

# BERTHON

LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE X

WWW.BERTHON.CO.UK



# Contents

**FRONT COVER** : FPB 64' GREY WOLF leaving the Hen and Chicken Islands to the east of the North Auckland peninsula to begin the Long Voyage Home.

## 04 REVIEW OF THE MARKET

The yacht market is starting to recover its mojo and whilst we expect some bumps in the road, we have certainly seen a marked improvement in 2014. As the Berthon Sales Team's smiling muscles start to develop again and the world turns, results are much improved. Improving the Berthon service is a never ending voyage and investment in marketing and social media initiatives have been a key feature of this year. Sue Grant, the Sales Division's managing director writes. [www.berthon.co.uk](http://www.berthon.co.uk)

## 06 THE ODYSSEY OF GREY WOLF

It is rare to pick up a yachting magazine these days without finding an article from our good friend Tom Cunliffe, and when you do, your eyes are automatically drawn to it, because aside from the fact that it will be informative and well researched, you also know that it will be a rattling good read. Having worked with us on our GREY WOLF blog, which followed FPB 64 GREY WOLF's voyage from New Zealand to the Channel Islands, we asked him to tell you his impression of the voyage. Berthon are the European agents for the FPB range. [www.tomcunliffe.com](http://www.tomcunliffe.com)

## 12 WILD ABOUT SALAD

Garry Eveleigh is a regular contributor to the Berthon Lifestyle as his enthusiasm for all things edible outmatches even our own and his writing brings his foraging adventures to life. For Volume X he writes about foraging for wild salad and makes one want to immediately pick up a colander, a pair of scissors and a bottle of water and sally forth to find lunch. Originally an apprentice at Berthon, his skill at foraging and knowledge of the natural world all around us makes for a fabulous read. Garry offers foraging walks for The Pig at Brockenhurst; [www.thepighotel.com](http://www.thepighotel.com) and Limewood Hotel; [www.limewoodhotel.co.uk](http://www.limewoodhotel.co.uk) [www.garryeveleigh.com](http://www.garryeveleigh.com)

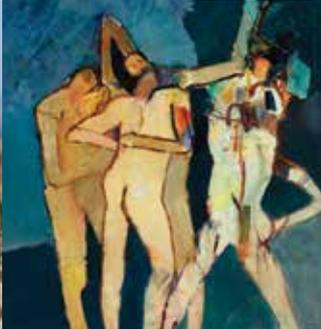
## 18 GLIDING

There are many parallels between gliding and sailing, where the best results are to be had from working with the incredible forces of nature on and above our planet. Described by some as 3 dimensional sailing, yacht surveyor Jim Pritchard explains the excitement of the sport, where once back on the ground in the Gliding club bar, all boasts regarding this gentle art are charmingly off limits. We have a lot of contact with Jim who is a well known international yacht surveyor. [www.jimpritchard.co.uk](http://www.jimpritchard.co.uk)

## 22 A PRIVATE COLLECTION

Crispin is an enthusiastic yachtsman and great friend of Berthon. As the founder of the Ancasta Group he is well known in the yachting industry and it is no surprise to us that his art collection has blossomed. Crispin was also the founder of Sport Services Group and over the years has had many successful business interests. Thanks to Peter Osborne and Gordon Samuel for providing the photos and inviting my Collection to their venue from 23rd October to the 15th November - Osborne Samuel Gallery, 23A Bruton Street, London W1J 6QG, 44 (0)20 7493 7939.

[www.osbornesamuel.com](http://www.osbornesamuel.com)



## 26 THINGS I HAVE SEEN

Tricia Kelly has been an indispensable part of the Berthon machine for the past 3 years, working as Brian May's PA. Prior to her office life, she was a divemaster and commercial diveboat captain in the USA, so we were keen for her to write about this fascinating subject and in the Pacific which is less well flipped, should we say, than many other places. Tricia will be moving part time onto the marketing team in the autumn allowing her the time to study for a post graduate degree in A&E nursing. [www.berthon.co.uk](http://www.berthon.co.uk)

## 28 IT'S A HAND-ME-DOWN, THE THOUGHTS ARE BROKEN....

The West Solent One Design RIPPLE has become an essential part of the Berthon story although her rebuild has not progressed too much this year because of the volume of clients' work going through the Big Blue sheds. Brian May updates us on her progress and the happenings at Berthon Boat Company. [www.berthon.co.uk](http://www.berthon.co.uk)

## 32 EXTREME WEATHER

Steve and Linda Dashew have been blessed with the support of the cruising community for many years, and they would like to return the favor in a small way. They have made two of their books, Mariner's Weather Handbook and Surviving the Storm, available for free as PDF files. Steve says, "If these books help a few of our fellow cruisers have a more enjoyable experience, and perhaps stay out of difficulty, we will have been amply repaid." This article demonstrates that these books are compulsory reading for yachtsmen – **You can download both books at:** <http://setsail.com/mwh.pdf> <http://setsail.com/sts.pdf>

## 36 LAND SAILING THE ECO WAY...

Liz Rolfs and Bill Peach were kind enough to allow us to photograph their lovely house and write a bit about it for Volume X. We made them pose endlessly with cups of tea and asked many questions as not only is their Eco House, Brackenhurst, a bit special but we were fascinated by what these long term Discovery 55 sailors have accomplished in working with nature rather than trying to master it. [www.brackenhurst.blog.co.uk](http://www.brackenhurst.blog.co.uk) [www.mobmat.com](http://www.mobmat.com)

## 42 TO THE SKYLINE AND BEYOND

Nicolas Perrin designs racing cars and has been involved with some of the fastest machines with wheels on the planet. A long held ambition has been to win the famous 24 Hour Le Mans endurance race competing in the LMP1H class for hybrid cars. He is funding this endeavour by private internet funding and making the car's plans available to his on-line backers for a modest fee. His car will be available to see and touch at the 20th Berthon Collection on the 15th to 17th September 2014 – or alternatively, see her on the grid at Le Mans in 2015. [www.perrin.com](http://www.perrin.com)

## 44 HUNTING USA

Bill Rudkin Jr joined the Berthon USA team in 2013 and he is a consummate yacht broker. What we didn't know when he joined us was that apart from a passion for sailing, he is also a mad keen hunter. He writes about the camaraderie and skills required, together with the positive conservation that goes hand in hand with this sport, ensuring that the extraordinary wildlife and environment is preserved for future generations. [www.berthonusa.com](http://www.berthonusa.com)

## 48 FROM EYGTENE AT BERTHON TO MIRABELLA V

Ron Holland is something of a legend in yachting, having designed some of the most important yachts on the planet during his career. His quarter tonner EYGTENE was a winning yacht which arrived at a cold and wet Berthon in 1974; it turned out winning the World Championships at Weymouth was just the beginning. A pioneer of the IOR rule, the Holland designs are many including the mighty M5 a monster sailing yacht. Ron answers some of our questions about his yacht design journey. [www.ronhollanddesign.com](http://www.ronhollanddesign.com)

## 50 PART OF THE LANDSCAPE

Simon Burvill writes for us about the awesome exterior furniture that his business Gaze Burvill creates, and the magnificent oak that it is made from. Each piece is unique, craftsman-made, and this gives it great soul and personality. Friends of Berthon, Gaze Burvill consider, as Berthon do, the apprentices that work in the business to be an essential part of the team, and important investment in the future. Find out more, and see the work, at the Gaze Burvill website. [www.gazeburvill.com](http://www.gazeburvill.com)

## 56 YACHTS, BIKES & ITALIAN BEAUTY

We have been working with Kurt Lillywhite for more years than either of us care to remember as his yachting projects have been ticked off the bucket list. The latest of this is the stunning AGLAIA, a 77 foot Rob Humphreys that Kurt will sail around the world. His other passions include unsuitable cars and motorbikes. Having ridden since a youngster he tells us about the lure of the red, fast and Italian...

## 58 BROWN IS THE NEW BLACK

Gardening offers an ever changing and fascinating challenge that grips the imagination of many of us and, like yachting, it is critical to work with the seasons and the weather to achieve for many of us, varying degrees of success. Helen Basson writes about sustainable gardening and how brown isn't nearly as dull as it may sound and how effective it can be as a theme in Mediterranean gardens in the summer. From South of France based Scape Design, regular exhibitors and winners at garden shows, including the Chelsea Flower show visit [www.scapedesign.com](http://www.scapedesign.com)

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# Land sailing the ECO way...

By Sue Grant

*Liz Rolfs and Bill Peach sailed to the Caribbean and cruised the East Coast of the USA before sailing back to the Solent aboard their Discovery 55' KALANDIA. Their next project was much more landed, having bought Brackenhurst in the New Forest. This splendid spot close to Lymington had an indifferent house in 10 acres of meadow, paddock and wood.*

Having sold a house in London whilst in the Caribbean, there was some haste to find a new address to which the removal vans could deliver and Brackenhurst with its glorious position seemed perfect and reassuringly close to the waters of the Solent. It was also quickly found – as it was only the fifth place that they viewed. ▶



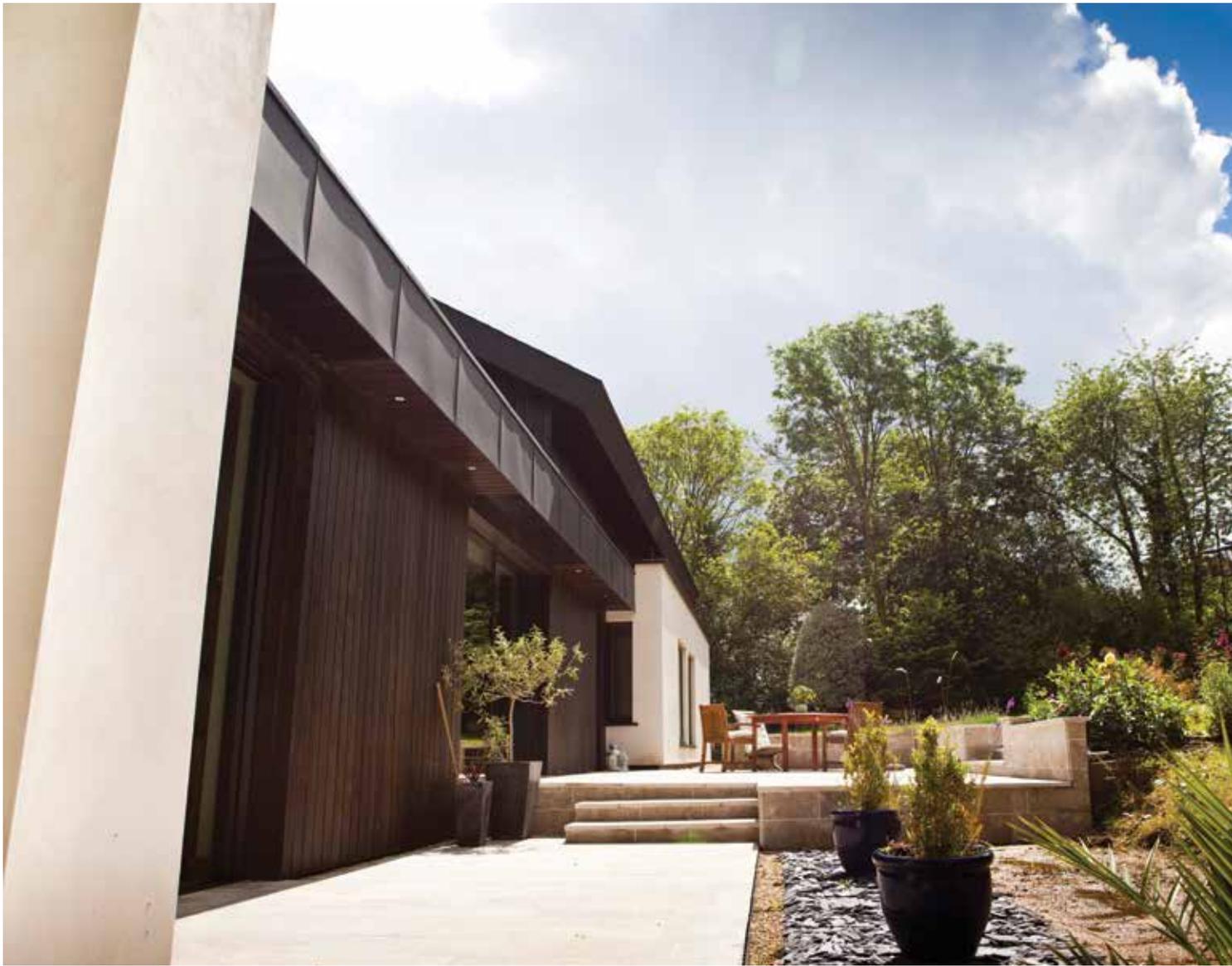
**“To have such a close involvement in the design and build of such an extraordinary 21st century house that can be part of the environment rather than just plonked in it has been the best part.”**

**FACING PAGE :**  
BRACKENHURST FROM THE MEADOW

**RIGHT :**  
LIZ AND BILL HAVING TEA ON THE TERRACE

**BELOW :**  
THE STAIRCASE IS CLAD IN NATURAL OAK





TOP : THE 2 TIERED TERRACE

BOTTOM : EDGING TO THE SEDUM ROOF

Having selected Wendy Perring as the architect who would breathe on the house, it was decided that remodelling wasn't going to do it, more drastic measures were needed and that a new house would be a better solution. Having used eco solutions in their Victorian London house, Liz and Bill were ecologically minded at the outset. This has been reinforced by their blue water cruising where the seasons mean so much more and where the importance of looking after the environment and using only what you need are prime.

Because of this, it was inevitable that the new house would be an eco house, driven by the enthusiasm not only of Liz and Bill but also by their architect and the build team. Here are some facts about Brackehurst today, which was built with the idea that it should provide as much energy sufficiency as possible.

- Built to Passivhaus standard and code for Sustainable Homes Level 5.
- Highly insulated using as many recycled materials as possible.
- Airtight building using MVHR for heat recycling.
- Solar heating for hot water with a biomass boiler for grey days.
- Photovoltaic panels.
- Reed bed sewage treatment.
- Built by locals.
- Future proofed as Liz and Bill age.
- Rainwater harvesting.
- Orientation of the house to maximize solar gain.
- Wood frame construction using I-beams with Warmcell (recycled newspaper) airtight membranes, Earthwool (recycled glass bottles and formaldehyde free binder) and fibreboard to which the through-lime render is applied.
- Welsh slates with roofing membrane.

The list goes on and apart from being a very clever house, it is tranquil and charming – a nice space – as Bill says, and all within a magical setting.

On an English summer's day and sitting on the terrace, drinking tea and looking down to the meadow beyond and back at the house with its crisp white rendered walls and reclaimed oak trim, it is totally of the place

and looks as if it gently grew into position. Of course, the reality isn't quite like that and from the start of the adventure in 2010, Liz and Bill have worked hard to create their forever house.

For them eco living is about actively engaging with the eco lifestyle and always thinking and planning to make the minimum impact possible on the environment. Part of this means that materials are sourced locally whenever possible. An eco house is not something that you can order and have delivered to you – you have to have a close involvement in the process.

During the build, both of them were involved in every stage of the process, living on site. Once the old house had disappeared, the inevitable caravan turned up which became home for longer than planned. This was home and site office with Liz dealing with all the administration including the paperwork to get the project to Code 5, and the Brackenhurst blog, whilst Bill donned wellies and hard hat, learned to drive a digger and turned labourer. The builders were carefully selected as people who were local, excited about the project and willing to cope with hands on clients who would build the house with them. A tall order, but on the whole one which worked out just fine.

As ever, there were some extremely low spots, when it must have been tough to keep going when they had given up blue ▶



ABOVE : BRACKENHURST HAZEL HURDLE



ABOVE : A NICE SPACE...

MIDDLE : THE SEDUM ROOF OUTSIDE THE STUDY

BOTTOM : THE VIEW FROM THE MASTER BEDROOM



water cruising on KALANDIA for a building site and the inevitable problems that crop up on all new builds and especially a build using such new and in many cases un-tried technologies. The concept is a simple one, but of course the solutions rarely are.

Bill remembers his absolute low spot as the time when the reed bed was being installed and he was up to his knees in mud. The weather was awful and there seemed no way that this muddy bit of land would ever have a house on it or make a home. Then there were the window manufacturers who contrived to go out of business at the critical juncture leaving Liz and Bill with a large bill – and holes in the walls of a house that they would have much preferred to be weather tight!

Another drawback that they smile about now, but which must have been heart breaking at the time, was the time and effort (and hard cash) expended on trying to achieve Code 5 – a standard to which new houses have to be built but which has now be phased out. The project failed as the ecologist who reviewed Brackenhurst couldn't find that the house had improved the environment. This was particularly

galling for Liz and Bill as so much time, money and effort had been expended to ensure that the site wasn't impacted by the build and remained intact. The Passivhaus standard of .09 was also missed by a whisker with Brackenhurst coming in at 1.2 because of the design.

On the other hand there have been massive high spots too. The rain water harvesting works like a dream and the wood, whilst hardly a money maker, has been improved and managed by Bill so that the hazel hurdles around the place are from their own hazel and they are hoping to harvest hazel for roofing thatch in the next couple of years. The meadows are charming and the paddocks to the front of the house are rented out with contented horses munching the good grass that Brackenhurst provides.

But the best thing for Liz and Bill has been the learning process. To have such a close involvement in the design and build of such an extraordinary 21st century house that can be part of the environment rather than just plonked in it has been the best part. Of course, as they live in the house and use the new technologies there is much more to learn and there will be tweaks to be made. This is an ongoing voyage and they are finessing the use of these systems every day.

For anyone thinking about building an eco house, their advice would be to be very comfortable with the architect and tradesman that you choose. They will make or break the project. They also say that you should always do your research and don't expect the experts to know all the answers as the game is changing all the time. You will only get the best out of the eco technology available if you are totally engaged and prepared to learn about what is available and how it can be applied to your project yourself.

Liz and Bill plan to do some more sailing once the Brackenhurst project is complete. The omnipresent digger is still on site and there is landscaping still to do and more ponds to dig. However, the time will come when there is time to get back out on the water. Their sailing background certainly helped them to work with nature on this project and to understand that in terms of living your life, less is very often more, particularly in terms of the way that your consumption impacts the planet.

And are they pleased that they did it? Absolutely, whilst it was not either a cheap or maybe fiscally sensible project they now have a totally unique and incredible home – or as Bill would say – a nice space...



ABOVE : THE SITTING ROOM - THE WINDOW LOOKS OUT OVER THE MEADOW TO THE REED BED