

# The 'Jolie Brise'

## 3rd February 2022 - Memorial Hall

Toby Marris, Hamble resident and skipper of the 'Jolie Brise', told the fascinating story of this 100+ year old sailing boat that is based at Hamble. It is arguably one of the most famous tall ships in the world. The 'Jolie Brise' is owned by the Dauntsey's School and she has taken up to twelve students for local and international cruising, as well as racing events since 1977.

'Jolie Brise' was built in Le Havre in 1913 as a gaff rigged pilot cutter, designed to be a fast-sailing boat, so she could get to the ships first to gain the job. She is 74ft overall length (56ft on deck), 15ft beam and 10ft draft, with 2" oak planking and 5" grown frames. After a short career as a pilot boat, owing to steam replacing sail, she became a fishing boat.

After the First World War she was brought to this country by E G Martin to be used for racing and he wanted to develop offshore racing. He was a founder member of the Ocean Racing Club, now the RORC. She won the Fastnet race three times including the first race in 1925. In 1926, she made a double trans-Atlantic crossing including being fifth in the Bermuda Race and she was awarded a Blue Water Medal. In 1932 the 'Jolie Brise' rescued the crew of the 'Adriana' that had caught on fire during the Bermuda Race. She was also the last boat to carry Royal Mail under sail.

Over the years she has had several owners in this country. After the Second World War she had an engine installed and spent several decades in Portugal that included taking youngsters on voyages.

Toby then explained about the Dauntsey's School and how it acquired the 'Jolie Brise' in 1977 and became its owner. She has been based on the Hamble River since 1994. He showed videos of the student activities on her and an amazing picture from her tracker displaying her voyages over a 4-year period. She has been as far north as the Arctic Circle, west to North America and south to the West African coast.

She is at sea approximately 200 days a year and during the winter months there are student working parties on the boat at Hamble to help maintain her in good condition. The boat has been used commercially or for private work when the students were not being taught on it to help cover costs, but in more recent years this has been less as it takes 15 to 25 year-olds on outreach work for other organisations.

Dauntsey's students have sailed her across the Atlantic six times and cruised Europe extensively. It is a great supporter and regular participant of the Tall Ship's race that she has won four times.

An excellent and insightful presentation given by Toby about the 'Jolie Brise' and it was very well received by everyone present.