Greetings!

This is the email you’ve been waiting for!

As the nights begin to draw in and the end of 2021 summer season gets closer, there is still one more sailing event to look forward to! This year’s VYA annual dinner is to be held on Saturday 13th November. A bit like the Olympics in that it has been twice postponed but now its third time lucky. (Maybe we should have gold medals for each attendee?)

I have pleasure in confirming the earlier invitation sent out via the Facebook Group to our annual dinner at a new venue [Mercure Bristol North, The Grange Hotel](https://www.mercurebristol.co.uk/). The price of the 3 course dinner with complimentary coffee/tea is a very reasonable £22 per head. There is a good room rate on offer, fifteen rooms have been reserved for the VYA group for the Saturday night, or there is a separate weekend deal offered by the hotel at the present time. Please see attached information sheet.

We are very fortunate to have Dianne and Graham Keating as our pre dinner speakers this year. In late 2012 they set sail from Dartmouth in Maunie of Ardwall their Vancouver 38P, crossing the Atlantic and exploring the Caribbean, before heading through the Panama Canal and on to New Zealand. Dianne and Graham spent the following 5 years sailing between New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific Islands, finally shipping Maunie back to UK in 2018. I am sure their talk will be very inspiring to those of us who dream of similar journeys.

Th VYA has been fortunate in securing a private area immediately adjacent to the dining room. This gives us an opportunity to get together in small groups after arrival on Saturday afternoon to share experiences, exchange information and ‘lessons learned’. If anyone has any particular areas that they would like help with, or have success stories that they are happy to share then it may be useful to flag this in advance so that groups could form around this.

On the booking / menu form this year, there are options for electronic replies and payments, to make response easier to manage, although the well tested method of the snail mail and cheque continues to be available for those who prefer that well tested method. The most important thing is that all correspondence and payments, electronic/digital and hard copy are clearly referenced with your name or boat name, or both.

This will be my second annual dinner, and I’m looking forward to making new friends and meeting old ones. It’s a great opportunity to learn from those with a lot more history, experience and knowledge. The VYA is a great resource and benefits enormously from an active membership, please join us and make the 2021 event the success it has been in previous years.

Regards

Wendy Hewitt-Sayer

VYA Social Secretary