

West Wales Maritime Heritage Society Newsletter July 2012

This newsletter relies very heavily on other people's photographs and I am grateful to be able to use them. There are many more available on our Flickr

Page at : <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wwmhs>

Despite all the rain, Pembrokeshire didn't get the floods and mud swamps that plagued a lot of UK over the last two months. Nevertheless, the weather has affected our events program and wet weather gear has been fashionable this year!

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations at Haverfordwest

Our first event was at Haverfordwest, where we joined in with the town's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, by taking a representative cargo from Pembroke Dock to the quayside at The Bristol Trader. We made good time upriver with a strong floodtide and returned home on the ebb.



Quest carried the cargo and was escorted by General Picton. The reception in Haverfordwest was fantastic with a military parade, dancing in the streets and a large crowd.



The Mayor of Haverfordwest accepted our cargo from David James, Quest's skipper, but my suggestion of a return cargo of beer must have got lost somewhere.....

Seafair Haven 2012

This was the 4th Seafair Haven, a maritime festival for traditional and classic vessels and long boat rowing to celebrate the magnificent Milford Haven Waterway in Pembrokeshire. It takes place biennially, alternating each year with the well established Semaine du Golfe festival in the Morbihan, Brittany. The rain and strong winds over the week affected the smaller sailing and rowing boats more, but most events went ahead successfully.

I should mention the excellent facilities enjoyed by the sailors who chose to camp at Lawrenny Yacht Station, which was the host port for the Sail and Oar Fleet. They were welcomed by the whole village, with superb facilities at the Yacht Station and excellent camping at the Old Castle Camp Site. The Cricket Club opened their showers for the sailors and the Lawrenny Arms had special Seafair Haven events.

The outing to breakfast at Cresswell Quay was a highlight, because it was blessed with good weather. The Youtube link below will take you to a 10 minute video made by "randoneur" about Seafair Haven. I particularly enjoyed the section of him sailing his homebuilt Paradox sailing boat "Little Jim" in strong winds, which is towards the end of the video.

<http://i3.ytimg.com/vi/FmAyTT-GZgY/default.jpg>

On Wednesday we successfully guided some of the larger boats up the Pembroke River and into The Pembroke Castle Pond. Unfortunately, some of the fleet were stuck in Milford Dock, because of a problem with their lock gates. We stayed in the pond overnight and guided the boats down river next day.

Once we got out into Milford Haven, the wind dropped enough to raise Quest's sail and Tony Ward bought out his mouth organ and played some sea shanties.



Beating the Bounds Ceremony at Haverfordwest

Our most recent event was when the Mayor of Haverfordwest beat the town's bands. As Admiral of the port he sailed down river to a boundary stone and back. On the Bristol Trader Quay there were entertainers from the local drama group, dressed as historical characters and telling their stories, and a group of young ladies from Llangwm village, dressed in the distinctive costume of the fishing families. The Mayors and Town Criers from nearby towns also came in their various outfits and The Vagrants Crew played a selection of sea shanties. Our Society bought our Llangwm fishing boat, K3, on a trailer because it isn't seaworthy. We were delighted to meet K3's sister ship which had recently been restored and had sailed up from Llangwm

