

The JRA East Coast Rally 2011

Our East Coast Rally was held a little later in the month than usual this year in order to ensure the most favourable tides. This resulted in the rally being held over the weekend of 30th and 31st July 2011.

We normally have good weather at Bradwell and this year was no exception with plenty of sunshine to encourage the feel good factor.

We had an exceptionally good turn out this year with 38 members and guests attending some part of the weekend along with 7 boats. The reason for the good turnout may have been because the results of the ballot on the new Constitution were due to be declared at the Extraordinary General Meeting scheduled for the Saturday evening.

The boats at this rally included *Barney*, a Varne 28; *Alouette*, a Liberty 22'; *Ram II*, a Virgo Voyager 23; *Verity*, a Freedom 21 (not junk rigged); *Chopsticks*, a Kingfisher 26'; *Applecross* a Bolger Micro 15; *Dudifrent* a Sharpie 38 and *Tiger Lily* A Newbridge Venturer 21.



Barney



Alouette



Ram II



Verity



Chopsticks



Applecross



Dudifrent



Tiger Lily

Photographs by Martin Lloyd and Peter Manning (Alouette)

Although the Bradwell Quay Yacht Club host our rally and provide the venue for the evening meal, we base ourselves at Bradwell Marina during the day where there is a bar and restaurant with a lovely verandah overlooking the marina which is very popular when the sun is shining.

The unusually high number of attendees this year meant that it was not possible for everyone to go sailing that afternoon and it is always the rally organizer who is the first person to stand down. This of course is not bad news as it provides an opportunity of doing some sight seeing so first of all Shirley and I visited The Chapel of St. Peter-on-the-Wall at Bradwell-on-Sea.

The chapel was built in 654 AD by Cedd which he dedicated to St Peter. He came with a group of Christians, having been trained by Aidan at Lindisfarne in Northumbria. St Cedd who people think of today as the Saint of Essex was consecrated Bishop of the East Saxons in 654 and the Chapel became his Cathedral. It is the earliest Cathedral in the country of which so much remains today.



Chapel of St. Peter-on- the-Wall



The cross depicting
Christ & St Cedd



Inside – simplicity, beauty and peace

We also decided to go to Maldon where several Thames Barges are moored. This is a very picturesque town and well worth a visit with the barges moored alongside the quay.



Photo D Renouf 2002



By the time we had returned to Bradwell most of the boats had returned and the members dispersed to get ready for the evening meal. Bradwell-on-Sea, despite being a popular venue, does not appear to have very much by way of accommodation for visitors. Indeed, in searching for somewhere to stay there seems to be nothing apart from the Green Man in Bradwell-on-Sea itself and this has only a few rooms which were booked up. Fortunately accommodation can be found near Bradwell village and further afield.

We gathered for the evening meal at the Bradwell-on-Sea Yacht club a short walk from the marina. In recent years we have opted for a barbecue meal instead of the more usual set menu meal. Last year the barbecue was provided by an outside firm called MP Catering Services and was enjoyed by everyone so we were pleased to find them providing our barbecue again this year.

After dinner the Extraordinary General Meeting was convened and the results of the vote on the constitution and elections were announced. The new constitution was approved by the membership and takes immediate effect. The positions of Chairman, Secretary, Webmaster and Rally Secretary were uncontested and Alan Boswell was confirmed as Chairman, Edward Hooper as Secretary, David Tyler as Webmaster and myself as Rally Secretary. Due to some unfortunate irregularities the ballot for Treasurer and Membership Secretary had to be declared void and new elections will have to be run. The members present were given the opportunity to discuss matters concerning the election of officers and other JRA matters and a lively debate ensued.

On Sunday we met on the verandah at the marina clubhouse before joining the boats for sailing on the Blackwater to Tollesbury for lunch at the Tollesbury Cruising Club.



*Robin Blain and Susan Corridan
On board Dudifrent*



Ram II, Applecross and Dudifrent

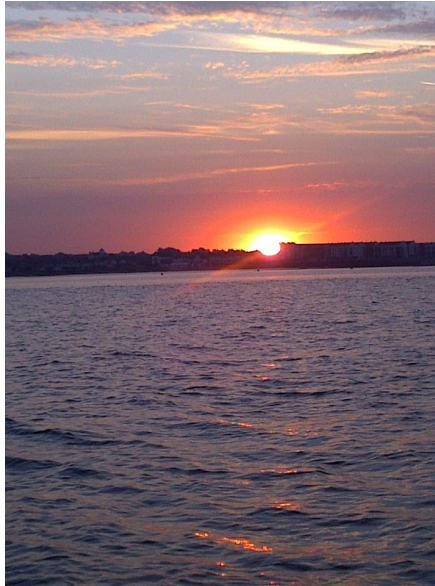
Photographs by Martin Lloyd

Tollesbury Marina is a popular venue as we found on arrival and finding a suitable berth proved to be a bit of a lottery. Although a member of the harbourmaster's staff was on hand to guide us, he occasionally got it wrong and no sooner had one of our boats tied up but the owner of the berth arrived and wanted to put his boat there. Eventually we all found berths and were able to enjoy our lunch at the clubhouse. Some members chose the very excellent carvery whilst others opted for the simpler and smaller portions of the bar menu.

We only have a relatively short time at Tollesbury in which to get to the marina, tie up, have lunch and leave before running out of water. Unfortunately, with the problems of trying to find berths and a very busy lunchtime at the club we only just had time to finish our meal before having to return to the boats.



*Martin Roberts and crew on board
Applecross*



Sunset over the Blackwater

We returned to Bradwell after a very pleasant sail and bade farewell to old and in some cases new friends after yet another successful East Coast rally as the sun set in the west.

Photographs by
Martin Lloyd