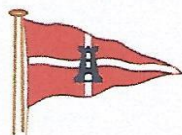


EAST COWES



SAILING CLUB

Knotweed Adventures

June/July 2019

Souvenir Log



In the spirit of venturing beyond the smokestacks, *Tideline* with Mike Tennuci as skipper and Bob Young as crew set off on June 21 for a fortnight cruise. Thirty-one days later, having run out of Pounds and Euros, we returned with stories to tell.

For Mike, we visited places where he remembered the best anchorages (and the best pubs) and all the navigational challenges in detail. For Bob, it was a host of new experiences. Here are just a few of our tales.

Mike does know the loveliest anchorages on both sides of the Channel. Our journey began in Keyhaven and ended in Studland Bay. In between, we had brilliant nights in the Anse de Solidor (St-Malo) and Saint Aubin's Bay (Jersey). We even had two quiet nights in Braye Harbour (Alderney).



1- Keyhaven (Hampshire)

In Cherbourg we met other adventuring ECSC members, Paul and Karen Walker on *Brassed Off* (in company with friendly yachts from Hardway Sailing Club) and Gordon Bellamy on *Panda*. Everyone did their best to show our respects for French culture. Cherbourg, as usual, was hard to leave except under perfect conditions of wind and weather!



2-Beaucette Marina (Guernsey) . . . an old quarry blasted to the sea. A special stop!

Gordon joined us as we continued our journey . . . into knotweed hell! After obligatory stops on Alderney, Guernsey, and Jersey, we pushed south to Brittany, making landfall at St-Quay.

As we approached, the engines on both *Tideline* and *Panda* went “clunk.” We entered the marina at Portrieux under reduced power . . . and then the fun began. With some dockside gymnastics and a dive under by Gordon we freed beards of Japanese knotweed from our props.



3-Dahouet (Brittany)

The next day, after a delightful walk on the headland (Brittany from the sea is one lovely headland, beach, and village after another), we headed east across Baie de St-Brieuc to Dahouet . . . soon trailing more knotweed.

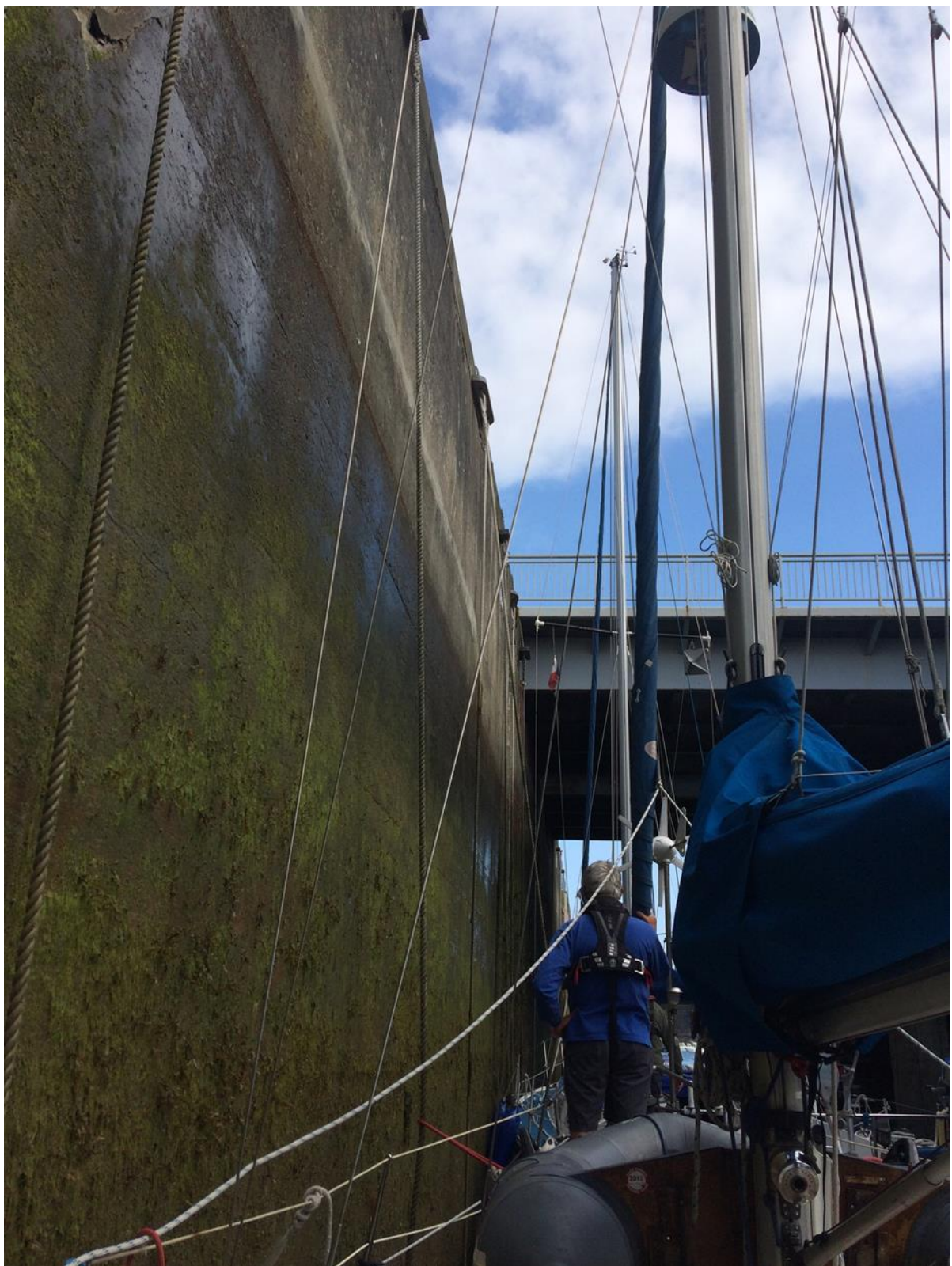
After another breath-taking (literally) headland walk and a perfect French countryside dinner, we could not bother with knotweed, so we headed off the next morning, around Cap Frehel, to St-Cast le Guildo with fingers crossed.



4-Anse de Solidor (St-Malo)

Luckily, we had the best wind of our journey and were slowed only a bit by the now more-than-irritating knotweed. Once more we deployed the dinghy and the boat hooks, and Gordon over the side, to clear the props. For the rest of the journey, even as we crossed the Channel, we were haunted by large patches of the bloody weed. Send it back to Japan, we say!

Any passage to the Channel Islands and Brittany means massive tidal ranges. For us this meant some more fun in the locks of St-Malo and La Rance. As we prepared to lock out from St-Malo, a proper Guernsey woman, a power boater, said to us that she had seen some real dramas in these locks. We informed her that we had created a BAFTA-worthy scene as we locked in the day before. She kindly asked that we not tie alongside.



5-The barrage lock leaving La Rance . . . a fifteen metre fall

In thirty days, we generated lots more stories (some true). Ask us about them over coffee in the clubhouse. We definitely recommend leaving sight of the smokestacks from time to time.

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