



## POOLE SHRIMPERS

Dear all,

Well, it's not often that I have to dig out the GPS and set it up on the washboard, and certainly never just for a sail in the harbour. However last Sunday I actually had to get a chart out and start navigating. The reason of course was that I was determined to reach the rendezvous for the Shrimper Raft-up at lunchtime, but was frustrated by thick fog. Nevertheless, in the event and with the sails hoisted we had a good sail through the harbour and up to Shipstal Point. Interesting to see tan gaff sails appear from all directions out of the gloom. The 15 Shrimpers that eventually found the anchorage and rafted up, were soon rewarded as the fog cleared and the sun shone. These gatherings at anchor (and yes, we did have at least 4 anchors down) are a really good social occasion. It also keeps you fit clambering from one end of the raft to the other in order to have a chat with old friends. Many thanks to Paul and Cynthia (764 Ruth) for sending the box of chocolates up and down the raft to keep up the crews spirits.

On the following day we had another 14 boats turn out for the run to Chapmans Pool. It started out well enough, with no wind and a motor out past the chain ferry. Off Shell Bay we found a zephyr, so off with engines. This then became a light breeze from the south west, a decent wind by the end of the Training Bank, and by the time we were entering the Old Harry overfalls we all wished we had put 2 reefs in the main. The seas had really kicked up into a nasty chop and at that point several boats decided that Studland looked more welcoming. On went the fleet across Swanage Bay, but as we approached Peveril Ledge it was decision time. After a quick chat on

the VHF several of the remainder diverted into Swanage, where we anchored for an early lunch. However, 88 Humpol, 520 Kittiwake, 552 Cordon Bleu, and 815 Triplet, gamely headed west. Naturally, of course, as soon as we had settled down off Swanage, the wind died completely. So at least 4 intrepid Shrimpers reached Chapmans Pool to show it could be done and enjoyed a picnic lunch in a fairly calm anchorage. I believe however, that they had to motor back as far as Anvil Point before finding any wind. Well done!

### **CHRISTCHURCH TRIP with supper and overnight stay - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

We have our annual trip to Christchurch Sailing Club planned for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July. Christchurch S C is a most delightful venue, sitting as it does at the confluence of the Rivers Avon and Stour, in the shadow of Christchurch Priory. Shrimpers have visited the club for many years, but looking at the CSC website we are honoured, as the club appears only to have allowed 5 visits this year from other clubs. As in previous years we shall moor alongside the club's pontoon berths and the club will be providing us with supper. The club is easily accessible by car, so if you need to sleep at home in preference to being on board, it's easy to arrange. It also means that if we have to cancel the sail owing to bad weather, we can still drive over and enjoy the supper.

For the sail over from Poole, it is best to arrive off Christchurch Entrance no later than 1630 hrs. However a favourable east-going tide runs from 1115 hrs so you may wish to depart Poole Harbour Entrance at about that time when the tidal stream by the chain ferry will be slack, but as it is neap tides Poole entrance shouldn't be too bad if you decide on a later departure. Don't forget to keep in the buoyed channel through Christchurch Harbour and up to the club. For the return journey on Sunday morning, there will be a west-going tide running across Poole Bay until just after 1130 hrs when it will be slack for an hour. The tide will be flooding back in at

Poole Harbour Entrance from midday onwards. However, don't forget that it takes almost an hour to motor from Christchurch S C to the sea.

The club caterer will obviously need to know the number of people attending for supper and the steward will need to know the number of boats arriving. If you're coming by car there is a large car park nearby. I will therefore need to know the numbers attending by **no later than midday on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June**. It would be great if we have a good turn out for this popular event.

**WEST SOLENT MINI CRUISE -  
Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> July**

The great spin-off from having a Christchurch trip in the calendar, is that it is easy to tag on a few days of sailing in the West Solent, visiting the usual Shrimper haunts of Yarmouth, Keyhaven, Lymington, Newtown Creek and possibly Beaulieu. A late morning departure from Christchurch should give us a smooth passage through Hurst Narrows. The arrangements are quite flexible and destinations can be finalised nearer the time, once we know how many boats will be coming along for the cruise. If you haven't sailed your Shrimper in the West Solent, now is your opportunity to do so in company of owners who know those waters. If you are interested in joining in the cruise, please let me know before the end of next week.

Yours aye,

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