

Apple Pie, Red Hats and the Queen

“But we have ordered fifty two apple pies!” Our leader looked embarrassed and we braced ourselves wondering how long it would take us to eat fifty two apple pies topped with lashings of yellow custard.

The next morning, after “the full English” we gazed out upon the flogging flags of Island Harbour. We consumed copious quantities of strong tea and coffee in preparation for our sail home. Then a very strange thing began to happen. Numerous elderly ladies wearing red hats and purple dresses began to appear. Two were wearing purple hats and red dresses.

One lady wearing a particularly striking fascinator upon her silvery head then announced that she was the Queen!

Wow, they must put a lot of Dutch courage in the coffee round here!

Let me explain. Fifty two of us Shrimper folk were due to dine at Island Harbour up the Medina. Adverse weather conditions resulted in the cancellation of this event. However a few local Shrimpers ventured out to make the trip anyway. Why fifty two apple pies? Because this is the Isle of Wight the cafe had to order food extra early, before the event was cancelled. We did make a valiant attempt to face the apple pies but the staff gave us such a generous first course that we could only manage to share one apple pie between twelve of us!

As for visions of red and purple, well these are the ladies of the Red Hat Brigade lead by their very own queen! They meet every week to “do something”. (If it happens to be your birthday you get to wear a purple hat!).

It only goes to show that never know what is going to happen when you go on a Shrimper outing.