

It's officially summer but still feels like winter. However members are making the best of it, read on for news of several events that have already taken place.

Our main summer rally starts 4 June with destinations in the Solent and beyond, a change to the original plan owing to logistical problems as notified to you by email

Brighton Rally 30th April – 1st May

A report from our Commodore

Many boats set out on the Dieppe Dash on 29th April, but a number turned back, including Salute back in to Newhaven. On the Saturday Belfast Girl (Mike Edward's new boat) put in to Newhaven briefly to join Beaumaris and Salute to set off for Brighton. Zeta joined us in Brighton having sailed back from Littlehampton.

On the way to Brighton Jackie on Salute had an argument with a winch and hurt her thumb so they then motored straight to Brighton. Belfast Girl disappeared off in the distance leaving Beaumaris with a bash to windward with me, Nikki and Shirli Gaston on board. Four hours and seventeen miles later we made it in to Brighton just as the rain started!

On Saturday night fourteen members and friends enjoy dinner in Café Rouge followed by drinks and dancing in Brighton Marina Yacht Club's new floating club house.

Sunday saw Otter leave for a day sail and Beaumaris and Belfast Girl head for home on a beam reach in glorious sunshine.

Hope to see you on a rally soon.

Check Your Lifejackets

Back in March the RNLI were doing free lifejacket checks at Russell Simpson's open weekend. I took four of mine along, two old

ones about eight years old, and two less than twelve months old.

I expected the old ones to fail, but they passed with flying colours! However, one of the new ones failed because the gas bottle was loose, and the zip keeping closed had broken. The retailer I bought them from replaced the faulty jacket without question.

No matter the age of your lifejacket inspect it regularly!

Maurice Elford

Around the Club

Jim Taylor's Westerly Konsort, Corisande, is back in Newhaven after a winter away in Hayling undergoing major work. She's looking great, so do please try not to whack her!

Our secretary Graham Eaton has taken possession of his first boat, a Dehler 41DS (not 42 as previously reported – seems he couldn't afford the extra foot!) Currently lying on the River Dart he's planning to bring it back once he's fathomed out what all the various bits of string do and worked out how to fit the main.

Mike and Eileen Edwards have renamed their recent acquisition, a Southerly 42.



Champers all round!

Fed up with its original name Dandom, variously misquoted over VHF as Ding Dong, Condom etc she now carries the name Belfast Child.

This, we are told, relates to a favourite song by Simple Minds and has nothing whatsoever to do with Eileen's origins.

In line with tradition, to ward off the bad luck associated with changing a boat name Mike poured a glass of champagne over the bow whilst we hoovered up the rest of bottle!

Eastbourne Rally

Our annual trip to the near east – Sovereign Harbour, Eastbourne took place over the recent Whitsun weekend. Disappointingly only 3 boats, Salute, Beaumaris and Hunky Dory were able to make it, the potentially iffy weather forecast caused others to think twice. In the event conditions provided a very fast and lively sail both ways.

Salute had an interesting trip east – managing a good soaking in a thunderstorm between Brighton and Newhaven whilst the other boats enjoyed sunshine all the way. To cap it all they then got involved in a mayday incident and had to stand alongside a broken down motor cruiser off Beachy Head until relieved.

At Sovereign Harbour we were joined by Mike and Eileen Edwards, already resident there aboard their ocean liner Belfast Child.

Beaumaris and Hunky Dory also provided some sailing for a couple of our buddy/crew sailors Sim Gray and John Whittlemore.

After the usual compulsory drinks aboard Belfast Child, 14 members enjoyed an excellent meal and evening at Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club.

It was particularly pleasing that Richard Mitchell, who recently underwent major surgery, and Agnes, drove over and joined us for the evening.



Salute on the return off Beachy Head – reefed down in anticipation of the building winds

Unfortunately, with the forecast for the Monday looking particularly unpleasant all three boats opted to return on the Sunday afternoon, thus preventing the Sovereign Light “competitive cruise” being contested.



Hunk Dory heading home in gentleman's downwind mode

Next club event

21 July – Rye Rally

Watch out for details