

Walton Pond

Fifteen boats set off from RHYC headed to the Walton Pond. We were all well prepared with a detailed berthing plan and timings for entry to manage the tortuous channel in to the pond which was prepared by Simon and Georgette, Cruise Leaders.

A 15 knots wind from astern meant a lovely sail and the fleet were grouped so there was always another yacht close by.

Several boats picked up buoys as they waited their turn to “try the channel”. Our turn came, drawing 1.7 we were one of the deeper draft boats and sure enough we “stopped” near a red mark. Jon on passing cheerfully advising us that he had run aground in the same spot the previous year! In a very short space of time everyone was in and berthed in time for lunch.

The afternoon was relaxed with different groups walking to Frinton and Walton Naze Tower before drinks on the pontoon at 6. A very sociable hour was spent before Simon sounded the horn and we headed for dinner at WFYC. It was a lovely evening with a broad spectrum of age reflecting the appeal Cruise in Company has to everyone.

A really great weekend, we were made to feel very welcome as newcomers and certainly the extra pairs of hands when we came to leave the walkway were gratefully received.

Looking forward to next season!
Kathryn Deaton





Southwold 27/29 August (as gleaned from Whats App messages)

Pre-planning was thrown into confusion due to a communications blackout with Southwold HM, but with very helpful assistance from the Southwold Sailing Club and Southwold Harbour marine services, sufficient berthing options confirmed in time for the 8 boats going. Usual extensive debate about departure times, complicated by the North Easterly winds, with skippers taking various options – Lazy Days, Kinda Blue and Panacea going for a straight motor up the coast; Tanawi, Deseo and Brazen Hussy going for a motor sail and Madicken taking the full tide hoping to get in just before low tide without using the engine. Folie Douce beaten by excess weed growth on hull and prop so had to return to base but ventured to Southwold on 4 wheels. Hog roast at the Southwold sailing Club on Saturday evening. Sunday spent in Southwold and on the beach, with a fish 'n chip (what else) supper. Early departure on Monday to make full use of tide – and the following wind making it bit of a wallowing deadrun down the coast. Dolphins spotted – Madicken crossing sand banks – flavoured antifouling (!) – comms between boats!! Everyone back in good time on one tide. Madicken taking credit for the passage planning!



Summer Cruise

The official CIC trip was scheduled to start on 30 July 2022 to visit France via Ramsgate and Dunkirk. That was plan A. However the plan morphed into more of a grand tour of the northern coast of Europe with boats joining and leaving at various points on the overall voyage taking in Holland, Belgium and France. Bluefin and Keld left for Holland immediately after the Woodbridge CIC, with Spree Three following a week later transiting in via the Hook van Holland entrance and a fleeting visit to the Royal Maas to deliver the pink cake trophy. The trio having met up in Willemstad, then proceeded to Zierkzee where they teamed up with Anusha and Kalabash for a couple of nights. Keld decided that they would be staying in Holland, so Spree Three and Bluefin sailed on to Ostend and then to Dunkirk to meet Sekhmet and Lady McG. Brazen Hussey made valiant attempts to join but a damaged Genoa off Ramsgate thwarted their efforts so they enjoyed a parallel cruise in Kent. Lady McG departed north for a brief stay in Belgium, with Sekhmet Spree Three and Bluefin heading for Boulogne. At that stage Sekhmet left for Saint Malo where she will now be based. Spree Three and Bluefin, having considered the prevailing North easterly winds, Decided to proceed north to Newport and then Blankenburg before taking advantage of the north-easterly wind to return to Harwich. So the cruise effectively lasted in one way or another for four weeks. This video speaks louder than words so please enjoy the highlights of the cruise with thanks to compilation by Heidi Seary.

To mention also that Windrush - an earlier runner who dropped out and Islay freshly back in the water with a new deck also enjoyed a parallel cruise in the Blackwater.

The anticipated issues with Border force/passports largely dissipated - with Belgium probably being the easiest to deal with. One phone call and 30 minutes later the border force officers had arrived at the Marina and stamped us out. It seems that Border forces on either side of the

channel are equally bewildered by the requirements and lack of direction foisted upon them by the politicians!!

Woodbridge 16/17 July

13 boats, 35 people, 7 children, 3 dogs (one of which is still finding her sea legs) and one grounding!! The recipe for a great weekend!

With fabulous weather forecast, the weekend started for some of the CIC armada with a lovely supper at the club on Friday evening. A sedate start Saturday morning saw 13 boats leave at 9.30am ready to efficiently navigate the newly updated buoyage to the Deben entrance!



The entrance to the Deben is very narrow this year, but with good buoyage and the printed chartlet in hand it was easy to negotiate, even if we did hold our breath going over the bar. It was a really pleasant sail up past the Ramsholt Arms, the rocks and Waldringfield sailing club where the dinghy sailors were out in full force and the tide marker was showing 1.6m over the sill as we arrived into the Tidemill With the exception of one boat (who shall remain nameless) that had run aground, but thankfully managed to extricate themselves out of the mud quite quickly. We were all safely moored up by mid-afternoon and after a freshen up and a short walk we joined everyone else at the Tidemill Museum. Nigel Seary, a patron of the Museum, had kindly arranged the hire of the space for the evening and Dan (the Miller) was in attendance to show us around and answer all of our questions. It was great to see Leigh and Jan Baxter who had popped over the see everyone. A really lovely evening, in a fabulous space.

Sunday morning bought another glorious day and we were left to our own devices for the morning before eagerly checking the tide gauge to make sure there was enough water to leave. Once underway the motors were kept on and we went full steam ahead to get to the Bar before

the water got too low to pass through. It was a little choppy initially with wind over tide and there were masses of lobster pots to keep an eye out for, but an hour or so later the wind had dropped slightly and it turned in to the most beautiful warm evening. A fitting end to a lovely weekend. A big thank you to all involved in its planning and to everyone who attended for making it such fun.

With Admiral Marcus leading the way on Spree Three with trusty crew Caroline, it was a super sail (albeit against the tide until over the bar) the whole way to Woodbridge Tidemill. Spree Three was closely followed or preceded by (and in no particular order because it is never a race!) Half Moon, Bluefin, Serendib, Firefly, Kalabash, Colombine, Madicken, Lazy Days, Brazen Hussy, Calidris, Pegatha and Symphonie

Royal Harwich Yacht Club Cruise to London

The CIC armada to St Katherine's gathered for supper on Wednesday night with 40 members/friends and 12 boats (Spree Three, Kalabash, Madicken, Lazy Days, Blue Fin, Folie Douce, Colombine, Reflection, Anuha, Firefly, Jameerah, and 3 "first timers" Zefiro, Jameerah, and Panacea.)

Departure at a fairly respectable time of 07.00 saw the fleet head off down the river and all heading for the Spitway. Jameerah and finally Zefiro left a little later but caught up with Jameerah sweeping up the fleet and Zefiro using her power to overtake and establish a bridgehead on the pontoon at Queenborough where we all managed to raft up together. A forward reconnaissance guard under Simon Ruffles established that the Queenborough Yacht Club was open so we were all happily welcomed for a refreshing drink.

2 start times for Friday were agreed to accommodate lock times at St Katherine's. However apart from London VTS keeping a sharp watch and calling up the fleet to keep to Starboard rather than moseying up the middle of the Thames, somehow we all ended up arriving at roughly the same time - and managed with 3 exceptions to cram into one lock in. All boats secured, onto the party pontoon for welcome drinks before joining up on various boats for supper. Trying to book a suitable restaurant for the numbers is not really viable and with the numbers we now have, self catering amongst the fleet is definitely a more sociable way to go.

Saturday saw a variety of activities from cricket at Lords, bike rides, museums, walks, welcoming friends and family onto boats, before we reconvened around the boats to discuss the days activities. St Kats are very accommodating and getting CIC boats moored together making for a very sociable atmosphere. Also a chance for running repairs





and planning departures. The 04.30 lock out time was fortunately pushed back to closer to 06.00.

Spree Three, Bluefin and Folie Douce (en route to France) remained behind, with the remainder of the fleet heading back to Queenborough - Where the Queenborough YC ki

ndly invited all in for a BBQ. Those staying in London were invited to the berth holders Jubilee reception.

Monday saw the Queenborough contingent enjoy a cracking sail home. The wonders of WhatsApp and Marine Traffic mean that we can all keep in touch and watch progress!

Spree Three and Bluefin did the trip back in one hit getting back at about 19.30, but had to use the iron sail to combat the tide heading up the coast.

Another great weekend for CIC.

Royal Harwich Yacht Club cruise to Blackwater May bank holiday weekend.

Being new members of Royal Harwich, but not new to the East Coast, we decided to try the club cruise to Bradwell and Tollesbury. As usual we kept an eye on the weather for the week before departure, but as it worked out the weather was clear with no rain, there was a distinct lack of wind but at least we had plenty of spring sunshine to make up for it.

On the Friday evening there was a fund raising event for Ukraine in the clubhouse, but as we were uncertain at what time we could escape from work, it was difficult for us to join. Eventually after work we snuck out of Fox's and made our way down to Shotley Marina for the night, it was forecast to be on the chilly side, so plugging into the electric seemed a nice idea. Plus, it meant we didn't have to start so early on Saturday morning which was a winner with the crew.

Saturday started for us at 5:00 o'clock with a quick departure from Shotley, well maybe not that quick as we left the lock at 6:00, where we started to make our way South, not much wind about meant that we motored all the way. We were clearly slightly ahead of the game as the river was almost empty, eventually we had some other royal Harwich boats on the VHF leaving the river. After an uneventful and relaxing journey, we moored up in Bradwell at 10:00 o'clock leaving us



the day to enjoy the countryside. Having been to Bradwell many times before we knew that the village can provide basic provisions with a community shop, and a pub over the road from it a welcome pint and sandwiches. So, after more coffee to make up for the 5:00 alarm we set off down the lanes, however we were disappointed as the shop was closed and even worse the pub was also shut. We walked back across the fields and returned to the Marina bar, which is under new management with a refreshed interior and revised menu. Later in the afternoon we met fellow members with drinks on the pontoon followed by a walk to the Green Man. When we arrived, it was decided that the furniture could have been better arranged so we moved the tables around until a compromise layout was agreed on. The food was as ever very good at the Green Man and after walking back to the boats, nightcaps on board were enjoyed.

On Sunday morning there was some discussion on the best time to leave for Tollesbury and after some debate it was decided to go with 11:30 so, all but two boats, that needed to return to Harwich for other commitments, set off for Tollesbury. As usual it was impossible to see the Nass Beacon, so we let the GPS do the work. Having picked our way through the confusing array of buoys, moored boats and departing yachts we arrived at the entrance. The marina was being dredged so there were fenders on ropes in the fairways to dodge and test boat handling skills. We moored up just before 1:00 o'clock - just in time for lunch. We tried the Marina bar without success so joined by Marcus and Caroline, walked around the corner to a cafe for sandwiches and milkshakes. The rest of the afternoon took us on a walk to the village to view the Emu's, yes Emu's, ducks etc. living in the garden of the house next to the church. Thanks to Marcus' Ordnance Survey Maps App, we found parts of Tollesbury we had never visited before on the walk back. Unfortunately, the clubhouse was shut on the Sunday evening, so barbecues appeared and utilising the tables made for a fun get together. Following on from this, when the evening got a little chilly, we decided to go back on board for some more drinks.

Bank Holiday Monday was bright and warm however no wind for the journey home, we all decided to leave around lunchtime, and we got over the Marina cill at 1:00 o'clock, from there it was a gentle motor for us back to Harwich pier, as we had another day's holiday, so we rounded the weekend off with a pub meal in the Alma Inn. A very enjoyable and relaxing weekend and thanks to Jon for his smooth organisation. We hope to be joining another club cruise shortly.

David and Roger – Cinq Oiseaux.



Harwich Shakedown – 24th April

Tuning Fork races having been called off on the Saturday, luckily the winds abated on Sunday morning for a lovely sail down to Harwich (Kalabash / Spree Three / Firefly & High Flight joining from Levington). Genoas only – coffee and pastries on the river – and an easy berthing up.

Serendib & Brazen Hussy joined via the ferry from Shotley .

The Alma (after a brisk walk round the block in Harwich) produced an excellent lunch and home we came.

Great start to the season.