



A Collection of Photographs from the July '98 River Dart / Start Bay Cruise

Article by Terry Pullen.

About 12 Wanderers attended this year's West Country cruise organised by David Davies and based on the Dart Marina Dartmouth.

Members had use of the steep ramp for launching. Boats and trailers could be left together within an area set aside for the purpose. Car parking during the day was also possible. The Marina's facilities were excellent and available to members throughout the weekend.



*Lunch Time
on
Blackpool Sands*

Saturday's cruise took the fleet and escort rib in warm but overcast weather down river and out into Start Bay where with the aid of gentle F2/3 winds landfall was made at Blackpool Bay for lunch.

A sail to the far end of the bay {3NM} was rewarded with a Devon Cream Tea before returning to the Marina for a welcome shower. Use of engine or a tow was necessary at the entrance to the Dart as the wind vanished.



*July 4th 1998
Stop for Cream Tea
Torr Cross Start Bay*

All members enjoyed an excellent and well earned evening meal at the 'Floating Bridge' hostelry adjacent to the marina where a room had been allocated for our exclusive use.

Sunday was brighter with some sun but also with very gusty winds F4/5+. The plan was to sail up river beyond Dittisham for a lunch stop in a field opposite the late Ian Proctor's house. Some vicious squalls were encountered during this sail and some boats stopped to reef.



*River Dart July 5th 1998
Lunch Break at Sharpsham Point
Opposite Ian Proctor's House.*

Ten boats made it to this beautiful spot on the river and were joined by members of the Proctor family complete with dog during the lunch break. A truly lovely spot.

The wind eased a little during the return trip making it possible to take in more of this river's rich scenery. The Dartmouth Naval College were out in force practising picking up buoys in their large motor boats.



*River Dart
With the late
Ian Proctor's
House beyond.*

On our return at the marina, in true WCOA style, everyone assisted to recover the boats up the steep ramp before making one final use of the marina's 'facilities'.

Farewells were exchanged and thanks expressed to David for a thoroughly enjoyable weekend..