

21st October 2017

DEREK SHEPPARD RIP

It is with great regret that I have to inform you that Derek Sheppard has passed away after a short illness. Derek was a Founder member of Ribble Cruising Club & a keen supporter of 'boating in the River Ribble, running the Douglas Boatyard for some 40 years .

Derek came to RCC in September last year and told us all about his 60 years before the mast. His memory of those early days was sparkling. He started on Fairhaven Lake at 30 shillings a season, He owned a 'windfall' yacht Pirrille then moved onto a converted airborne lifeboat with a sliding seat. He cruised France with Anthony Jolly, and delivered boats all over Europe. He started his boatyard in the mid 1950's down the Douglas in partnership with Fred Beardmore from Lytham. He built his own Hood 50 which he cruised extensively with his wife Joyce. What a seaman, & what a life !!!

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Joyce, and his whole family. Derek's funeral will be held at 2pm on Thursday 26th October at Tarleton Methodist Church on Church rd Tarleton PR64UP

Mike Briers (Hon Sec)