

## **Report to Felixstowe Town Council - Grant of £1,800 towards cost of Replacement Rescue Boat for TS *Landguard* Felixstowe Sea Cadets.**

Coming out of Covid Lockdown, TS *Landguard* Felixstowe Sea Cadets enjoyed a full summer season 2022 of afloat activities based at Felixstowe Ferry and several cadets enjoyed offshore deployments on vessels owned by the Sea Cadet Corps and the Scout Association. In the course of 2022 Deben-based sailing activities, it became evident that the Unit's existing rescue boat (RIB) was coming to the end of its useful life and economic compliancy with SCC regulations. An effective RIB is vital to support the Unit's afloat activities, both as a safety boat and to act as a towing / marshalling unit for the Unit's dinghies. The RIB is also a vital unit in the Power Boat training of the Cadets. Acquisition of replacement RIB was accordingly put in hand with financial help from a number of sources, including and in particular the Felixstowe Town Council, who generously gave a grant of £1,800 towards the project.

A suitable replacement Ribcraft 5.3m boat has been sourced, for which a number of modifications were required to render it fit for SCC purposes. The modifications / up-grades were primarily:

- Installation of a propeller guard (mandatory, SCC regulations);
- Replacement of the existing stern seat by a two independent seats;
- Hydraulic steering to better suit younger helmsmen; and,
- Additional safety handrails.

The up-grade work has been undertaken by Unit staff; against a budget of £5,309, an expenditure of £5,177 has been achieved with all major items purchased. The boat has already been trialled in support of a training programme for three Felixstowe and one Ipswich SCC instructional staff (in the course of which she towed in a third party boat which had drifted out to sea) and will be ready in all respects for Unit use in advance of the forthcoming afloat season, compliant in all respects with SCC regulations, with a service life of at least ten years.

The new RIB is far more environmentally friendly than the RIB it replaces insofar that with a 4-stroke engine it uses far less fuel and is quieter and cleaner to operate. The new RIB offers significantly greater onboard capacity than the boat she replaces.

TS *Landguard* has taken the initiative of extending the arm of co-operation to neighbouring SCC units who may not be so well endowed in terms of marine hardware and qualified instructional staff, to provide a training and afloat experience to other young people. Our new RIB will play a vital element in this co-operative venture.

In the course of 2022, TS *Landguard* was awarded the prestigious SCC Eastern Area Power Boat Trophy. The Trophy was presented by her worship the Mayor at a special presentation ceremony at St John's Church on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. At the ceremony, the Unit expressed its sincere thanks to the Felixstowe Town Council for their generous support to TS *Landguard*.



The newly installed pair of seats in the stern of SARA.



SARA on trials in her new operating environment, the R. Deben.