

Welsh Shrimper Week by Roy Harper

Seven Shrimpers gathered at Neyland Marina on Sat. 4th. August, two local boats, four trailed, and one sailed round from North Pembrokeshire: after a shake down sail to a charming old pub at Angle, four miles down the haven, we met up at the Jolly Sailor for supper, three boats taking advantage of their pontoon to moor alongside.

This was the start of a truly excellent week of Shrimpering. We had a cracking 12 mile race starting and finishing at Neyland, and sailing around Thorn Island and Stack Rock in either sequence or direction! This was won handsomely by Trevor Thomas in Barnacle. We sailed gently up the various rivers on the evening flood tides, seldom seeing another sail “neither pulling nor furled” as Trevor so eloquently put it. Then having enjoyed the hospitality of the various riverside inns, some boats returned to the Marina others picked up moorings and spent the night on board in quiet tree lined creeks.

The weather, though not hot and sunny, was kind to us with brisk winds; too brisk to venture beyond St. Anne’s Head, although Barnacle and Gwendoline managed to sail to Skomer on the Friday. It rained and blew a mini gale on the one day we had set aside for shore based activities!, and we had a few drops during the communal barbecue on Wednesday, which was a huge success.

The week came to an end all too soon, with a really good supper at the Ferryside Inn followed by impromptu entertainment by the crews. The Muffin Tiller Trophy was awarded to Trevor, and my wife Eleanor and I were touched to be presented with a bottle of bubbly for organising things.

Perhaps my fondest memory of the week was when we were ghosting up the river towards Carew Castle, when, from 50 yards astern I heard Ted Palmer, in Kittiwake, remark “Lady Eleanor is looking good for her age”. This was followed a few moments later, with “which came first, your boat, or your wife?” That typified the wonderful camaraderie of the week.

The participants were:-

No. 93	Lady Eleanor	Roy & Eleanor Harper
No. 171	Sula Sula	Paul & Anita Rich
No. 520	Kittiwake	Ted Palmer & Robert Antipoff.
No. 649	Barnacle	Trevor Thomas
No. 753	Tugwood.	Brian Meopham & crew
No. 823	Gwendoline	Bryn, June & George Bird
No. 849	Clementine	Barry & Carol Mellor

Next year I would like to organise the Welsh Week in IRELAND! Any takers? I’ve been across to recce and Waterford is an ideal cruising ground for Shrimpers. Dunmore East would be my choice for a base, it is one hours drive from Rosslare, and the ferry leaves Swansea, Pembroke Dock, or Fishguard, Telephone me on 01239 820132 if you would like to be kept informed of developments.