

## Heritage Rally Sept 15th 2018

An excellent entry of 13 boats took to the water for a perfect Force 3 to 4 sail in bright sunshine on Saturday 15th Sept in the Brixham part of Torbay.

This was a busy weekend for the hosts, Brixham Yacht Club, with both a Topper dinghy event and the finish of the big yachts coastal race from Exmouth. However organisers Penny Jolley, Richard Spreckley and Chris Coote managed to fit everyone in.

The sailing course for Saturday afternoon, using some of the remaining free Brixham Yacht Club yacht racing marks, resulted in a course with almost perfect reaching conditions for all to follow. Entrants were asked to sail out of Brixham harbour at 14:00 for an afternoon's sail-in-company for a couple of hours. Led by big Brixham trawler **Vigilance** the fleet ranged from her 100ft+ length to the smallest 16ft dinghy **Willow**, her gaff cutter rig having been added to what was formerly an RNLI rowing boarding boat.

A great variety of traditional rigs were seen at this Rally.

Junks were out in force including the 2 masted and rather sinister looking **Fly** owned by the chairman of the Junks association.

Traditional gaff cutters and ketches included **Minx, Ros Alitha, Theta, Mishchief** and others. Local sailors Toni Knights and friends brought out their Looe lugger **Iris** and a Northumbrian fishing coble **True Vine** with a standing lug rig. Fastest boat of all was the elegant Flying Dutchman sailing dinghy **Biggles**, showing off her speed and agility (especially of the crew!) by flying her spinnaker and charging through the fleet, planing at times.

At the end of an almost perfect sailing afternoon, boats returned to their free berths on Brixham's town pontoon ready for socialising and stories of classic sailing in their part of the world. A large party took place in Brixham Yacht Club with a magnificent buffet laid on for both the Heritage sailors and the Exe Champagne Challenge yacht racers. The Heritage Rally raffled off a double sized bottle of whisky kindly donated by sponsors St Austell Brewery. The twist here was that first prize in the raffle was a packet of ginger biscuits, whilst 2nd prize was the whisky!