

“The Naburn Gun-powder Plot”

It was a pleasure to see Liz Playford with her son Nigel and daughter Vanda at the Club’s 75th Anniversary Dinner in December 2013. Those fortunate to share their table were treated to some great reminiscences of the Club in years past but none more so than the tale of “*The Naburn Gun-powder Plot*”. Many years ago the Club used a “real” signalling canon to start and finish races, requiring small charges of gun-powder, stored in the Clubhouse. While the adults were on the water racing, the kids had free run of not only the Clubhouse but, with Commander Palmes blessing, also of Naburn Hall, climbing in through the windows and having adventures in the woods.

One such day, the inquisitive kids found a box of little packets of grey powder and quickly realised it was gun-powder for the canon. Making off into the woods, they opened them and created a pile ready to make one big bang. Unfortunately it was rather windy so the gun-powder was tending to blow away. This was overcome by young Miss Vanda Playford standing over the growing pile and sheltering it from the wind. The moment came when a match was put to it with the ensuing **BANG** being rather bigger and louder than any of the kids had bargained for, particularly Vanda! With Mum & Dad now hastily coming off the water, they found their daughter with singed eyebrows and a very red face but fortunately nothing worse! The Club’s history shows that the canon was replaced by a bell because of noise complaints. Could it be that it was also because of anxious parents not wishing to see their kids blow themselves up in a second Naburn Gun-powder Plot!



Geoff Playford (YOSC Commodore 1974 & 1975) and Liz about to make the presentation of the 1974 Naburn Paddle (*Photos: Robin*



The YOSC canon and firing position!