

Torquay Rally, 13 – 15th September 2019

We planned a different element to this rally with the inclusion of the opportunity to experience 'The Mousetrap' at the Princess Theatre, Torquay on the Saturday evening. The timing of this dictated that our rally dinner had to be held on the Friday evening, in the Royal Torbay Yacht Club.

Fortunately this was another rally blessed with fine sailing weather. Six yachts participated by water, with the crews of another two yachts choosing to attend the event by road. Cariad (David and Clarissa Rymer) sailed the greatest distance, from Falmouth.



We were fortunate to be allocated excellent berths in the MDL marina in Torquay with a dedicated pontoon alongside Maui 4 for the pontoon party on arrival on Friday evening. Margaret Wildig had again raised the bar with all sorts of delicacies including the very popular 'crab boats'! All 21 of us enjoyed a very convivial start to the rally, which we unfortunately had to break up for our short walk to the Yacht Club for dinner. The Royal Torbay is a very active yacht club with superb facilities. We were provided with a private room and served an excellent dinner; attentive staff, quality food and lively discussion made for a very enjoyable evening.

Saturday morning comprised a lot of socialising between boats. Socialising can also mean tackling a problem together, such as the almost intractable problem of removing Maui 4's 25 year old autopilot steering ram. The recalcitrant ram was eventually extracted by John Oldham with help from Neil Ewins, but not without some damage to John's ribs! (Ironically, after taking the ram apart it was found to be in excellent condition – the fault is somewhere else!)



Saturday afternoon, around half the party collected at the entrance to the Kent's Cavern complex. We were given a fascinating tour of the extensive prehistoric cave system. Rediscovered in the 19th century and unblocked and excavated by Victorian archeologists, these caves have evidence of occupation for many thousands of years by both animals and early humans. There are also the usual limestone cave features which include stalactites and

stalagmites and much evidence of raging underground torrents in earlier times.



The Princess Theatre put on a performance of 'the Mousetrap' as part of a weekend of celebration of the life of Agatha Christie, who lived many years in Torquay and later in Greenway on the river Dart. This was a classic performance and the highlight of the weekend.

The weather was still beautiful on Sunday as we all left to go our separate ways. We had a splendid beat back to the River Dart on Maui 4 with a great favourable tide – and continued the partying of the weekend with dinner at our home in Kingswear for a smaller group.

Tony Wildig
Captain MOA SW Branch