

Yarmouth Rally Report

The words Bank Holiday and High Pressure are not usually seen together, but the May Yarmouth rally witnessed this strange phenomenon. Six boats ventured out to play in the sun - Elante, Speedbird, Andromeda, Staggers, Senitoa and Millie, with a gentle sail on a good tide to Harold Hayles. Christine and 'Hurricane' Haydn Chappell joined Maurice and Barbara, obviously disappointed by the forecast. Andromeda was joined by new stowaway Jim Darch who seemed to be enjoying his first experience of GCCC cruising. Ruth Gibbons and boyfriend Tom aboard parents' boat Millie were so impressed by the notion of sun/sea/convivial company/financial aid, that they are thinking of joining as stowaways themselves.

After an exhaustive attempt to sink Millie (17 on board for drinks) in the warm evening sun, we chose The Kings Head as our hostelry for the night. First class welcome and service in a quiet reserved corner, rounded off by a resounding Happy Birthday to You chorus to Carol. Definitely the pub to aim for.

Millie was the only one to stay over on the Sunday, taking advantage of the good weather to trek over Tennyson Down and view both sides of the Island coast basking in full sunshine. The rally was only marred by Andromeda being repeatedly rammed by boats trying to turn near the end of the pontoon neglecting the effects of tide (and one succeeded!).

After the inevitable thundery low (up from France yet again) early on Monday morning the clouds dispersed to give a glorious afternoon. Millie anchored for lunch at a deserted hot, sunny and idyllic East Head, and chatted to Pes Espada as they drifted by on their return from Chichester Marina.

Maybe, after two appalling years, this is the hint of the barbecue summer they promised.

Neil Gibbons, Millie.