

THE FIRST SCULLY DAY

A dramatic improvement in the weather helped ensure a good turnout for the first Scully Day held in St.Ives harbour last Saturday 26th Feb.

It was a joint initiative of the harbour master Steve Bassett and the St.Ives Jumbo Association to encourage as many people as possible to learn how to 'scully' whilst providing a bit of out-of-season fun in the harbour.

(Scullying is the traditional - and also a very practical method of propelling a small boat through a crowded harbour using a single oar over the stern).



Rupert Manley



Anne Curnow-Care

Some 30 people of all ages took advantage of some free tuition and a chance to get out on the water in the early Spring sunshine in the 6 boats provided by the organisers.

'We were amazed by the enthusiastic response and the speed with which even total novices got the hang of it. Young Millie Roach (7) was unquestionably the star pupil who, with a big smile, was soon propelling my heavy punt with 5 of us aboard.' said organiser Jonny Nance.

'The general consensus is that we should run the event again before the start of the sailing season and re-introduce scully racing.'

Hot contender for the scully race, the harbour master Steve Bassett

A significant moment (below) representing no less than five consecutive generations as former mayor of St.Ives, William Thomas with his son Nathan and 5-week-old grand-daughter Arwen take to the water in Jonny Nance's replica of Silas' punt which was originally owed by William's grandfather.



Colin Sanger

'It was a coming home which took me back some 50 years,' said William. 'My earliest memories were whilst aboard Silas' punt lashed to an anchor to stop me falling in!'

For generations St.Ives, like so many Cornish communities, has seen a fair share of it's sons and daughters leave in search of work and opportunity. In a rapidly changing world of fragmenting communities, this photo illustrates a happy exception occasioned by the first Scully Day.