Warsash Rally

By Sally Peake

What a lovely weekend of good sailing weather we enjoyed in the Solent. I'll give a brief run-down from my perspective: I was working on Saturday morning so Steve and I slipped our mooring on the Isle of Wight at about 1615 on an ebbing tide and slid down river whilst setting sails on Alanouwoly (Freedom 28). A north-easterly wind of about Force three allowed us to skirt round the western edge of the Brambles Bank (where they play cricket on the lowest Spring tide of the summer!) and head straight for Warsash at the mouth of the River Hamble. It was lovely to see Chris Edward's Dragonfly alongside the Warsash Sailing Club pontoon: We happily went alongside her so that the two Freedom 28s could swap news. Chris and Edward Hooper took our lines and we were soon catching up on the day's events. Chris had taken seven junkies out sailing, quite daunting for a man who does most of his sailing single-handed. Not one for on-line forms he handed me cash to renew his JRA membership. (Good to have you back on board Chris!)

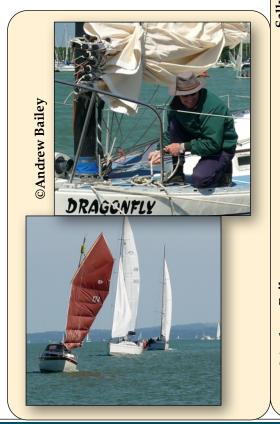
As Steve and I and Edward (who stayed with us aboard *Alanouwoly*) had been uncertain of our arrival time, we had not booked a meal. So we ventured to the pub next door and were well fed and watered before rejoining the rally goers in the Sailing Club for a natter. Boats attending were Robin and

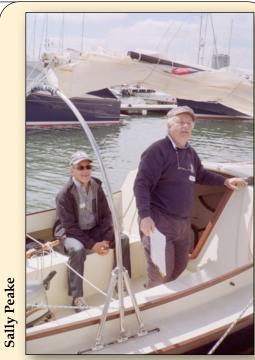
Mandy Blain's GiGi, Derek and Dawn Shepherd's Hui Mar, Dragonfly and Alanouwoly plus a Virgo Voyager based

at Hayling Island which was unable to stay for the Sunday and so I missed meeting her owners. As well as those already mentioned, there were old and new faces - Gavin Dalgleish, Tom Wallace, Andrew Bailey, Arran, John and Jacquie, Geoff Turton, and Liz Batchelor who came down from a Boat Jumble in Berkshire to say "Hello".

After a quiet night on the river, Robin organised crews for the boats. Sadly Chris Edwards had to leave early to regain his mooring at Ashlett Creek: So it fell to us to have seven aboard while Robin sailed three up to Shamrock and Hui Mar sailed four up (Hui Mar had come up from Axmouth sailing in company with friends on their Bermudan- rigged Atlantic Viking which staved at Warsash due to an engine problem). With a fresh ENE wind it was difficult to stay together. The two Freedoms vied with each other for a few minutes before Chris peeled off for Ashlett and we all headed up Southampton Water. Steve, locally born and bred, gave a running historical commentary on the local sights and it was decided to go beyond the Itchen junction to see the new cruise ship (to be named Royal Princess by Princess Kate later that week). Having ogled the vastness of eight storeys of floating hotel, we followed Gigi and Hui Mar up the Itchen to Shamrock Quay, where we all enjoyed a barbecue while sat outside in the sunshine. I had a quick first look at Robin's new boat which is very smart: Epoxy on ply, with a water ballasting system to make trailer-sailing easier. A good reaching sail back to Warsash followed (enlivened by our mizzen halyard getting a phenomemal twist in it which made dropping the sail a little interesting)! We we dropped off Edward and Andrew and made haste for the Medina, waving to Gigi and Hui Mar as we passed them coming up river.

Thanks to Robin and Mandy Blain for taking on the organisation - quite an undertaking with so much catering.





Gavin and Robin aboard GiGi

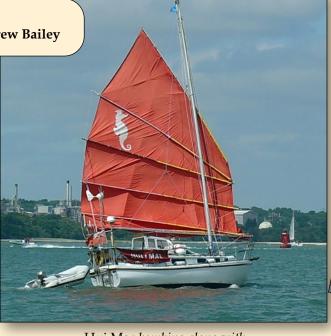


Alanouwoly's sails pulling well

The JRA Magazine issue 63

October 2013







Hui Mar bombing along with Nobody, apparently, at the helm



David Kay's Virgo Voyager, Morawelon



Lunch in the sunshine



The treasurer tidying her lines