

Over the years, we have met many friends afloat.
We have relied on them for delivery crew, companionship on cruises,
and socially.

Paul, my friend for 60 years, always there when we needed him,
Even in lousy weather antifouling, that's when you know who your real
friends are. Sailed long distances with us many times.



John H good friend and crew used to be in the Merchant Navy



Sadly John has passed away, 2021.

Val and Ken, our friends for 45+ years, Have cruised with us on the Essex and Suffolk coasts. Sadly Ken passed away in 2020.



Fred another old friend who trained with me for Yachtmaster Offshore and Ocean Certificates.



Sadly Fred is no longer with us.

Doug friends for many years, cruised in company many times with his “A La Carte”



Sadly Doug died 2024

John O Another old friend, bought our ‘Big Hilda’ after we had her for 10 years, she became ‘Polyphon’ and he kept her for over 30 years!



Andrew previous owner of 'Sunseeker' we became friends and he sailed to Denmark with us



Tony taught me to sail, friend since the early 60s
Here helping to bring 'Sunseeker' back from Denmark



John and Kirsten bought 'Freya' a boat somewhat similar to 'Essex Girl'
We became firm friends, now living in France



'Freya' - she was kept in Holland for several years



Ole my old Danish friend of 60 years, sails in the Limfjord and came to England on 'Big Hilda' in 1985



Jon crewed often in the past, a very good helmsman
Friend for almost 50 years



Kees and Hiltje Van der Rest



I have known Kees for several years, but we have never actually met!

He runs a clever website www.vaartips.nl

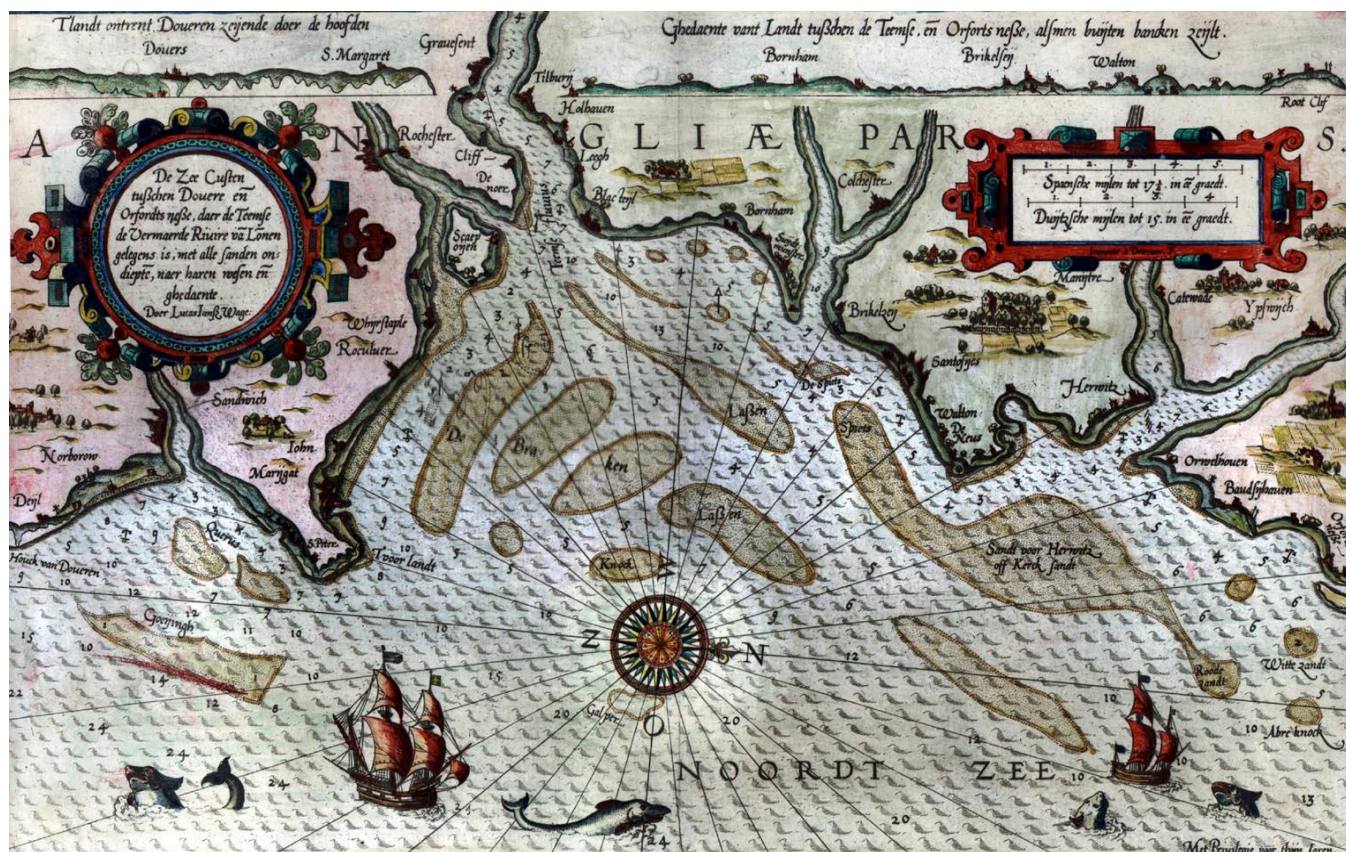
He has helped us several times, sending fittings for the boat that are not available in the UK. I hope that we will meet in person one day.

Kees' last boat 'Iduna'



To all these people we offer our sincere thanks for enabling us to have such a safe and varied cruising life!

To end this nostalgic page, I bought this chart in our auction many years ago. It is a reproduction of one made by a Dutch cartographer in the 17th century, it is The Thames estuary West is to the top of the map, and Harwich is called "Herwitz"



Last of all -



Believe me, my young friend, there is NOTHING—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats...In or out of 'em, it doesn't matter. Nothing seems really to matter, that's the charm of it. Whether you get away, or whether you don't; whether you arrive at your destination or whether you reach somewhere else, or whether you never get anywhere at all, you're always busy, and you never do anything in particular; and when you've done it there's always something else to do, and you can do it if you like, but you'd much better not. Look here! If you've really nothing else on hand this morning, supposing we drop down the river together, and have a long day of it? ~ from "The Wind in the Willows" by Kenneth Grahame, illustration by E.H. Shepard.