

**2012**

**Fitting Out Supper**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Coordinators: Geoff & Val Lucas**

A record 41 members gathered at the Osborne View for an evening of socialising and dining. The venue proved a little difficult for some to



find, but it was worth it for the company and view. Green was the theme being St Patrick's Day and everyone took to this with mixed enthusiasm as shown by the photos. In spite of the Irish theme in dress and decorations most were delighted that England beat Ireland soundly in the Six Nations.

The Supper was a good opportunity for members to meet our new Branch Captain, Kelly Lehmann, who has taken on the role with enthusiasm and for him to discuss the year's Events Calendar. A special mention was made about the forthcoming Easter Weekend at Yarmouth, The Captains Supper at Lymington on 21 April and the joint meeting with the SW Branch at Poole during the bank holiday weekend in May.

An enjoyable meal, much drinking and a chance to catch up with everyone before the start of the new season a very pleasant evening finished around 11.30pm.

Geoff Lucas

## Yarmouth Easter Rally

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Coordinators: Tony & Eleanor Redshaw



We had a very successful MOA Rally to Yarmouth. 14 yachts turned up, with Colin (boat yard owner's) help and some juggling, 12 got onto Hayles' walk-ashore pontoon, near the Yar Bridge. Having welcomed the crews and helped them tie up their boats, about 40 people came to the Pontoon Welcome Party at 6pm on Good Friday. There were spring flowers on the table, nice dips and crudities, smoked salmon and cream cheese on small blinis, quiche etc. Thanks to Debs Fensome and her friend for contributions - much appreciated.

After the warm afternoon on Friday, the weather was variable and chilly. On Saturday, we enjoyed a walk, to Freshwater and Victoria and Golden Hill Forts. Others went off on local buses to Alum Bay and The Needles Battery (NT) or went mountain biking over Tennyson Down. The local highlight of the day was the duck race - 1000 plastic ducks let loose on the ebb tide.

After the



On Easter Day, at 10:30, we held the Easter Egg Hunt, on Yarmouth Green (plenty of places to hide goodies in trees, bushes and amongst clumps of daffodils) - much enjoyed by the children; and the adults were allowed to join in to find the remaining Lindt bunnies and crème eggs. The Easter Bonnet parade followed - there were 2 judges (Heather Nichols and Diana Glyde) and 3 prizes were awarded - Best Child, Female and Male. The winners were, in order, Charlie Giles, who decorated his own crown, Debs Fensome, for a very elaborate hat that included Bunny Ears and my brother Steve Dobson, who won with a hat that sported a squawking bird on top. Tony wore Bunny Ears and a white nylon shower ball attached to his belt, as his tail, but he failed to paint on any whiskers. At 12:30, we wandered over to The Royal Solent Yacht Club, still wearing the Easter Bonnets, much to the amusement of the locals, for drinks and Easter Sunday Lunch. There is a splendid view from the bar area, over Yarmouth Pier and The Solent. Despite the extensive rebuilding programme, we were made very welcome and had a long table for 28 in the restaurant area. There was plenty of choice and the food was good.

The forecast for Easter Monday was poor - wet and windy, so some boats went home that evening. The others braved the conditions the next morning - Force 6 from the SW, 10 C and steady rain, competing in The Dixon 1 Race of the season, from Yarmouth port hand buoy to Calshot Bell North Cardinal Mark, or not. We motor-sailed through the driving rain to get back and did 10 knots over the ground, with the wind behind us and a strong spring tide in our favour underneath us, getting from the pontoon to our Gosport Marina berth in just over 2 hours - a record for us for 16 miles!

*Eleanor Redshaw (Svecia)*

## Joint Rally to Poole Harbour - Solent & South West branches

4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Coordinators: Sally Brearley (Solent) & Paul Kennedy (South West)

Around 60 MOA members and guests joined this joint rally in Poole Harbour - the first time the Solent and South West branches have come together in several years. Most arrived by water as planned. A few were defeated by boat problems or weather, but undeterred, came by car.

Saturday dawned grey and windy, and strong spring tides swept us to Poole rapidly. Times for the Dixon Race from Sconce Cardinal Mark (near Yarmouth) to Poole No 1 Bar Buoy started at 2 hours!

Poole Town Quay Marina berthed us all close together, making it easy to meet new friends and to swap stories.

The RNLI College, a stunning new facility, hosted us for the evening. Several people signed up for tours of the college, which included their training facilities and pool. A lucky few got to drive the lifeboat simulator, responding to a tanker on fire off Dover.

Then we moved on to the Slipway Bar for pre-dinner drinks hosted by Pantaenius Yacht Insurance, and a lovely dinner served in a private dining room on the second floor with fabulous 360 views over Poole Harbour.



Many had to return to their home ports on Sunday, but 4 yachts (Rum Truffle, Freebooter, Eleanora and Serpahina) all anchored off Pottery Pier on Brownsea Island. The weather cheered up for a lovely sunny afternoon walk on the island, and we enjoyed cream tea at the National Trust tearooms overlooking the entrance to Poole Harbour. Peacocks strutted their stuff and boldly chased crumbs - however the red squirrels were rather more shy and kept a discrete distance.

Drinks on Eleanora, dining on board and coffee on Seraphina finished off a relaxed day - with

views of a great sunset.

Those heading to the Solent had an early start on Monday morning and a fast passage with the tide. A one-leg beat took us from Poole No 1 Bar Buoy back through Hurst Narrows to Lee on Solent, before we had to tack. The rain did not hold off, so we arrived back wet - but after a wonderful weekend with good food, good wine and good company!

Sally Brearley.

## Midweek visit to 'Explosion' Museum of Naval Firepower, Gosport 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

Coordinators: Allan & Liz Howlett

A low turnout did not diminish the enjoyment, sailing in the Solent midweek is such a long way from the weekend thrash. A brilliant warm and sunny forecast saw us motoring from Swanwick to Gosport Marina in zero wind, perfect sailing weather according to Liz. We arrived at Premiers Marina at Gosport just after Geoff and Val on Moon Shadow on the Tuesday afternoon. Ian and Jenny on Solway Ranger were unable to get out of Bembridge and were unable to join us. We joined Geoff and Val for tea, Liz providing a tasty Almond tart. After an update and chat we all decamped back to Halyards where we enjoyed a dinner prepared by Liz, starter was a Baked Camembert cheese with a raspberry Coulee. This was followed by Spicy Spanish chicken, green beans and new potatoes. For desert we had a summer fruit tart crumble topped by squirry cream. Delicious. We retired after coffee and agreed to set out for the museum at 10.00 am.

We asked at the Marina office for directions and were given a map, this showed a 45 minute walk, however, the Millennium walkway behind Royal Clarence is only 22 minutes. Across the swinging Fonthill footbridge.

The museum accepted our assurances that we were senior citizens and allowed us in for a reduced price of £7 per head. The museum was good value, lots of interesting exhibits, some interactive, and a dressing up section for the children. The museum was situated on Priddy's hard an old fort converted to make and supply shells, and munitions for the Royal Navy for more than 300 years. We finished in the shore side restaurant lazing in the sunshine.

We returned through Royal Clarence and booked into 'G' the new restaurant located in the old Bakery, a clean modern restaurant with tables set out in front of the large ovens capable of providing 10,000 ships biscuits an hour when the fleet is in. The menu for guests did not include ships biscuits, so we booked a table for the evening.

We returned to Moon Shadow for lunch and some serious debate sorting out the woes of the world.

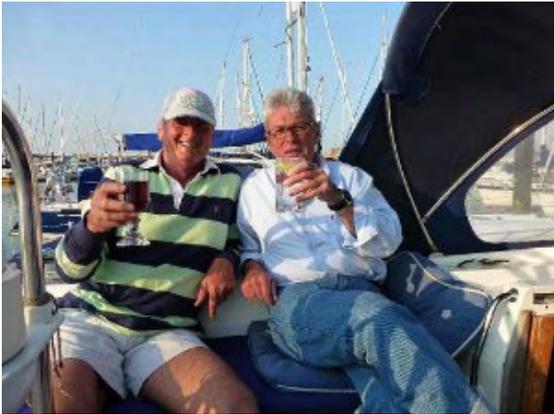


Dinner at 'G's' was enjoyable and reasonable. The choice was varied but limited, but well cooked and we were well looked after by eager waitresses. After dinner we returned to Halyards for some left over desert and coffee and off to bed. With high tide at Midday the return home was going to be against the spring tide, but the weather was fine warm and sunny with a clear sky, very light winds that failed to fill my genoa. Anyone thinking of a visit to the museum, good value very interesting with some fun first hand

accounts from some who worked in the factory during the WWII.

Our next midweek event is to Newtown Creek, and includes a visit to the Roman Town Hall, lunch at Shalfleet, and some good walks around the nature and bird reserve. Put it in your diary and let me know. 20th June 2012

Allan Howlett  
May 2012



Midweek visit to Newtown River  
19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012

Coordinators: Allan & Liz Howlett

Our most popular yet, 8 boats showing interest, all subject to the vagaries of the weather. After the weekend storms resulting in the cancellation of our Folly Bop, we expected some drop outs. We spotted a weather window and sailed out on Tuesday with the spring ebbing tide. We arrived to find all the buoys occupied and the lake packed. We had difficulty finding an anchorage with room to swing. As we waltzed around we were joined by Roy and Angela on Solar Eclipse. Arriving a little while after us Geoff and Val in Moon Shadow picked up a just vacated buoy. We joined them, soon after the buoy behind became vacant and Solar Eclipse picked it up. So we were set. Unfortunately my engine revs were down and I had to go over the side in Geoff's wet suit to clear the prop.



**Allan helping mooring**

Solar Eclipse was joined by their friends in a Halberg Rassey Lascoubla, and later Tony and Helen arrived in Nikita



**Guests on Halyards**

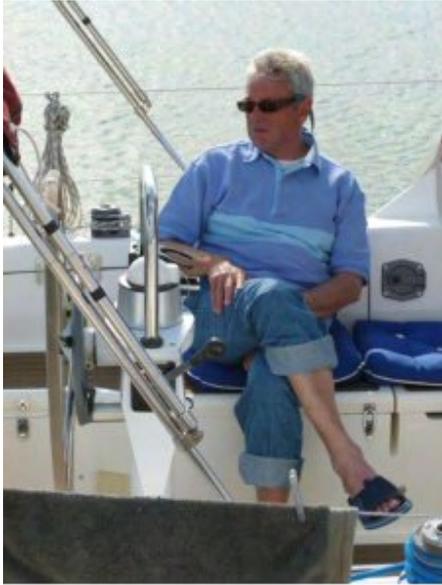
(recently joined us from MOA eastern branch) who joined Solar Eclipse on the visitors buoy. To complete the set Tim and Sue on Aruanda joined us on our buoy.



**Solar Eclipse and Nikita**



**James Bond**



***Geoff in deep thought***



***Aruanda, Halyards and Solar Eclipse***

Tuesday evening saw us all on Halyards for tea and cakes (including Liz's homemade chocolate Brownies and Cheesecake) and then on to Moon Shadow for drinks, where we were joined by Martin and Sheena on Imogen. An entertaining evening with invigorating debate on Doctors pension rights, bank loans, and the Olympics including the training regime and chances for Geoff and Val's daughter Helen, in the sailing Olympics. Then to bed.

10.00 am and we make for the salt lakes by dinghy. The weather is fine a huge difference from last year when it rained for three days. We crossed on the new footbridge passing the old salt ovens, and then over the wild protected meadow. Normally full of birds picking off the insects, but today nothing in sight. Apart from the mass of flowers in the meadow, wild oats grow brought across during a French invasion to feed their horses.



***At the hide, but they saw us coming***

hippo bones found nearby.

We returned to our dinghies and motored to Shalfleet Quay collecting Robert and Clifford Hughes from Bounder on the way, and then a short walk to the New Inn for Lunch.

We then made for the main event a visit to the Town Hall. Again closed. I have yet to see it in 12 years trying. The new museum over the road was interesting with some 10000 year old elephant and



***Closed Town Hall***

We had lunch in the garden twelve in all, good food nicely served without a wait. Again the Hughes brothers entertained us with the ditch



***Aperitifs on Moon Shadow***



***Lunch at New Inn***

crawl tales. A lunch to remember.

After lunch we had an enjoyable walk back as the wind picked up, the forecast was for strong winds and thunderstorms. No one made the

visit to the monument. Martin and Shena had to return to work, Roy and Angela, and Tim and Sue, and the Hughes brothers left us in the afternoon to avoid the forecast bad weather. Ann and Brian joined us for supper. Heather from Hornet made a late appearance in her canoe, refusing an offer of tea as she had a bad cough paddling furiously against the strong ebbing spring tide. That left 8 for Val's aperitifs, and Liz's light supper. Again a fun evening, good food and drinks and even better company.

Although the weather forecast was bad the rain and strong winds did not materialise until much later.

Although we had some rain and the wind picked up briefly overnight, Tony and Helen in Nikita and Geoff and Val in Moon Shadow left at 7.00am for a misty return to Chichester. We left it until later to catch the high tide at Swanwick, although we put the genoa up the wind died and we motored home in a nearly empty Solent, getting a brief soaking before arriving back at Swanwick.

Our most popular Midweek event so far, put Hurst Castle in your diary for July.

Allan and Liz

## Bembridge Olympics

21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2012

Coordinators: John & Patricia Eveson

On Saturday 21st July the weather was, at last kind and the sun shone for the MOA Olympics at Bembridge. This was a splendidly attended family event to which 17 yachts carried enough Moody offspring to sink a Moody 30 and for which Harken generously provided a range of their products as prizes. A programme of team games, ably led by John and Patricia Eveson was rounded off with a Tug of War event. Then we enjoyed lobsters and crab and a BBQ on the



beach.

There was even time on Sunday morning for a series of rowing races before everyone headed for home.

## Midweek visit to Hurst Castle and Keyhaven

25<sup>th</sup> July

Coordinators: Allan & Liz Howlett

What a perfect spot, a little known beauty and



*Keyhaven estuary and anchorage*



*Philip and Valerie from Perseverance  
with Tony and Helen from Nikita*

long may it remain. We had perfect weather, not a cloud in sight, and light winds, with a mirror calm estuary to enjoy. Bird life aplenty, wading, digging, fishing and arguing.

We had arranged to try the estuary just after high tide. We had checked it out and access was available 2.5 hours after low water. We arrived with Val and Geoff on Moon Shadow about an hour after high tide. Gently feeling our way in we picked up a buoy in the main Channel and rated up together. About half an hour later, Nikita came in and picked up a buoy. A little after that Philip and Valerie on Perseverance came in and anchored in the hollow behind the spit. Geoff and myself visited the boats inviting them over for evening drinks and nibbles.

As the sun set giving us a virtuoso performance as it dipped behind the yacht masts and shingle bank red streaks across the horizon foretelling a good day to come. As the tide retreated the birds came out to dine. Oystercatchers, curlew, red shanks, gulls and terns. No more than 10m away in the narrow channel. After a meal we sat and watched as the light failed retiring to



*Dusk over Keyhaven estuary*



*Castle gun ports*

our beds for a peaceful night.

We had agreed to get up early, well 9.30, to visit the castle. Although not much water about

we took the dinghies up to the ferry landing at the castle. The fort did not open to visitors until 10.30 so we walked the perimeter to study the massive stone gun ports. Huge close up and in good condition although the steel gun ports were well rusted. We arrived back at the entrance with the first ferry visitors. Paid our concessionary entrance fee and steeped inside. It is a vast network of gun emplacements, some with guns in place but most turned into exhibits.

We first ventured to the original Tudor castle, now completely surrounded by the modern castle but perfectly preserved and protected. It housed several famous prisoners during the English Civil war. Informative displays were plentiful and interesting. It was encouraging to see that so much effort had been put into



*Lighthouse from Henry VII's castle*



*Liz and Val overlooking Keyhaven estuary*

looking after one of our national treasures.

We spent some time up the tower watching a rescue in progress. Clearly a yacht had a problem with one of the crew, as both the inshore and Yarmouth lifeboat attended as well as a 4wd paramedic vehicle and a helicopter. We have yet to find out what the problem was. The yacht had been run onto the beach by a rib that had brought it in.

Back to our castle, we

explored the various exhibits, which included war time history, ship wrecks, 1979 storms that breached the shingle bank, radio rooms, various guns and equipment, complete Tudor history of the fort, and more. We could have spent more time there, but there will be a next time. If you are an English Heritage member entrance is free, but not for National Trust. We had a coffee,

and then made our way to Keyhaven for our crab sandwiches.



*Tony and Helen with anti aircraft gun*



*Allan and Liz with big gun*

We got in our dinghies and made for Keyhaven with the rising tide, about 20 minutes up river, might be a bit wet if the wind gets up, but we had a fun run weaving in and out of the moored boats and dodging sailing dinghies. At Keyhaven we found a busy yacht club with members and children rigging dinghies and taking to the water. We made our way to the Gun Inn, a friendly pub and we ordered our sandwiches and went and sat at a table under an awning.



*Geoff and Val with old cannon*



*The Needles from Hurst Point*

Sadly Philip and Valerie were unable to join us as his engine had an oil leak that he wanted an engineer to look at so he left with the last of the ebb to make Lymington for a check.

We spent a lovely couple of hours in the pub before returning to our boats. Moon Shadow had an Olympic appointment and had to get to Chichester by nightfall. We bade them farewell as they left at high tide, and a long slog back up the Solent.



*Hurst castle from inside*

We then entertained Tony and Helen to a choice of Liz's deserts and watched and listened to the birds feeding and calling in the estuary.

One problem with Keyhaven is that it is only accessible at high tide, which means planning your arrival and departure carefully. We had motor sailed from the Hamble against the tide to get in just after high water, but to get home we had to leave the estuary at

between 3 and 5 am. I set the alarm, moved the boat and anchored off the lighthouse until 10am, and had a delightful sail back in an almost empty Solent all the way back to Swanwick.

This is a delightful spot, an unexplored gem. With safe swimming inside. A tricky approach, and unhelpful tide timing. A definite for next year, and maybe with the children next time.



*Hurst point lighthouse at dawn*

Allan and Liz Howlett  
Halyards

## Chichester Harbour otherwise known as Beaulieu River

25<sup>th</sup> August

Coordinators - Kim & Joseph Sage



Whilst at anchor in Studland bay we received a text from one of the boats on the attendee list for the Nab Tower race and Chichester Harbour bank holiday weekend warning of gale force winds. So with two days to go and through emails, texts and phone calls the weekend was rearranged and a new location agreed.

Saturday morning arrived. The rain had cleared and Kairos II, Empty Sky and Ocean Strider were nicely tucked up in Beaulieu River on the mid stream visitor pontoon. After a rather muddy walk to Beaulieu village and back we gathered by the barbeques over by Bucklers Hard joined by Seraphina (by car) and enjoyed a barbeque



bathed in sunshine (really).

The boat used by Daniel Craig in Quantum of Solace.

It wasn't until after we had posed for our group photo that we noticed the sign asking to keep off the boat. Oops. No harm done though as it looked like it needed some MOA maintenance.

Has anyone got some spare time on their hands?

Unfortunately the weather forecast had put some people off joining us and Island Bound who were in Chichester Harbour decided they would stay put. We hope they all enjoyed the bank holiday weekend one way or another.



## Folly Bop

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Coordinators: Ian & Linda Campbell

Proving that neither wind nor storm can prevent Moody Owners from holding an annual trip to the Folly Inn for some good food and table top dancing, Ian and Linda Campbell's rescheduled Folly Bop went ahead in glorious sunshine.



The Moody owners gathered in shirt sleeves and good spirits... and just kept coming! With the boats rafted out to east and west, a crowded pontoon party launched the evening.



The cheerful and tolerant team at the Folly Inn welcomed the larger than expected MOA group on what turned out to be their busiest day of the season and the evening concluded with the customary dancing on the tables.

A treasure hunt on the Sunday morning occupied the "few" early risers and the fleet then headed their separate ways.

## Fareham Ditch Crawl

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October

Coordinator: Robert Hughes

Partly due to my late advert for the Fareham Ditch Crawl, we were slightly underwhelmed, but nevertheless enjoyed the sun and very light wind conditions.

Participants were:-

'The Bounder' - Moody 28 Fin Keel (1.5 m draft) - Robert Hughes and Jim Chadwick-Williams.

'Imogen' - Moody S31 Bilge Keel (1.14 m draft) - Martin and Sheena Boyce (& Izzy).



*Imogen and Bounder moored at Fareham*

We dinghied upstream against a very strong rain swollen current to Wallington and were joined in the Cob and Pen by Ken and Liz Dorey, who arrived by car. On the easy run downstream we had to lie down in our dinghies to get under one of the road bridges.



*Dinghy ride under the A27 at Fareham*

Then overnight in The Camber, alongside The Bridge Tavern .....



*Imogen and Bounder moored in Camber Dock*

.....and on Sunday over to Wootton Bridge to enjoy The Sloop and a long walk to the steam railway line.



*Imogen moored at Wootton Bridge*

Robert Hughes

## AGM and Laying Up Supper

10<sup>th</sup> November 2012

### Val and Geoff Lucas

The annual Solent Branch AGM was held at the Royal Southampton Yacht Club and as well as the usual business and the awarding of prizes we had an entertaining presentation by Sally & Ian Brearley about their adventures this year. This included taking part in Rally Portugal and then sailing on down the coast to Gibraltar.



After the AGM the Laying Up Supper was attended by 47 members and as usual the Royal Southampton did us proud and looked after us well. Tony Redshaw devised a tricky quiz, which kept us all on our toes throughout dinner and the raffle did well raising £85 for the RNLI.



A new innovation was a draw for all those who had attended events during 2012 for two sets of two tickets for a Shanty Evening on HMS Warrior (including dinner) and a complementary bottle of champagne. The winners were delighted.

Val and Geoff Lucas

## New Year's Eve at The Folly

### 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012

Coordinators: Kevin Morgan & Mary Allen

As has become almost a traditional event for the Moody Owners we saw in the New Year, 2013 at The Folly Inn on the Isle of Wight. And again, traditionally Andy and Cheryl, proprietors of the Folly laid on a splendid banquet of food for us and their almost resident DJ Danny provided vibrant music suitable for energetic dancing and welcoming in the New Year! Oh, and you will see in the photographs there was some dressing up - or cross-dressing in the case of John Sharp! The theme was cowboys but he came as a red Indian squaw, complete with nail varnish. The pictures nearly



speak for themselves?



Getting to the island was 'interesting' given the weather. The forecast for Sunday, December 30 and Monday 31 was not particularly sailing friendly. Very strong winds, force 7/8 in a westerly direction, sea state 'rough' and rain. Kevin, Brian, Jill (the Mayhews) and I on Dreamcatcher 2 set off to the island on the Sunday and stopped at the Yacht Haven in Cowes for the night. This meant we were ahead of the deteriorating weather and could guarantee getting to The Folly on the Monday.



On the morning of the Monday we set off up the Medina - in full wet weather gear. The wind was howling! The water was very choppy and we were congratulating ourselves on making the very wise decision to come across to the island on the Sunday. Upon arriving at the Folly pontoon a number of boats were already tied up and after two attempts we successfully attached ourselves to John Sharp and Julie's yacht, Buggy. It took two attempts due to the strength and direction of the wind which when gusting threw the bow to port. Suffice to say, I didn't break any nails during the tie up!

By the end of the day, 7 yachts arrived safely - not bad as 9 were booked! The two that didn't sail across instead arrived by ferry and booked themselves into hotels. Admirably, Svecia sailed to the island from Gosport in what must have been a pretty rough ride! The others had like us come across to the island on the Sunday.



On arriving at the pub we were directed to the Moody Owners designated area and Andy and his team had adorned the tables with a variety of party goodies all designed to bring out the 'child' in us all - well most of us. These goodies combined with our costumes, hats, flashing and/or glowing lights confirmed that Moody Owners are not shrinking violets but instead shameless show offs! Further, some attendees brought along their pistols and proceeded to ensure that most of us got a good soaking.

We had a good feast, not unsurprising as the selection of cold and hot food was, as ever vast. So too were the desserts - and of course all washed down with ample liquids of all sorts. Dancing was essential - especially as we got closer to the 'bewitching' chimes of Big Ben whereupon arms linked and the chants of Auld Lang Syne reverberated. Everyone felt an overwhelming, almost urgent sense of 'bring on 2013'. We did.....and have.



Boats booked for New Year's Eve:  
Dreamcatcher 2, Lady Panache, Omega, Pampero, Imogen, Buggy, Melos II, Bambola, Svecia

Mary Allen