



## The man who wrote the Solent!

The influences, life and boats of

## Nevil Shute

# 8th November 2023 1900hrs

From the mid 1920s right up to his death in 1960, Nevil Shute would feature the Solent, cruising and the Hamble in many of his iconic books. His novels range from the wartime classic 'Requiem for a Wren' to the wonderful tale of dogged determination that was 'A Town like Alice', whilst in today's times of uncertainty his apocalyptic vision of a post nuclear world in 'On the Beach' seems all too real.

This will very much be a 'home fixture for Dougal Henshall, as he is happy to describe himself as a local lad who was born and grew up around Hamble. He has spent the rest of his life sailing just about anything that would float, from the smallest of dinghies, through multihulls and on up into yachts. After a successful career at all levels in the sport, he started writing on the history of dinghy development for the yachting media and he is now a regular contributor for Yachts and Yachting.com as well as running a monthly column in All at Sea. He has three successful books to his name, on the Contender, Merlin Rocket and 505 but is now happiest aboard his classic Fairey powerboat. Amongst his claims to fame he rates being ejected from the bar at the Royal Southern following a boisterous celebration after winning on the river in a Merlin as one of his high (or low ) points,



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