

INTERNATIONAL SHRIMPER WEEK 2013

-- AN OVERVIEW --

SOLENT & CHICHESTER AREA

by Trevor Thomas Nat. & Local Area Hon. Sec.



Lymington 'cobbled' High Street



World's largest Union Jack? Cowes I.O.W.

Here in the Chichester & Solent area we are really fortunate to have so many different ports and harbours to visit all within easy reach - 3-4 hours max. We have contrasting destinations from quiet anchorages to bustling market towns.

The strong Solent tides can work in our favour so with careful passage planning it is possible to visit many different harbours within a week of cruising. The tides prompt a true 'cruise week', sailing from A to B to C etc...rather than having a central base with day excursions. Living 'onboard' is the least complicated when cruising, although B & B's could perhaps be individually pre arranged.



Where Chichester and Langstone Harbours join up. A 15 min. Walk from Northney Marina. Just enough to generate a thirst!

The broad plan will be to start and finish at Chichester Marina which is well equipped with facilities for crane launching, slipway launching, trailer and car parking and the ability to easily cope with the berthing of an estimated 60 participating Shrimpers. Chichester Marina has cafes and bars on site for that 'essential relaxation' after the rigours of launching. Chichester Yacht Club is on site and is now booked to seat the estimated 120 (max.) Skippers and crew of the participating Shrimpers for the briefing supper and prize giving dinner.



Yarmouth Harbour - in festive mood.



Portsmouth. The magnificent Spinnaker Tower by night.

After the Shrimpers are launched we have supper in the clubhouse and a comprehensive briefing about the first passage of the week -- heading West into the Solent. During the following six days we visit Cowes, Newtown Creek, Lymington, Keyhaven, Yarmouth, Beaulieu, Hamble and Portsmouth before returning to Chichester Marina. A briefing will take place every morning to confirm plans for the day.

The final Prize Giving dinner, also being hosted at Chichester Y.C. will conveniently return owners to their cars and trailers for Shrimper recovery. A second week will, as always, be a possibility for those wishing to independently explore some additional delights of Chichester, the Solent and the Isle of Wight. Some locals will almost certainly be on hand to advise or join in with further exploration.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO REGISTER?

What is required now is that any Shrimper owners interested in joining the rally email me a.s.a.p. to register. Please include Boat Name, Sail No. and names of Skipper & Crew. tjt649@btopenworld.com

At the time of writing (1st July 2012) There are already 36 confirmed registrations.

I will be requesting all those registered to complete a formal booking form (and part with some cash!) later in the year.

Important notes :-

Due to the nature of the cruise it is anticipated that all entries will complete the whole rally, not just attend for a day or two. The camaraderie of cruising in company and chatting about the shared pleasures and excitements is an important part of the week.

Space at Chichester Yacht Club is limited to 120 seated persons. Assuming 2 persons per boat our limit will be 60 Shrimpers. This figure ties in quite conveniently as it is probably the maximum number of Shrimpers that can be accommodated by the various marinas in the region.

Any Shrimpers registering after the 60 max boats total is reached will join a waiting list to be called up if any places are not taken up at the formal entry stage.



Early morning – Newtown Creek



Limit of navigation – Beaulieu River