

BOATS IN THE BAY 2012

The largest gathering of luggers in St.Ives Bay since the days of sail.

High winds and the ground sea (which had swamped several small boats within the harbour earlier in the week) abated just in time to allow St.Ives to host a record number of luggers for the 7th annual Boats in the Bay last Saturday.

The three large luggers, *Ripple*, *Happy Return* and *Barnabas*, sailing the 40 miles from Newlyn were joined this year by the E.Cornish lugger ***Ibis*** FY519. But it was a much smaller lugger *Celia Elizabeth* that came the furthest, sailed single-handed from Porthleven by her owner, Peter Morgan.

Two other newcomers, the French lugger *Avel Dro* and *Norwegian Girl*, a little gaff cutter, were launched at Hayle.

The visiting crews arrived on Friday evening for a fish BBQ reception (courtesy of Matthew Stevens and Son) and were welcomed to the town by the Mayor, Cllr. Ron Tulley at the Fishermen's Lodges where the colourful code flags belonging to Capt. Bassett (the Harbourmaster's grandfather) flew majestically. Meanwhile, the traditional Cornish band *Bagas Porthia* performed on the slipway.

Throughout the next day a perfect combination of wind and sunshine helped to provide a wonderful spectacle and fantastic photo opportunities as the luggers spread their canvas. Morwenna, a visiting Bristol Pilot Cutter joined in whilst waiting for the flood tide to continue to Padstow.

The Jumbo Race

The jumbos provided many of their members with an opportunity to participate, and for some it was their first sailing experience. By 4pm the jumbos were back on their moorings preparing for the 'Le Mans-style' start of the Jumbo Race which no one could miss, not least the town's seagull colony. To make up for the modest size of the current jumbo fleet and generally adding to the excitement of the day, the gun for the start and finish was colossal! As the smoke cleared and gulls protested, the two jumbos frantically made sail and casting moorings aside reached, neck and neck, out of the harbour. First off was *Celeste*, helmed by her owner Robert 'Bean' Goodden and crewed by his son Luke and friends. Despite her leeward position and possibly because she couldn't hoist her forelug properly, *William Paynter*, helmed by Jonny Nance, managed to keep up and, by the second leg, had taken the lead. However, once on the wind beating back to the harbour entrance, William Paynter found she was outpointed by *Celeste* who just managed to sneak past the end of Smeaton's Pier to win the race.

The shore team manning the stall of Jumbo Association, which organises this event, reported a lively day with much interest. £250 was raised and 4 new members, one of whom was able to crew in the jumbo race, were signed up.

As crews came ashore for their pasties (donated by the Cornish Kitchen), the Cadgwith Singers struck up outside George's Smock Shop. Cllr. Ron Tulley, accompanied by Deputy Mayor Cllr. Colin Nicholls, thanked everyone for their efforts in providing such a dramatic display for the town and presented each visiting boat with a gift pack from Marco Amura's St.Ives Brewery. An additional prize was awarded to *Ibis* FY519 for having made the effort to come with only 2 crew and no engine and also to John Lambourn of *Ripple* for his help in co-ordinating the Newlyn fleet.

Boats in the Bay 2012 concluded with the customary evening of song at the Castle Inn supported by the Cadgwith Singers and an excellent barrel donated by the Cornish Crown Brewery.

The Jumbo Association wish to thank the harbourmaster for his assistance. Also the operators of the Seal Island boats who made their skiffs available (deftly handled by Jack and others) to ferry crews. In particular they wish to express their appreciation to all the local businesses and individuals who regularly contribute to make Boats in the Bay the success it has undoubtedly become. "It is thanks to them that we are still able to run this event without a budget relying on sheer enthusiasm." said organiser Jonny Nance. "It is very gratifying that Boats in the Bay enjoys such popularity amongst the lugger fraternity despite the considerable difficulty of sailing here." he continued, "The success of this event has created a sense of momentum and direction which bodes well for Boats in the Bay 2013!"