

## National Shrimper Week 2006

It was a massive achievement to put over 80 participating Shrimpers on the water, and an even greater achievement to shepherd them to and from the various events, the cruising, the racing, the cruise to the Helford, the cooking competition, the BBQ etc, and then get them back to their various moorings every evening. Any fears that such a number of Shrimpers would be difficult to accommodate proved to be groundless, and even in the confines of the Helford River, on the Ruan Pontoon, and at the BBQ site at Roundwood Quay, there was never a problem.

The logistics of feeding the numerous skippers and crews were executed with consummate ease, as was coping with around 180 for our final anniversary dinner at the National Maritime Museum in Falmouth. This was a memorable evening and an experience not to be missed - to sit down to dinner amongst historic small boats, such as the *James Caird*, which took Shackleton on an astonishing 800-mile journey from Elephant Island to South Georgia.

Before the dinner, the various trophies were presented by Roger Dongray – many congratulations to all the winners. John Killingsley presented one of his beautiful stained-glass Shrimper models to Mark, and he and Barry received wonderful pots from the studio of Robin Whittle (Shrimper sailor and potter extraordinary). Freddy Glorie (*Parnium IV* - 302) told us about the plans for our national week in Southern Brittany in 2007.

Finally, Ronald Langkemper (*Pintail II* - 634) presented Mark with a book on Rembrandt, and commented on the likeness between Mark and the captain of the guard (Capt Banning Cocq) in Rembrandt's famous painting *The Night Watch* in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. Can it be that they are distantly related?



Mark Osborn



Capt Banning Cocq

**Barry Mellor** *Clementine* (849)  
National Hon.Sec.



*Racing during National Shrimper Week - Photos courtesy of David Harding ([www.sailingscenes.co.uk](http://www.sailingscenes.co.uk))*





## National Shrimper Week 2006 - Fowey

At the end of our wonderful week based in Falmouth/St Mawes, a number of boats made the passage to Fowey on the Sunday morning. This required a horrendously early start, not easy after the celebrations of the night before in the Falmouth Maritime Museum! After the coastal mist cleared, we had a gentle sail along some stunning coastline, supported by substantial use of the engine. On arrival in Fowey, we were met by Bernie Wilde (*Dawn* - 889), who had come out to meet us and who guided us to our mooring on the Polruan side of the harbour.



*Bernie on his mooring in Fowey*

The next morning, we participated in a thanksgiving service for Antonie Mouthaan (*The Duchy* - 873), who had sadly died just prior to the start of our National Week, a tragedy for his family and most upsetting for everyone, as Antonie had made most of the preparations to accommodate the Shrimpers in Fowey Harbour as part of our second week. After the church service we gathered briefly at the Royal Fowey Yacht Club and then the Shrimpers formed up for a processional sail-past with Antonie's boat in the lead. The rest of the fleet passed down the harbour at one-minute intervals, with dipped ensigns.

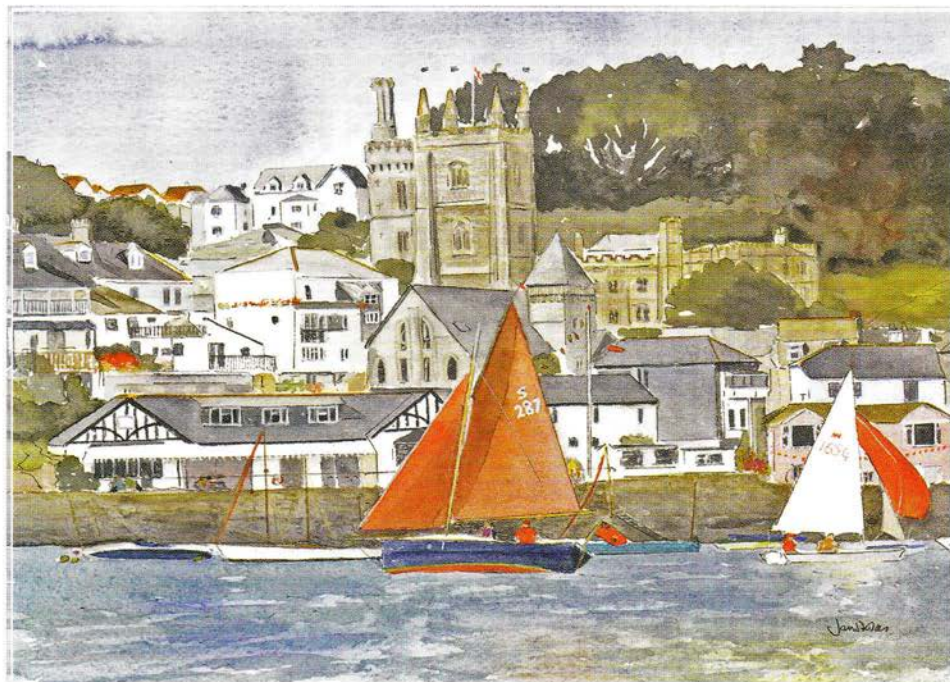


*Shrimpers preparing for the sail past*



*The Duchy leads the sail past*

During our stay in Fowey, we visited the local painter Jan Stokes, whose studio overlooks the harbour, and whose paintings of Shrimpers sell as reproductions (prints and cards). Her painting of Peter Gifford's Shrimper (*My 'andsome - 287*) is reproduced below. Jan can be contacted on [www.ConstablesStudio.com](http://www.ConstablesStudio.com).



On the Wednesday after the thanksgiving service, the fleet dispersed and most of the visiting boats made their way back to Falmouth. *Clementine* (849) stayed on in Fowey, though regrettably the weather was not much suited to sailing – no wind, showers and even thunderstorms. This gave us the opportunity to explore some of the wonderful walks around the harbour and along the coast – see page 10.

Finally, a weak ridge of high pressure arrived, giving cooler brighter conditions, and we were then able to complete the programme by sailing on to Plymouth, where we recovered the boat and set off home. Thus *Clementine* was possibly the only Shrimper on National Shrimper Week actually to complete the designated programme all the way from Falmouth to Plymouth!



## National Shrimper Week - Fowey: Wet Weather Programme

*“A fair and commodious haven, his creeks (like a young wanton lover) fold about the land with many embracing arms.”* – Richard Carew.

As recorded on the previous page, after a short stay in Fowey the Shrimper fleet dispersed and most of the visiting boats made the passage back to Falmouth. *Clementine* (849) stayed on in Fowey, giving us the opportunity to explore a number of the wonderful walks around the harbour and along the coast.

Three walks especially appealed to us:

1. Fowey, Gribben Head, Polkerris, and back to Fowey - approx 8 miles (12 km). The highlights are the coastal views and the spectacular wildflowers. This is Daphne du Maurier country, and the walk goes to the cove where Rebecca kept her sailing boat, and past Menabilly House, which was the inspiration for Maxim de Winter’s beloved Manderley. There is a very good pub for lunch in Polkerris (The Rashleigh Arms).
2. The Coastal Path from Polruan to Looe via Polperro – 11 miles (18 km). Despite the ups and downs, this is a most rewarding linear walk with constantly changing views over dramatic cliff scenery. Polperro, a traditional Cornish fishing village, is a good place for lunch and is worth visiting in its own right.
3. The famous ‘Hall Walk’ around Fowey Harbour shoreline – 4 miles (7km). An excellent way to get to see different aspects of the harbour, as it involves two ferries. Start by getting the car ferry to Bodinnick, look for the sign-posted footpath which takes you through woods and round Pont Pill to Polruan. The path crosses the head of the creek by a footbridge, where there are some charming NT cottages, and finishes in Polruan, where there is a frequent foot-passenger ferry back to Fowey.



*Shrimper moored in Polruan*

**Barry Mellor** *Clementine* (849)