

***Phyllis* 848: Far Side of the World**

We set off from Torpoint towards Fowey late in the afternoon of September 3. The wind and tide were with us and reached Fowey just before dark at about 2030. We picked up a mooring, ate dinner and went to bed as we had an early start the next day. On the way to Helford we had to make a slight detour in St Austell Bay in order to avoid a ship trailing floatation tanks behind it, which were about a quarter of a mile long. We wished any other yachts and ships good luck if they came across her in the dark!

After an uneventful trip around the Dodman in light easterly winds, we arrived at Helford at ~1800. The next day, we visited the Helford Stores hoping to pick up some bacon and cash. Unfortunately there was neither, but luckily it was a Friday and we could get cash from the mobile post office that had set up shop in the ex-church café near the Sailing Club.

The next morning, we were woken up early by boats motoring out of the Helford River, where were they off to? It dawned on us that they were trying to catch the tide to get around the Lizard. We waited until the next morning and set off. The sea was calm and the easterly wind was light, perfect.

We anchored at Mullion for the next two nights. We can recommend the generous cream tea in Mullion tea rooms. We spent the first evening deciding whether we should sail to Scilly: we'd certainly get there, but would we get back? As we could not see a westerly predicted, we decided just to sail to Penzance and back. At Penzance we tied up to a mooring buoy just off the Scillonian Quay. Since we'd reached civilization we thought we'd stock up on provisions so we inflated the tender and motored to the Penzance Sailing Club slipway, where we also managed to get water. It took a while to sail back to Mullion as the wind was easterly and light...

At Mullion we scrubbed the weed off *Phyllis* and swam to a small cove. The next day, we set off from Mullion at about midday to catch the tide back around the Lizard and beyond. All was going very well until we unexpectedly met the Black Head race. I'll make a note of that one! We spent the night in St Mawes on a visitor mooring, and as we had arrived at ~1900 and left at 0700 we missed the mooring chap so had a free stay.

For our trip back around the Dodman, we knew that it was going to blow a bit from the east (F5-6), but it was more like a F6-7. It took us 12 hours to get to Fowey: 4 hours to get to Dodman, 4 hours being stationary at Dodman (due to wind and tide) and then 4 hours to Fowey. It was very lumpy and the string holding the parrel beads broke twice near the Dodman, luckily the beads did not fall off! Only 2 boats (us and Smiling Swiss III) made it around Dodman from

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west to east that day and I am not surprised. In hindsight we should have turned around and left the boat at Falmouth. As it was very splashy I couldn't go down and get food and drink so we had to survive the whole day on a banana, cereal bar and a boiled egg each.

We spent the next 2 days in Fowey recovering, where it was lovely to meet up with Barbara Harris (*Chocolat*). When in Fowey you have to go to the Fisherman's Arms, especially when it is high water at dinner time: there's a lot of free entertainment! We had a long sail back to Torpoint on 13 September due to tide and wind again!

It's taken me a while to suggest this, but we might go around the Dodman again in 2015!

New foam for cabin cushions

We've just got back our re-filled cabin cushions from Bristol Upholstery (<http://www.bristolupholstery.co.uk/>). The foam inside 14 years old so we thought we'd treat ourselves to new foam. The cost of re-filling the cushions was ~£190. We got them filled with their 39/200 foam, if anyone is interested.



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