

BOATS IN THE BAY 2013

Despite the unsettled conditions and a mention of force 7 in the inshore forecast, two luggers made the passage around Lands End to participate in the annual maritime heritage event held in St.Ives last week end.

The *Barnabas*, which was launched off Porthgwidwen Beach back in 1881, was sailed by the venerable Adam Kerr and crew whilst the 20ft *Celia Elizabeth*, built by students of the Falmouth Marine School in 2007, was crewed by Capt. Peter Morgan and members of the St.Ives Jumbo Association.

In the event, there was hardly enough wind and even the heavy rain that was forecast fell over the land. So spirits were high aboard the jumbo *Celeste* as she sailed on the ebb tide - further west than ever before to meet both luggers off Pendeen. As the tide turned, a fresh NW breeze sprang up and soon all three were making dramatic progress towards St.Ives on the spring flood tide.

The next morning, a ground sea prevented the smaller boats from sailing and so for a while *Barnabas* was the only 'boat in the bay'. By mid afternoon conditions had improved and she was joined by *Celia Elizabeth*, both jumbos, Rupert Manley's picarooner and *Zephyr* sailed by Scott Bowring.



About 2 miles off Gurnard's Head. Photo: Rupert Manley.



The jumbo *Celeste* (left) passes Dr.Manley's picarooner off Smeaton's Pier with *Celia Elizabeth* in the background.
Photo: Anne Curnow Care.

"The number of boats may have been down on last year but this was more than compensated for by the increased interest ashore." commented Andy Smith, chairman of the Jumbo Association, who reported that their stall had raised over £200 and that 4 new members had joined. At least a dozen had their first experience of sailing a jumbo whilst jumbo members also had the opportunity of sailing on *Barnabas*. Jim Warren, visiting from Somerset, exclaimed he'd had "one of the best weekends of his life!"

Scully Racing

Building on the popularity of our recent introduction of Scully Racing to St.Ives, a return match between the St.Ives Boatmen and the Rest of the World was held after the Swimming Gala just as the light was failing. A large crowd gathered in anticipation and, with four more contestants, there were now 5 in each team. Many, not having scullied since childhood, threw themselves into the punts for a frantic practice - to the delight of the crowd as they jeered in friendly derision.

Against a plethora of tupperware and inflatables, the winning team of last Saturday's Scully Race enjoy the simple pleasure of a wooden boat.

Left - right. Craig Stevens, Peter Tanner, Alex Corin, Mike Stevens and John-Boy Stevens. Photo: Anne Curnow Care.



Once again, the St.Ives Boatmen were victorious.

In fact, with the exception of the organiser, Jonny Nance, both teams were made up of St.Ives boatmen. Nathan de Rozarieux, secretary of the St.Ives Fishermen's Association, sculling for 'the Rest of the World' said, "It's fantastic to see the old luggers here to remind us of how things used to be and we're grateful to have been spurred on to have a go at sculling again."

Jumbo-chairman, Andy Smith said, "We are delighted to be embracing other harbour-users in our activities."

Awarding the prizes to the Boatmen and the intrepid Mounts Bay luggermen, the Mayor Cllr. Colin Nicholls drew a rousing cheer as he acknowledged the importance of "these jumbo events that place 'community before divisive issues", adding ***"The Jumbo Association has brought something very special to the town and we should give it our 100% support!"***

The Association wish to express their thanks for the support of the local businesses and individuals that, together, make 'Boats in the Bay' possible. In particular the Harbourmaster, Matthew Stevens and Sons, The St.Ives Brewery, The Fishermen's Coop, Skinner's Brewery, Seaware, Macsalvors, The Cornish Kitchen, The Cadgwith Singers and the staff of the Castle Inn.

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