

Saturday at Mylor Harbour greeted us with clear blue skies and hot sun, and after a leisurely start we set sail for the Pandora Inn at Restronguet for pre-lunch drinks. *Kittiwake* and *Clementine* had already tied up so we rafted up with them and enjoyed our drinks in the sunshine with Ted, Robert, Barry and Carol. On returning to Mylor Harbour we rafted up with *Badger* (Andrew and Tina FitzGerald), before moving on to the briefing. Mark Osborn gave us a very amusing presentation, describing the Manacles as "Nasty, Nasty Rocks!".



On Sunday we had clear blue skies for the visit to the Helford River. We spent some time in Gillam Creek at St Anthony's Church, which brought back memories of hearing organ playing echoing around the valley. We then moved to a mooring near Helford village, which provided some shelter from the gusty wind, and went ashore for an excellent dinner at the Shipwright Arms



We spent the Monday exploring the upper reaches of the Helford River up to Gweek. It is a beautiful river with a blanket of oaks growing down to the water's edge. On the way back we tied up at the Bishop's Quay on the south shore to join others picnicking and walking through the beech woods.

Back in Falmouth, the main event for Tuesday was the Cooking Competition, on the mid-river pontoon at Ruan. The first task was to get our 'oven' very hot and to mix the batter for the Yorkshire puds. The 'oven' had been Gillie's grandmother's 'Wonder Portable Oven', which was designed to be used on a gas ring. We intended to roast our beef, Yorkshire puds and parsnips in it. The roast potatoes were to be fried separately in the frying pan. The 'oven' had to be very hot to start the Yorkshire puds and things got a bit hectic in the cabin.

Bumble Chugger's Shrimper Week

A smell of singeing varnish required immediate action – this was resolved by soaking cloths in water and draping them over the woodwork in the cabin. We were then surrounded by a thick fog and the temperature continued to rise. Outside the weather got worse and worse; the rain started and the wind rose and whistled about us. The poor judges were having a damp and cold time running up and down the pontoon checking progress, then judging the final results and taking photos. A small consolation was that they were invited to a continuous stream of wine and food tasting. The results of the competition were announced the following evening, the first prize going to a 'consortium' led by Anne and Freddy Glorie – well done to them.



The weather next day had improved and we set off on an amazing Treasure Hunt compiled by Jane Bengé. She really got our grey matter going with some very tricky questions. The final clues were in St Just-in-Roseland Church and its beautiful churchyard climbing up the hill. We all anchored in the pool there – a very magical place. Having finished our clues we rowed across the pool to Lower Tregorland – Claud and Sheila Lanyon's house. They were hosting the Shrimper Fleet to a Cornish pasty lunch in their garden. They have an amazing place overlooking St Just pool, with a quite delightful garden that they have created from an overgrown wilderness.



We motored back to Ruan pontoon for an evening trip to Tresillick House. A group of Cornish folk singers serenaded us for a while, and then we split into two

groups for the dinner; one going to the Courtyard restaurant and the other to the Barn restaurant. We had another very good meal, entertained now and then by the singers and a performance of their dancing puppets - an excellent evening.

Clouds were higher on Thursday and the wind less blustery – the day of the great Anniversary Race. The fleet was split into two groups (even and odd sail numbers), and the fastest boats in each group would qualify to sail in the finals the following evening as part of the Mylor Club racing. We had an exciting race spending much of the time trying to keep ahead of *Mairi Bahn* and *Salt Horse II*. We just made it into sixth place ahead of them both. *Daisy* showed a good turn of speed and overtook all but the leader (with doggy crew, Tigger, peering over the coaming with beady eyes!).

A trip up the Percuil River was scheduled for the afternoon and we potted up the river as far as we could through pleasant woods and rolling fields, as far as a white cottage near the head of the river. We motored back to the Percuil and up to the upper end of the moorings where we had arranged to raft up with *Daisy*, *Salt Horse II* and *Quetzal* for the evening.



The next excitement was the 'engine race'. The rules seemed very complicated, but basically we were allowed to use the engine for 50% of the total time of the race. It was an extraordinary sight leaving St Mawes, with all the Shrimpers going hell for leather – sails up and engines roaring at top revs! Towards the end of the race it required careful judgement to ensure that no penalty points were added. Rob decided that he should have used more engine power earlier, but we still did well and came in 5th. The race led us up towards Roundwood Quay for the lunchtime barbecue and when we arrived, there were already over 40 boats



Bumble Chugger's Shrimper Week

anchored in the pool. Mark was buzzing around in his rib organising where boats should be moored. We rafted up against the quay wall. Already smoke was rising out over the water accompanied by good smells. Ladders had been set up on trestles to hold our barbecues – a very neat arrangement, and a large barrel of beer had been donated by the local brewery. Roy Harper gave us two mackerel (ready gutted!) that he had caught earlier that morning.

The final of the Anniversary Race was scheduled for 7 pm. The course was just one round of a triangle finishing with a short beat up to the Committee Boat line. It was an exciting race and we just managed to stay ahead of *Mairi Bahn* and *Salt Horse II*, coming in third after *Salamanda* and *Camilla*.

On Saturday morning, having moved up to the Pendennis marina in Falmouth, we enjoyed the excitement of crewing for a race in *Grace*, a Falmouth Working Boat – an amazing experience! In the evening our 25th Anniversary Dinner was held at the National Maritime Museum. We were welcomed with a glass of wine and canapés provided by Select Yachts, and a fine array of prizes were given away by Roger Dongray. John Killingsley had made another of his beautiful stained-glass Shrimper models to present to Mark, and Mark and Barry received beautiful pots that Rob had made for them. We received a very neat pietzer lighter for our 3rd position in the Anniversary Race.



We took our places with nearly two hundred people sitting beneath many famous boats and dinghies hanging from the ceiling. We were given an excellent meal and eventually the evening came to an end and good-byes were said as everyone drifted off. In spite of some poor weather the week had been quite wonderful.

Robin and Gillie Whittle *Bumble Chugger* (124)

(To read our complete log, please go to the SOA web site)