggling on the east coast in the 17th and 18th century. It examines what was smuggled and why and considers the various highly creative methods used by the smugglers to evade capture. The various government attempts to prevent smuggling are considered and why they ultimately failed to prevent the smuggling gangs.

October 8th : The Saving of 'Varuna'

Richard Pattison: Rebuilding Varuna (an 1895 Essex smack) is the latest and ongoing project in a long line of my unusual and off beat sailing misadventures. Somehow these, and some other experiences, combined to influence the saving of a piece of local maritime heritage. From naivety of the sea to naivety of the shipyard and an introduction to shipwrighting, my often daunting journey has been as rewarding as the destination.

Our club, now in its sixteenth season, has a membership of around 50. Some of the members have or have had their own yachts, others enjoy sailing by chartering or as crew, others have sailed in the past or are simply interested in things nautical!

We organise trips during the Spring & Autumn, and try to help skippers looking for crew and vice versa.

Our club welcomes a connection with the Cruising Association (www.theca.org.uk) through their Suffolk Section. The Camsail programme is published in the C.A. quarterly magazine.

Committee (2025):

President: Peter Jones

Chairman: Jim Hibbert

Secretary: John Aylmer

Treasurer: Malcolm Dee

Member: Lotti Kuhn

Member: John Peregrine



If you would like further details, please visit our website: www.camsail.org (QR code above) or contact us at: seir@camsail.org.uk

Edward Gildea's experiences of sailing around the world powerfully connected him to the beauty of our planet. What is it like to helm during a Pacific storm? How do you cope with big waves? What is life like below decks for weeks on end? He learned, paradoxically, how very small the planet is and how delicately balanced, even if it feels powerful. He encountered whales and albatrosses and saw graveyards of bleached coral. Now overheated, our future will be determined by our oceans.

March 11th : On Icebergs and Albatrosses

keep themselves safe when sailing near large vessels.

February 11th : Harwich Pilot

Cameron Jones is a marine pilot responsible for navigating

ships in and out of Ipswich, Harwich and Felixstowe (the largest container port in the UK). During his 14 year career at sea he has worked on commercial and military vessels before taking his experience into piloting vessels. He will offer an insight into what it takes to safely navigate some of the world's largest ships and what can be done by recreational water users to keep themselves safe when sailing near large vessels.

Chris Gomersall is a professional wildlife photographer, author and tour leader, whose work has received awards in many international competitions, including once being chosen as the overall winner of European Wildlife Photographer of the Year. His travels have frequently involved photographing wildlife at sea, from sailing vessels, small cruise ships, pelagic trawlers and even fisheries protection vessels. For the last twenty years or so, he has also acted as a wildlife guide on around 50 live-aboard cruises in the Hebrides. In this presentation Chris will share with you some favourite images from his seagoing adventures.