

# Plymouth Rally

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Our now traditional rally to coincide with the National Fireworks competition had been arranged with new venues. Discounted berthing had been arranged, in the new King Point marina. Iain Petty, our new port officer, had done a splendid job in pre-booking specific moorings for each of the boats that were attending. We were sent a full programme of activities arranged for the rally, maps of Plymouth and the Brittany Ferries timetable (so we could avoid any conflict with them at the marina entrance).

Those approaching from the east had favourable winds but variable sea conditions. Early arrivers had mainly slight to moderate seas, but later arrivals had endured moderate to heavy seas. The pontoon party was soon underway, hosted by Iain Petty and Paul Kennedy. People made their own arrangements to view the displays of the three competitors on Tuesday evening, and most agreed that the second entry was the best for the evening.

Wednesday lunchtime saw the party of those opting for the walking tour of historic Plymouth depart for the assembly point at the tourist office. The guide was very knowledgeable and provided many interesting facts about Plymouth's origins. After an evening meal in the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club, the second evening of firework displays were viewed from the dinghy park.

The intention on Thursday had been to cruise in company out to the Eddystone light, then sail back to Kingsand and dinghy ashore for tea. In the event the visibility was so poor (not even being able to see Drake's Island from the marina), that we took the Cremyll ferry and walked to the Devonport Inn for lunch, returning by the South West coast path.

Friday's activity was a fascinating guided tour of HMS Conqueror, a nuclear powered hunter-killer submarine of the cold war era which has now been decommissioned, defuelled and does duty as a museum ship in Devonport dockyard.

The rally dinner in the magnificent Duke of Cornwall Hotel, a railway hotel dating from 1863 was a fitting end to a very enjoyable rally generously supported by Pantaenius with excellent food and service being offered by this fine establishment.

Our next rally is in Brixham and moorings have been arranged by Brendan Jaffa. Please contact him ([Brendan.Jaffa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Brendan.Jaffa@hotmail.co.uk)) to register your interest.