

# SW Branch Events 2016



Pontoon Party

This year's programme of events continued in July with a rally to Guernsey, organised by our Secretary John Oldham. It attracted a total of 11 yachts including three from the Solent branch. On the Friday we had what has become a tradition - the pontoon party, and I am pleased to say that this year the pontoon remained very buoyant. Saturday morning was a not too early start for the walking tour of St. Peter Port. Our guide gave us some very interesting aspects of Guernsey and its history including the German occupation during the war. She pointed out some interesting memorials that

would have been missed by the casual tourist. The tour took us along the waterfront and finished in Castle Cornet. We were treated to the interesting history of the castle, spent some time in the museum. For those who were absorbed by the exhibits in the castle there was a quick return to the boats in order to get ready for the rally dinner in Moore's Hotel. They had set the room aside for us, which was probably necessary so as not to disturb the other guests! The rally concluded on Sunday with lunch at Guernsey yacht club, which we enjoyed on the terrace as it was the fine warm day



Walking tour of Town

In August, we maintained our tradition of holding a rally in Plymouth to coincide with the National Firework competition. This year it was organized by Peter Roberts who had arranged moorings in Plymouth Yacht Haven. We had been made aware that the Solent branch Commodore had organized a cruise which included Plymouth. Peter organized berthing for them in King Point Marina, and they joined us in the Waterfront Restaurant to watch the finals of the competition on the Wednesday. Many took advantage of the tour around the Plymouth gin factory. In the programme for the rally it had been intended to sail on either around the Edystone lighthouse or cruise to Newton Ferrers for lunch. Unfortunately, with the winter blowing at force 7 to 8 there was no sailing, so everybody did



Saltram House



their own thing. We went for a walk to the hills above Jennycliff Bay and were quite surprised to see a total absence of sails in the Sound. In fact, the only vessels were the and Brittany ferry, a pilot boat and a tug. On a Friday Peter had organized a minibus to take those who had opted for the visit to Saltram House. We were duly let off the bus in Saltram, and enjoyed the morning coffee in the café. My wife and I were totally absorbed in exploring every facet of the house and did not have any time left to venture into the gardens, though we did manage to venture into the orangery for a cup of tea. Then it was all back in the bus for the journey back to the marina in order to get ready for the rally dinner. The larger bus arrived early evening to take us to the Copthorne Hotel. During the evening raffle tickets were sold for prizes some of which had been kindly donated by Pantaenius Insurance. The proceeds of the raffle were given to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

This year I again included the Isles of Scilly as a rally venue, and this was in the programme for September. I had made it very clear that again this was going to be very weather dependent. In the days preceding the intended rally date there had been a strong wind warning in force which had deterred many participants. The wind was forecast to reduce in strength, so we made our way to Saint Mary's. When we were about 5 miles off we picked up a radio signal from Carrie Maid, Roy Windebank wanted to know where the beach party was going to take place. Radio reception was very poor but I managed to tell him that he would be no a beach party and that we



would not arrive for at least another hour. When we arrived and picked up a visitors mooring, we took the dinghy across to see Roy and Lyn and discovered that they were the only other boat in the rally. We told them that the dinner had been arranged in Juliet's Garden for the following day. Roy pointed out there was a moody 376 in the bay flying an MOA burgee, and as the crew were from the Irish

Sea branch. We took the dinghy to "Georgia" and met Harry and Susan Roberts, who were quite happy to join us for the rally dinner. Harry had recently given up work and they were moving to France.

Our last event of the year was the Brixham rally in September during the same weekend as the Fishstock. This festival takes in the fish market and as well as live music, cookery demonstrations and many stalls offering tasters of local produce. Brendan Jaffa arranged special mooring rates in the marina and the rally dinner at the Berry Head Hotel. For our passage to Brixham in Flying Pig, the arrow on the top of the mast pointed to the direction we intended to travel, so we motored all the way. Fortunately, the wind did not change direction for our return

journey and we had a very enjoyable sail back to Dartmouth.

Arrangements are well in hand for our winter break in Bath in February during which we will be dispose of our mandatory AGM.



Flying Pig rounding Berry Head