

## Cruise in Company, 25-28 May 2018

A second May Bank Holiday in one year, and glorious weather again! Except there was still a shortage of wind when the group met in Plymouth on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May for this rally with an experimental format.

That evening 21 of us boarded a bus from Plymouth Yacht Haven for the Waterfront restaurant to decide on our cruise for the next few days and to enjoy a convivial evening together. Lisa and Geoff Thould (Motet) joined us from Mayflower Marina. Given the forecast for some electrical storms coming in from the east, we decided to head west. Peter Roberts called ahead to Falmouth Haven Marina and confirmed capacity for all of us there.

The light north-easterly wind on Saturday allowed some of us to sail a little, some 16 miles in our case (Maui 4), but progress was slow so ultimately the whole fleet of ten boats motored into Falmouth, for most of us just ahead of a rainstorm, a phenomenon we had not seen for some time!



Some of us did indeed get wet, Cariad went to her permanent mooring in Mylor (but David and Clarissa joined us by water taxi that evening and the following day), and in the wet confusion Eleanor (John Atkinson) berthed in the wrong marina in Falmouth!

David and Sue Lawford on Chancer had some drama en route. Engine and propeller problems turned out to be caused by a large, tough, plastic bag – eventually removed by divers the next morning (see photo). Their efforts at environmental cleansing became costly. Among other problems, Chancer's water pump drive failed in Fowey after the rally.

After a meeting on Maui 4 there was a general consensus to enjoy Falmouth on Sunday. Some spent time in town and on the waterfront in scorching sunshine and a few of us walked to Pendennis Castle, gate-crashing a wedding in the Castle keep, and marvelling at the big guns on display covering several centuries of warfare. Kasuku (Peter Roberts and Rob Barnfield) had to unexpectedly return early on a Roberts family errand of mercy. That same evening 16 of us had a truly excellent meal in a private room in the Chain Locker, an ancient inn just a stone's throw from the marina.

The following day in yet more hot sunshine, all boats scattered in the general direction of home: Maui 4, Mari (Dave and Angela Johnson) and Salsa (Mike and Barbara Arnold) headed for the River Yealm to extend the rally by one day. Chancer and Belle Rive (Brett and Susan Whitby-Smith) headed for Fowey; Chancer for further engine drama as mentioned above. Dreamcatcher (Kevin Morgan and Mary Allen) returned to Plymouth.



John Atkinson and crew on Eleanor did eventually make it home to Portland but had missed some of the event, John having been temporarily unwell.

As with the Fowey Rally, the response from members who have hitherto not been regular rally-goers has been excellent. I hope that they, and more besides, will join us again at our next rally, the Pantaenius Fireworks Rally in Plymouth, in early August.

Tony Wildig