



Whitsun Cruise to the Channel Islands and Carteret.

May 26th – June 4th 2006

The weather having been cold, wet and stormy leading up to the Whitsun weekend, no one had high hopes of this cruise actually going ahead, especially after a particularly rough passage to the Dart on Friday. The deep water pontoon at

Dartmouth was booked so that all the boats could be together. Twelve boats had arrived by Saturday, but a decision to delay our departure had been agreed upon, because of the sea conditions. That evening 28 skippers and crew descended on The George and Dragon which had been pre-booked by Kerry Smith and I think all would agree that they put on a good choice of food. On Sunday, the stormy weather had passed, and all twelve boats headed out at 0500hrs, with light southerly winds a long motor sail was inevitable. The main group were joined by Scaf and Ashanta leaving from Torquay. Going south of Guernsey we reached the Hanois Lighthouse at 1750hrs and headed on into the Victoria Marina, at St. Peter Port. Tony Leigh had made reservations for us with a 25% discount and the whole of D and E pontoons were awaiting us, giving each boat a pontoon position. The whole marina was practically empty so I guess they must have been pretty pleased to see us arrive. Monday was a day in port with several doing repairs or relaxing after a long day yesterday. The day dawned gloriously sunny and we were all very surprised to see Craig Rich and his wife Pat arrive on our pontoon in his boat YKnot and as he was flying our club burgee they were invited to join us in the evening, when 28 people went to a very highly recommended French restaurant La Perla, pre-booked by Chris Godfrey. The place was packed and pretty noisy but the food was excellent. We had a hasty meeting in the pub next door to discuss future plans when the group decided to split – three were staying in port, two going to Cherbourg, one gone home, but the main group of nine wanted to go on to Carteret. Nine boats left on the Tuesday near H.W. and set sail passed the Q.E.2 to Sark where we anchored in Dixcart Bay for 3hrs before continuing on to Carteret to time our arrival for 2hrs before H.W. It was a really good sailing day. Wednesday was spent in port. Most people visited the supermarket. Why? It was a good place to stock up with cheap wine! We met in the Y.C. for a final drink on French soil before heading back to St. Peter Port on Thursday, which dawned glorious yet again but the N.W.3/4 was very chilly. Another great sail. Five boats went ahead leaving four to follow on. Kalulu had engine failure off Sark near L'Etac rock and Slowcoach went to the rescue to give a tow for an hour while Chris managed a repair and motored into port safely. A big high pressure system over the Scillies is set to stay for days now, giving light winds, so guess what – we would be motor sailing yet again. Everyone now together again, Three left on Friday, eight chose to have another day in port but ZigZag joined Slowcoach and motored across to Herm, passing the Oceana on the way, for a day lazing in the sun and supped out at The Mermaid before returning in the evening to anchor in Havelet Bay. Our cruise nearly at an end, eight boats left St. Peter Port at 0600hrs, up the Little Russel. As we had expected the sea was flat calm and we motored for most of the way ending with a good sail into our preferred ports.

I think I speak for all when I say it has been one of the most successful and enjoyable cruises in recent years.

Thanks to you all.

Jenny Sampson

The boats taking part were - Slowcoach, BuckShee, Maid of Honour, Sea Bird of Bute, Riviera Magic, Kalulu, Sea Orchid, Saddle Tramp, Fedora, Trintella of Avon, Brandy Bottle, ZigZag, Scaf and Ashanta.