

GXSA PROGRAMME – Spring 2026

Wednesday 7 th January	In Praise of Wooden Boats – Paul Eedle Starting wooden boat sailing only 10 years ago with the purchase of a 1907 Looe lugger “Guiding Star”, Paul then had a shipwright friend in Cornwall build him a new wooden 30ft gaff ketch “Hopeful”. He will tell us how these boats transported him to a new world. CA talk
Wednesday 14 th January	Carry On Cruising – Gilbert Park As we age, there are ways to adapt and continue to enjoy life with boats. Gilbert has been sailing for more than 50 years, making the change from sail to power. There are many valuable tips in this talk for coping with age-related physical and mental challenges. CA talk
Wednesday 21 st January	Diving Borneo – Paul Hatfield The Derawan Archipelago is a group of remote islands off the NE coast of Indonesian Borneo. Paul’s diving and underwater photography captures the beauty of the undersea world around these islands and the local life of this forgotten region.
Wednesday 28 th January	Sailing and Racing, Solitaire du Figaro 2024 – Timothy Long Tim is an exceptional young sailor. Aged 15, he sailed solo round Britain and then (just after his A levels!) completed his first professional offshore race in France. This led to competing in the 2024 Solitaire du Figaro race - all before starting his BA at Kings College London.
Wednesday 4 th February	Parents at War – David Bickerton David has learned about his parents’ WW2 experiences from many letters between them. His father was crew on HMS Dorsetshire, involved in the pursuit and sinking of the Bismark, and he later commanded a minesweeper. His mother tracked enemy aircraft in the war.
Wednesday 11 th February	Ghost Fishing in the UK – Richard Walker Since 2015 our highly trained divers have been safely removing ghost fishing gear with minimal environmental impact, helping to restore ocean health. We work closely with the fishing community to promote sustainable practices, cooperating to protect our seas.
Wednesday 18 th February	Titanic Effort! Carpathia’s Dash to Save a Stricken Liner – Paul Barnett Paul has interesting and surprising insights into the heroic dash of the RMS Carpathia, which saved 712 passengers from the sinking Titanic. He exposes several myths that have become attached to this most tragic maritime disaster of our sea-faring nation.
Wednesday 25 th February	Cruising and Over Wintering in Albania – Cath Bruzzone CA member Cath Bruzzone will share the experience of arriving and spending several weeks in Albania on their X-Yacht 40, leaving her in the country’s only marina over the winter of 2024. She then sailed from south to north in May 2025, before checking out to Montenegro.
Wednesday 4 th March	From Power to Pleasure – Colin Wilson Europe’s Waterways, then and now; from the Hanseatic merchants to modern leisure cruising, Europe’s waterways have a remarkable story to tell. Discover how these historic routes still connect sailors with landscapes, culture and quiet adventure.
Wednesday 11 th March	Annual General Meeting AGM with a review of the year’s activities and discussion of GXSA strategy: also a briefing on plans for the GXSA Annual Dinner, Summer Rallies, Events and next season’s programme.

Programme may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

The talks will be delivered in Colston Hall.

See www.gxsa.org.uk/programme for details.

Talks are free to GXSA members, Visitors £5 (£4 for CA members)

Autumn 2026 talks will begin on Wednesday 7th October 2026

