

Fowey Rally, 4-7 May 2018

What a difference a year makes! This year's Fowey Rally took place over the first bank holiday weekend in glorious weather. If I'm picky, we could have done with some wind – but after the wet and cold early spring – the spring sunshine was amazing.



Eleven yachts arrived on Friday for the pontoon party laid on by Peter Roberts, with some help from the ladies. The Guacamole went down particularly well (contributed by my indispensable crew, Margaret)! Many of us then headed to the Haveners for an impromptu dinner.

The Saturday morning programme was built around a dinghy trip up the River Fowey. The upper reaches of this river are both beautiful and shallow, and we chose to tackle them in some 7

dinghies on a falling tide! The original plan had been to attempt breakfast at a pub on the River Lerryn. We churned mud up that beautiful creek then turned back before we became stranded! Some say, of course, that the late start was due to the well-known difficulty the branch captain has in getting up in the morning. I couldn't possibly comment, but I do know I was missing my cooked breakfast! Fortunately, Peter's plan B worked perfectly. After exploring up the main river as far as was prudent, and being entertained by the local seal, we back tracked to Golant village. After mooring our fleet of dinghies on the shingle and mud beach we explored this picturesque village on foot and found a gem of a pub, The Fishermans Arms where we joined four of the muster who had chosen to walk there from Fowey town. What better than to relax overlooking that beautiful river with such a superb brunch! Just a few of our group wore 'wellies' – enough that those of us who didn't could get back into our dinghies reasonably clean. Some 'in-flight' refuelling was required for those misjudging the distance but, after further mud-stirring, we all arrived safely back on our pontoon.



The water taxi trip that night to our rally dinner location will be remembered for the cigar smoke. Our pilot chain smokes the things! Fowey has two excellent Yacht Clubs, both welcoming and one more formal than the other. Fowey Gallants Yacht Club is lively, friendly and, for special occasions,

calls on an excellent chef. 24 of us sat down to a superb meal and with several of our members new to our rallies, a great opportunity to make new friends and catch up with old. It was a pity to have to leave as early as 1030pm to catch the cigar smokery back to the pontoon! The partying then continued on various boats.



It was an early start on Sunday, for some. That morning was reserved for a 'Daphne du Maurier' walking tour of Fowey. Our guide, Lynn Gould, is a Daphne du Maurier enthusiast as are, it appears, quite a few of our members! Many will know of her house, converted from an old boatyard, close to the ferry slip. Few of us realised that Daphne du Maurier was brought up in the area and that many of the landmarks and buildings of Fowey and surrounding villages feature in her books. Lynn fascinated us all with her stories during that 2 hour 'stroll' around

hilly Fowey. How many members checked their bookcases on arriving home?! The views were aided by the weather, just brilliant.

Some boats left that Sunday and most of the remainder the following morning after what had been by all accounts a most successful rally. Our thanks to Peter Roberts for organising the fun.

Tony Wildig