

BOAT REPORT 17-JUL-2022 (George Mitchell)

Dive site Outer Mulberry & Waldrons
Divers George Mitchell & David Simpson
 Paul (Wally) Waldron & Jane Crane
 Milton Milona & Chris Crane
Fuel 42 litres now at £2.00 per litre = £84
Income 6 divers at £15/per diver = £90
Total hours on engine Start 48.2 – End 50.8

Notes: The marina staff have noted that the trailer wheel bearings are making a “grinding” sound which suggests we need to renew them. They are concerned the wheels may fall off. One of the rollers persistently sits the wrong way and we have to get shoulders to the boat and lift it to correct that. The fuel gauge seems to have a mind of its own. Tim C knows about all this.

Images

Motley crew (Wally is missing as he was doing heroic things getting a rope off a prop)





Boat and prop all OK.

DIVING

Underwater viz moderate at about 3m. Lots of life on the Mulberry especially pouting and pollack but also tompons. There are several patches of jewel anemonies on the overhang as you turn to the left and go clockwise round the structure. With a torch these are absolutely stunningly colourful. No camera on these dives though as strictly focussing on training. This is interesting as we never used to see JA so far east.

On the drift were seen large crabs, lobster and a juvenile conger in the open. Near the Waldrons there are millions of dead crepidulata fornicata and very few live ones. Not sure what is going on there as they used to be the towers of these live everywhere. One pair spotted a thornback ray. We should try hitting the Waldrons on slack sometime.

Jane and Chris did a dive plan which was excellent – they are moving nicely towards being Sports Divers. David completed two dives so now has four completed and needs only another two and the theory test to reach OD. Milton was Diver Manger for the day and now has that completed as part of working towards Diver Leader. With an easterly wind it was slightly choppy heading back but we cut north to slightly more sheltered water and then drove along the coast. 3m above CD on entry to the channel. We had to wait till around 11am for launch although 10:30 was posted as earliest launch. Water level was depressed about 0.3m partly owing to high atmospheric pressure. However, all was well with timing and we managed to get whatever slack was available. Timing of slack was as predicted.

Water temperature very warm though in some respects alarmingly high at 22.5°C in a layer near the surface and 19°C even down at 17m. The warmest I have ever measured in UK waters was 21°C at depth in early August 2003 also off Littlehampton on the Shirala, but I suspect that will be exceeded over the next few weeks.