

## Shrimper Second Week in Denmark - Gillie Whittle

Following on from the first week in Denmark, *Bumble Chugger* had a memorable second week following the advertised programme (in reverse). Seven boats left Lyo on Friday 19th June heading for Høruphaven on the island of Als 33 miles across the Lille Bælt. It was an unpleasant six-hour crossing with periods of sun interspersed with squalls gusting up to Force 7. It was a relief when we turned into the fjord leading to Høruphaven, where good surfing waves marched up the inlet and we recorded 7.7 knots. Wendy and Ian Walker (*Clover Four – 819*) did not fare so well - they had managed to sail the whole way without using their engine, but it took 11 hours. They arrived very cold and wet: whisky and mugs of tea helped revive them!



Saturday morning was much calmer and all but Trevor Thomas and Howard, who sailed to Sønderborg, decided to have a rest day. Seven of us enjoyed a relaxing walk along the water's edge followed by tea and flapjacks on *Bumble Chugger*. Later 12 squeezed aboard for drinks and nibbles. Shrimpers 710 and 725 decided to return to Søby the next day and then there were four.... The

rest of us wanted to explore the west coast of Als so at 10 o'clock Sunday morning, Shrimpers 124, 730 and 819 and Crabber 45 set off tacking up Høruphaven Sund. The wind turned cold from the north. We arrived at Sønderborg Marina in time for lunch and then took a beautiful landscaped path along the water into the town. Claud hit upon the idea that as it was fathers' day,



the mums should take the fathers out for a meal as a treat! So after exploring the town, we ended our day at a very good steak house.

Monday - a quite beautiful morning - very still and a clear blue sky. We were through the bascule bridge at its 10 o'clock opening, to sail and drift in very light winds up the Als Sund.

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A stop for lunch in a sandy bay, basking in the hot sun, and then into Augustenborg Fjord. This led us to the havn down a long, narrow channel lined with fine trees and parkland on one side, and farms, poppy fields and llamas on the other. Drinks aboard *Scalawag* rounded off a very relaxed day. Tuesday, Midsummer's Day, followed a similar pattern heading northwards but with a fresher wind. Often there were amazing banks of clouds all round us - dark grey slow clouds with fluffy white cumulus superimposed on them and dark, threatening scudding clouds with ragged, frayed, wispy edges beneath. Once into Dyvig Marina we enjoyed drinks on *Clover Four* before joining the steady flow of people wending their way up the hill above the harbour where there was a large bonfire with a fine witch on top. Our celebrations sounded very similar to those on Drejø, with songs and speeches and beer flowing.



We had to cross the 33 miles back to Fyn on Wednesday and conditions in the morning proved to be ideal. The sun was out and the waves sparkled and danced as we made a good 5 - 6 knots across to the delightful little harbour at Faldsled, passing John de Kanter on his way out heading for Fåborg.



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We rounded off our week with a tense, competitive game of boules, won by Wendy and Ian by a whisker over Diana and Carlos. We had a fair wind back to Fåborg on Thursday and after a few hiccoughs got all the boats safely out of the water. All, that is, except *Peewit* - we saw Peter Blythe and Peter Lincoln sailing off towards a big, black cloud, starting their own separate adventure! We finished off our memorable two weeks in Denmark with an excellent Thai dinner organised by Freddie Glorie.



**Gillie Whittle** – *Bumble Chugger* (124)

