

The Falmouth/Malpas Rally, 14-16/9/18

The theme of fine weather this summer continued into September, although the wind was not always in the right direction! Maui 4 (M44) left Dartmouth around midday in company with Flying Pig (M35) heading for Cawsand Bay anchorage on 13th September, which for us meant significant motoring or tacking way into the evening. We motored and enjoyed a relaxing evening on Maui 4 – entertained for a while by Flying Pig's struggle to get their anchor to bite – and rewarding Pat and Eric later with an impromptu meal on Maui 4!

After another day of motoring against a moderate westerly we were welcomed by Len and Pauline Cheshire (Sweet Friday, M27) on a pristine river Truro pontoon at Tregnothan. Len was our organiser for the weekend. The pontoon was pristine because John Oldham, with arguably the most pristine boat in the MOA (Ellen Marvel, M36), spent several hours preparing it for us! There was just enough time to enjoy Pauline's welcome plate of scones before setting up tables and goodies for the traditional pontoon party that evening.

Some ten boats had gathered and some 25 or so members enjoyed a very convivial few hours. Boats had come from as close as Falmouth and as far as Burnham on Sea (Mark and Dee Cornish in Shinroc, their Eclipse 33). A surprise visitor was Usuntu, an immaculate Moody displacement hull motor boat, one of 5 Lancer 42s produced in the late 1960s. Other local Moodys also joined us on the pontoon at different times during the weekend, representing a total of 13 boats. We were again



gratified to see more members attending a rally for the first time – if only for a brief visit! Hopefully they will join more of our rallies in future.



The river Truro is beautiful. Most of us in the South West are familiar with Falmouth, but less familiar with the beauty of the rivers feeding into the anchorage. The Truro River is well worth an extended visit being hilly and wooded, like our own River Dart, and being navigable a long way up river, indeed as far as Truro if draft allows.

Following on from our experiences in Fowey earlier in the year, we gathered a brood of inflatables the next morning for a down-river expedition to Trelassick House and Gardens. It was lovely weather with a brisk sailing breeze for our one mile voyage to a convenient pontoon for ferries and visitors' tenders. Trelassick house has a commanding view down towards the Carrick Roads and Falmouth and is surrounded by exotic gardens. Once the home of the Copeland family, of Spode china fame, the house is impressive but second in attraction to its gardens with some magnificent trees, especially an immense Chinese cedar embraced by the tree-huggers in our party.



On arrival back on our pontoon we had an impromptu afternoon tea party on Maui 4, which looked like the modern day equivalent of how many people you can get into a Mini (not as many as you can in Maui!). It was lots of fun anyway!



That evening we dressed in our slightly better finery for a special dinner at the Pandora Inn up Restronguet Creek. Most of us were not equipped for the cold of that evening. Fortunately Len had arranged an old ferry boat to collect us from the pontoon and take us the 3 miles or so to the Inn. How the ferry avoided going aground as he approached the Inn's jetty, we'll never know. With local knowledge he went inside the withies,

negotiating all the anchored boats without incident – and safely back to our pontoon after dinner too! That same local knowledge would have seen the Inn's cellars full of smuggled French brandy a couple of centuries earlier! By the end of the evening we had the upper floor of the Pandora to ourselves, the noise level being a good indicator of a great evening enjoyed by all.

Most of us left the pontoon the early on Sunday, for once with a decent soldiers' breeze for those going East and a favourable tide, enough for Maui 4 to sail the 70 miles back to Dartmouth in the one day. The weather deteriorated with a named storm one day later. Happily, I know that Mark Cornish did make it home safely to Burnham – and hope to hear his story another time!

It was an outstanding rally. Our thanks go to Len Cheshire for his excellent organisation and being the perfect host.