

Recent Events

Brixham Heritage Rally, September 15th

*Penny Jolley, Brixham Heritage Regatta
Secretary*

Seventeen boats came together in Brixham for our now traditional end of season get together. OGA boats came from as far as Weir Quay, Tamar (*Periwinkle* with John Gallagher and Geoff), Salcombe (*Theta* with John Crellin and Judy), Dittisham (*Mischief* with Mike and Sue Garlick) and Dartmouth (*Syrinx* and Jeremy Croft) to complement local boats and classic yachts. Friday gave them all a good passage and a good run with the wind increasing for the later arrivals. Many of the crews foregathered on Friday evening at Brixham yacht club for drinks, supper and a comparison of summer sun tans! *Golden Vanity*, *Iris*, *Minx* and *Vigilance* welcomed all their friends back to Brixham.

It was a beautiful day for the Rally on the Saturday, Battle of Britain Day. A good breeze, light cloud cover and some sunshine gave us excellent conditions. All the boats were led out of the harbour by *Vigilance*, rounding the breakwater at 1400 for the sail in company, giving the public a marvellous show. Conditions were so good that a few boats stayed out after completing the 'formal' sail, just to enjoy being out on the water – with cuppas and cakes much in evidence.

Other boats that entered the rally were *Ros Ailither*, a gaff rigged fishing boat and lugger *Iris*, three junks: *Fly*, *Chopsticks* and *Hui Mar* (the latter two from Axmouth), *True Vine*, a local Northumberland Cobble and *Willow*, reincarnated from RNLI Boarding Boat 237 – nice to see a trailer sailor. Her owner, Simon Stretton, was extremely



Vigilance in light airs with all up photo: Mike Garlick



Vigilance with Theta and Minx in pursuit photo: Mike Garlick

impressed by the launching facilities and assistance from

harbour staff during his visit. And even smaller, *Biggles*, a Finn, romped around with us – leaving many in her wake! And one complete stranger, *Magic*, who interloped her way in and out, I suspect from Torquay – any ideas?

Our thanks to Chris Coote, Heritage Regatta chairman, for managing the sailing and to Richard Spreckley, Heritage Regatta treasurer for organising the rescue boat. Thanks to everyone who made it such a success and Torbay Harbour Authority for allowing us free mooring.

We did miss our Exmouth colleagues accompanying us but they too were out on the water with the Exmouth Champagne Challenge race arriving during the course of the afternoon. With a dinghy championship also taking place Torbay was full of boats of all sizes; it was a sight to gladden the heart of any sailor.

Brixham Yacht Club hosted us for the evening, along with the Challenge crews – definitely a tight squeeze and hot seating! The staff coped superbly, and we enjoyed an excellent buffet and a free glass of vino, courtesy of the Heritage committee. The £5 raffle for the giant bottle of whisky raised over £250 for the Heritage Regatta funds, thanks to all who supported this. I am pleased to report that the Old Gaffers were the last to leave the bar at midnight!

Just in case you've already got your 2019 diaries do put in the date of the Heritage Regatta, 25th and 26th May and the Rally on 7th September – I'm already working on the free mooring and jollifications. And let me be the first to say 'Happy Christmas'!

p.s. A mention in despatches for Mike Forwood, who having just helped Marion in *East Breeze* from the Solent across to South Brittany was unable to bring *Arriana* up to the rally as intended, drove up by car from Plymouth to join in the party.

p.p.s. Look out for our new Brixham Heritage Regatta website which is now live www.brixhamheritageregatta.uk We also have a Facebook page.



Above: Ros Ailither , below True Vine– Northumberland Cobble

Above left; Fly above right Hui Mar, below ; Chopsticks



All photos by
Mike Garlick



Above: Minx , Below: Theta , Right: Willow -ex RNLI boarding boat
Below right Periwinkle advancing on Vigilance

