

The Venturer

North West Venturers Yacht Club



Issue 186. July/August 2019



Perfect reflections by Pam White

Porth Dinllaen

Saturday 22nd June 2019

OoD's

Joy & Lee on Why Knot

We hadn't planned on sailing this weekend due to family commitments at home but spying an opportunity for a brief getaway, we got up at 0500 on Saturday morning and drove down. Roger and Molly from Tilly arrived shortly after us and a plan was hatched. We were all soon aboard and heard Martin from Quatrefleur calling Tilly on the radio. Roger left the mooring only to hear a cry of help coming from close by so doubled back to find an elderly gent from a Fife clinging to the side of his boat after falling overboard. After assisting him, he then set off under sail towards Caernarfon. We had decided that with the northerly winds, we would fly our cruising chute and managed to sail off the mooring and through to Caernarfon Bar before conventional sail plan was needed due to the change in wind direction at the south end of the island. A slow drift towards Porth Dinlleaen in the sun was enjoyed by all and we anchored in the sunshine.

A beach BBQ was arranged and it's amazing what you can cook on a BBQ – baked beans and sausages were the order of the day for Roger before we extinguished our BBQ's and headed to the Ty Coch for some sailing banter and a long overdue catch up.

Sunday morning saw Quatrefleur and Tilly set off bright and early with us following behind. The wind did us proud and we had good time arriving at Caernarfon at HW – 3.5 Hours where we crossed the bar with water to spare. Jacqui from

Home Run was out for her Sunday walk when the Venturers passed by heading north and managed to photograph us passing by Port Dinorwic heading for the Swellies.

Many thanks to Roger and Molly on Tilly and Martin and Larissa on Quatrefleur for their company.



Contents

Porth Dinllaen 22nd June 2019	FP
What's on!	see right
Commodore's Corner	2
Social Matters	3
Food for Thought	4
Camaes trip 29th June 2019	5
Porth Dinllaen 6th July 2019	4-5
Mentoring around Ireland Part II	6-8
50 Club & End Notes	8

What's on!

05-17 August 2019

Menai Bridge Strait Regatta

13-14 August 2019

Anglesey Agricultural Show

24-25 August 2019

Rhyl Air Show

30 August 2019

Holyhead Ring of Fire Marathon

30 August - 1 September 2019

Beaumaris Beaumaris Food Festival

Commodore's Corner

Paul Morton
Commodore

Looking back over the last three months "Far and Wide" seems to have been the theme for Venturers this sailing season, with boats travelling both North and South. The Isle of Man has taken the brunt of the invasion but The Scillies, Southern Ireland; Northern Ireland; Western and Northern Isles of Scotland; St Kilda have all been visited by them so far. In fact some are still there.

We also have an Outport contingent that we don't get to mention enough and we would love to have articles in the Venturer from them. So if you have, and I am sure you do have, any interesting information or stories, please send them in to the editor for publication.

The Spring Cruise got away in reasonable weather but the expected Summer cruise hasn't taken place as a collective event as most of the boats had done a lot of individual and extended sailing and some did local events. Let's face it we have some wonderful water in the bays around Anglesey to visit.

We have had a few visiting yachts coming to the club house and of course they are always most welcome. One visitor coming from Fleetwood had engine failure - what a start to their holiday. They had to go ashore on the point and he managed to fit a new engine himself over a week and we were very pleased they could use our club facilities. Visitors can gain access to our facilities by calling the number displayed on the clubhouse window and are given a temporary code that is changed on a monthly basis. The feed back is always complimentary - they love our heads.

At home the Clubhouse has been used by the NCI for Radio Practise which is normally held on a week day but if any members are around they don't mind you using the club as normal when they are in. And the Beaumaris RNLI still have there Fish and Chip event and they too are very welcome.

Our enthusiastic Social Committee are busy putting together events for the winter season and we will soon be getting together for regular committee meetings to deal with Club business. This seems to come around far too quickly. So now is the time for you to be considering any committee roles you would like to apply for to help run your club next year. So please start to think about it.

The club is still having local cruises at the weekends and the programmed destinations are constantly being changed due to weather conditions but that's fairly normal. For some reason the destinations on the south west coast of Anglesey seem to have been most affected again this year. Thank goodness we have so many enchanting bays all around the Anglesey island.

Hope to see you all at the forthcoming events

Paul



Social Matters

Liz Andrews
Rear Commodore

This year's sailing season seems to have been a slow start for some, with a few of our club boats launching later than usual. We have finally got Cloe-Jo back on her mooring in Menai after a major re-fit this winter. Our head linings and side panels in the saloon needed replacing after finally tracing the leaks which had ruined the original 1970s teak veneer. This was all new territory for us, but thanks to invaluable advice from club members, YouTube, and much patience, it was all completed to launch in June.

Thank you to everyone who is using the recycling boxes outside the clubhouse. This is something that resonates deeply with me. This year during Lent, Reece and I tried to be as plastic free as possible and made an extra effort with all our recycling. There is a large recycling container in the front car park in which we can place the paper, card, glass and cans so we have been regularly emptying the boxes. We are happy to take the plastic items home to recycle as there are no facilities close by for this. Richard Adams our House Officer fully supports our efforts. This also frees up space in our large Biffa bin which incurs an emptying charge.



I would like to remind you to keep taking photographs, so that we have a good selection for our photo competition. The winner will be chosen as the front cover of our year-book. It would be helpful if they are taken in portrait orientation if possible, as often much is lost if they need to be cropped and resized.

Some of you may have seen my post on our Facebook page about the lobster pot close to the stern of our boat. This has now been moved, along with one which was only visible at half tide, close to Irish Mist moored near us. We mentioned the problem to Alun Price who contacted Adam the local owner of said pots, who re-sited them virtually straight away. These are licensed pots and I must say that Adam, whose licence number is BS549, was very amenable and helpful about the situation. I am mentioning this because I know there have been problems with un-marked pots.

Thinking ahead to future events, the End of Season Party will be held on Saturday 12th October with a working party during the day. The bar will be open at 6 p.m. and I am working on a Mediterranean themed menu. Our AGM will be held on Saturday 2nd November and we plan to hold a DIY barbecue and - by popular demand - a bonfire during the evening. Since the Annual Dinner Dance has not taken place for a couple of years we are planning a winter event at our Clubhouse on Saturday 7th December. It will be a festive hot meal catered by The Bishopsgate Hotel. This will be combined with any trophy presentations etc. Further information will be sent, but I don't want to go into too much detail about December socialising just yet!

Once again, many thanks to everyone who supports and helps with our club events. If you have any suggestions for future events I would love to hear from you.



Ed's notes: If you missed Sue Beetlestone's talk on their circumnavigation of Ireland in Mentor - the second part is here. See pages 6-8.

Food for Thought

by David White

This summer the weather has been very mixed but those of us who are retired can often make us occur midweek. This was the case one week in June when we decided to just day sail from our drying mooring in the bay between the Club-house and Beaumaris.

We left home at 06.30 and parked our car alongside the Club-house at about 08.30. As we got out of the car to stretch our legs we noticed someone on the beach near our mooring bending down and walking around. My reaction was 'O Dear someone is looking for a mooring in the mud near to 'Spindriff'.

In all the years since this mooring was laid we have not had any problems with us being too close to any other boat and I wondered if this was about to change. So we put on our wellingtons and set out along the shoreline until we were opposite our mooring. Pam was ahead of me as I had stopped off to admire the work Reece and Eliz had done on 'Cloe Jo' as she was due to launch later in the day. So I found myself in the mud standing on the remains of a derelict mooring, very near our own mooring, talking to this stranger wondering just what was going to happen next.

My years in work has resulted in me realising that taking the 'softly softly approach' is usually best way forward so I tactfully asked 'What are you looking for?' The answer which took me completely by surprise was 'Winkles!' The quiet Welshman, who gave this answer then explained, that he was collecting Periwinkles which would be taken ashore, washed, graded and which would be on restaurant menu's in France within 36hrs.

He explained that these Periwinkles breed all year round so can be harvested at any time unlike Cockles and Mussels. Also they only needed to be washed and not processed in any way before sending for cooking etc. This I found very interesting as in my past life I worked in Microbiology in the Health Service and have seen the lengths Shell Fisheries used to go to combat the problems of Enteroviruses and other micro-organisms which could be concentrated in these filter feeding shellfish and which if not eliminated would render them unsuitable for human consumption.



Periwinkles

So I asked him again about these concerns and he assured me that such issues do not exist with Periwinkles. There was a small bucket piled high with muddy Periwinkles nearby as they seem to like old mooring chain and that explained why he was standing near these derelict moorings picking up these small snails. He said he also harvested periwinkles from the mud at Bangor and when I asked where else he worked he said the rocky shorelines round Holyhead also yielded useful quantities of winkles.

I did years ago spend sometime collecting cockles in the River Dee. Using a rake to get the cockles from just below the surface of the mud, then collecting enough to fill the sieve, then washing the sieve in shallow water to remove most of the external mud and return the smaller cockles to the shore was hard manual labour.

The cockles we collected then were loaded onto a trailer in about 50lb bags and sent for processing before sale.

He said you have no such problems with Periwinkles, you simply pick them up and experience will ensure you usually pick only those that are big enough. The prices per kg are not as high as those presently for cockles or mussels but they are not bad.

After saying good bye he continued collecting more winkles. So I continued through the mud and climbed aboard 'Spindriff'. About half an hour later I watched him walk onto the road with a very large bag of periwinkles on his shoulder and a big bucket of winkles in one hand.

Porth Dinllaen. Saturday 6th July 2019

Joy Downes

Another southerly sail! And, amazingly, as scheduled on the sailing programme. Once again, a glorious Friday followed by early morning rain on Saturday which didn't deter us from heading south (with a lot of others) to sail to Porth Dinlleaen. Panache had taken the opportunity of an extra night away and stayed at Rowan Bay. Osprey, Ocean Mood, Misty Isle, Swanrad, Meganza and Why Knot departed in very light airs (or I think that is the technical term anyway) and motor sailed gently down and out over the bar collecting Panache and Larus along the way. By the

time the bar had been cleared, cruising chutes were starting to appear and be flown by Osprey, Panache, Ocean Mood and Why Knot with Meganza, Larus and Misty Isle opting for the motor sailing option. The wind came and went and came again with the wind eventually rewarding those who persevered.

With eight Venturers safely anchored in the bay, the beach BBQ was scheduled for 17:30 hrs and everyone presented themselves with a variety of goodies to cook.

As is often the case at Porth Dinlleaen, the anchorage was somewhat rolly which prevented some crews from getting a good night's sleep.

Camaes Trip

Saturday 29th June 2019

OoD's

Joy & Lee on Why Knot

As seems to be the norm at present for Fridays to be stunning and Saturdays to have other ideas! Friday 28th July was too hot to handle – literally. When the after cabin hit 30° C and the humidity was something close to 100% we were glad to wake up on Saturday morning to a more modest 16° C.

A good turnout of Venturers left the bay on Saturday heading towards Cemaes with some keen tacking taking place between Osprey and Why Knot. Ocean Mood and Calluna were way out in front with Swanrad at the back of the fleet getting used to being back out with the club again.

As we passed through Puffin, with leaden skies, we could see the fog approaching and by the time we were a couple of miles towards Red Wharf Bay, visibility was down to 0.5nm or less in places. Fred, Nicole and Penny on Esmerelda May had left Conwy to join us at Puffin but no-one saw sight of them until we arrived at Cemaes.

Those yachts with radar had them switched on and we all felt our way – we decided in the light airs that were accompanying the fog to fly our cruising chute and an eagle-eyed Marg on Osprey took a shot in the mist. A ship at anchor sounded its automatic fog horn to advise us of its presence but no-one caught sight of it.

As we approached Cemaes, the cliffs of Llanbadrig appeared and we anchored safely in Cemaes Bay. A shadowy shape appeared from the gloom, close to shore which turned out to be Dave and Rosetta Welling on Tranquillity who had left Beaumaris on Friday at the start of their summer adventure.

Even the optimists, weather apps were checked which said that the rain would wash away the fog and the sun would appear too at

1700 Hrs. BBQ was arranged on the beach. As we gathered ashore, the sun decided to make an appearance and we had a very good BBQ. Penny played with "Nana Denise" whilst the menfolk amongst us charrilled our food. Some of the crews had never been to Cemaes before so ventured into the village admiring the view of the harbour and old lifeboat on the way and we were entertained in the Stag by tales of boat refits, AIS electronic installations on Swanrad and general nautical chit chat. Advice was proffered to Tranquillity on their first big voyage across the Irish Sea with tidal gates and ports of refuge the main topic of conversation.

Sunday saw an early start with all crews, with the exception of Tranquillity, weighing anchor at 0600 hrs to return before the wind piped up. We enjoyed a fast calm sail across Red Wharf Bay in sunny conditions but knew that when we reached Puffin, things would be different. We were greeted with 25 knot SW winds and tide with us, so progress was slow back to our moorings, but everyone was back on their moorings and packed up and ashore by 1200 hrs.

Thanks to all the crews that ventured out with a less than perfect forecast but made the weekend very enjoyable.



Sunday morning saw Osprey, Larus and Panache having time on their side as they didn't need to make the Swellies Tidal gate, so they all enjoyed a more leisurely sail back north.

The wind was generally on the nose up to the fairway buoy so we were close hauled but we got a good sail back over the bar

and down to the Bridges – from there, it was back to motor sailing as the wind was once again too close to sail to.

Many thanks to Denise Jago for the photos and everyone's company last weekend.



Mentoring around Ireland

continuing Mentor's 2015 trip up the West coast

Sue Beetlestone



Kilrush

Kilrush

Kilrush Marina is in a large, locked basin, accessible over a period either side of high water. The town is very quiet but is adequate for provisioning. The marina staff were great and their winter rates were good. With a handy boatyard and the proximity of Shannon airport it would be a good place to leave a boat for the winter.



Galway

Galway

Galway has a locked entrance and big ships going in and out (also turning in the harbour). Away from the main harbour is an older very pretty, tidal harbour in the river. Lots of entertainment and places to eat made this a good place to spend a few days hiding from some nasty weather. The Harbour facilities were quite a trek though: a new marina outside the locked harbour is planned.



Brannock Islands

The Brannock Islands

The Aran Isles. We took a minibus trip around Inishmore and visited the northernmost overlooking the Brannock Isles. Down by the shore a curragh was ready for a trip out on this sound.



The Mountains of Connemara

The Mountains of Connemara

All the way from Galway Bay, round Slyne head up to Achill Island we could see the mountains of Connemara. Given that we spent a week or so in Galway Bay and the Aran Isles and another week hiding in Clifden as well as a visit to Inishbofin and a trip up Killary Fjord, it's fair to say that these mountains accompanied us for quite a while and we viewed them from South, round through West to North.



Clifden

Clifden

We spent about a week stormbound in Clifden. The first two nights were uncomfortable to say the least but we abandoned that recommended anchorage for the other side of the bay. It was a longer dinghy trip to the Sailing club which had showers and good food. Clifden is a busy town and we were most impressed by the local Super-Valu which stocked live lobsters in a tank!



Inishbofin

Inishbofin

We had met a man in Crosshaven who had said that we must not miss Inishbofin. He was right. It's a great little harbour with good shelter (though the leading lines were a bit dodgy when we entered). There's a village with pub and food. It's also one of the far flung places which Cromwell visited and built a garrison there.



Killary Fjord

Salmon netting, Killary Fjord

We popped into Killary, the only true fjord in Ireland for a peaceful night. Near the head of the fjord there are 4 visitor moorings right by the mobile phone mast. Along one stretch of the bank there were a number of little huts being used by salmon netsmen catching the salmon as they move up the fjord.



Dolphins leaving Killary

Dolphins at Killary

Leaving Killary Fjord early on a calm morning we were overwhelmed by a group of Dolphins who played with Mentor and accompanied us for more than half an hour. They were just amazing.



Achilbeg

Achilbeg

Heading north towards Achill Island we passed Achilbeg with its tiny "bijou" lighthouse. Achilbeg is separated from Achill Island by only a narrow tidal channel but it provides valuable shelter from the prevailing wind for the entrance to Achill Sound. It used to be possible to navigate Achill Sound itself and have the road bridge swung to pass through. It's many years since this has happened and the channel is shallow and tortuous. We were not even vaguely tempted!



Mentor at Achill Island

Cloughmore Pier, Achill Island

Hiding from bad weather again we anchored at the southern end of Achill Sound. Reeds Almanac said that there were visitor moorings but these had been removed after being monopolised by fish creels. The holding was not good but we were able to pick up another mooring over Mentor's stern to add security and reduce the likelihood of swinging into other boats. The Lifeboat crew were amazing, they took us ashore for a shower in their boat house, took me shopping (they were also reprovisioning) and then took us back to Mentor. We were also able to go alongside the pontoon to fill our water tanks from the pier. There's a lovely tower, one of the many haunts of the awesome female pirate Grace O'Malley.



Sligo

Sligo's Metal Man

We were going to Sligo to meet up with our daughter Alice who was working over in Ireland for the RNLI. Sligo has a 4 mile long river channel with training walls either side, it's not huge and big ships do use it so we entered it with some trepidation. The sight of Sligo's Metal Man provided some amusement. In Sligo town itself there is a 60m pontoon, we started off as the 5th boat in the raft (practically in the middle of the river) and gradually worked our way in. There are no facilities for the pontoon but the town is interesting and we had a great meal for Alice's birthday.

Ed's notes: The final part of this illuminating log of anchorages, ports & harbours of the west coast of Ireland will be in the next edition.



Burtonport Channel

Burtonport Channel

The channel into Burtonport is interesting! The first part of it winds its way between low, rocky, rather Scandinavian style glaciated islands which have become the go to holiday home of anyone who has lots of money. There are houses of all sorts of ages and styles all with jetties, little harbours and boathouses. The second part of the channel is dredged through a large shallow open-water area and the tide sets across the channel. Add to this up to three ferries plying to and fro taking a surprising number of visitors to and from Aranmore. We navigated it (and the ferries) successfully both ways and spent a night on the pier at Burtonport. Sadly there was no longer any diesel on the pier and the nearest shop is a two mile slog up hill.

50 Club Numbers 2019

Joy Downes

We have just two numbers available to purchase for the 50 club, which has been successfully running for the past 8 years. As of 12.08.2019, the numbers shown in the right hand column are still available for purchase: -

The 50 club winners in drawn order for June were as follows:

- 44 - Lee Downes - £50**
- 32 - Paul Morton & Jen Barcroft - £20**
- 11 - Another of Joy Downes' lucky numbers - £15**

July winners - drawn 28th July are as follows:

- 19 - Brian Oulton - £50**
- 45 - Mark Suffield - £20**
- 3 - Mij Shirley - £15**

All prizes are paid out by our Treasurer Edward Hopkinson in a few days following the draw. Remember. There are still numbers available for purchase so, support your club and have some fun - £50 gives you 14 draws and a chance to pocket some prizes.

Numbers still available

35

40

End Notes:

The next issue of The Venturer will be September 2019

Ed is hoping that will give members plenty of time to have fun on the water, take loads of photos and write about it. And not to forget to send them in to me, **Jan Lomas**

Send your articles for the next issue to:

venturer@nwvyc.org.uk
by 20th September 2019