

## “Three MEN in a boat”

### *Voyage/rally on NYDA to celebrate MAYFLOWER 400 August 2020*

History: Mayflower was an English ship that transported the first English Puritans known today as pilgrims, from England to the NEW WORLD in 1620. After ten weeks at sea the MAYFLOWER dropped anchor near the tip of Cape Cod on November 11th, 1620 with 102 passengers and crew.

Nyda: An Ovni 385 an ocean cruiser carrying the sensational PARASAILOR! (a cross between a spinnaker and a paraglider) for dragging us downwind.

The Crew: Skipper/Owner: Geoff Taylor age 69yrs, two transatlantic crossings on Nyda plus Caribbean/Med/Brittany cruising.

First Mate: Graham Tracey age 72yrs Yachtmaster Skipper/owner of Shiatsu many thousands of miles cruising experience.

Admiral/Cook/Helm hog: Mikey Palette age 78yrs completely self-taught, over fifty years cruising / racing experience. Has owned over 70 craft of all types since 1958. Represented GB at Laser World Champs 1997. Combined Age of crew 219 years!!



1. Mike Palette



2. The Motley Crew

**ORGANISERS of M400 Rally 2020:** ROYAL SOUTHAMPTON YACHT CLUB and ROYAL NAVY VOLUNTEER RESERVE YACHT CLUB

Organising Officers: Laurie Bates and Graham Tracey (RSYC) David Monks (RNVRYC)

ITINERARY of ORIGINAL rally: (modified due to COVID-19)

Saturday 15 AUG: participants to assemble at COWES Yacht Haven. Sunday 16 Aug: cruise to Yarmouth. Monday 17 Aug: cruise to PORTLAND with meal at the boat that rocks (Monday or Tuesday). Wednesday 19 Aug: cruise to Dartmouth. Friday Aug 21: cruise to Plymouth. Sunday Aug 23: End of Rally depart Plymouth (for West Country cruising)

## THE ACTUAL LOG of Nyda



3. The Start of the Foodie Cruise

**Day 1:** Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Aug Boats assembled at Cowes Yacht Haven. Crab and salad supper at the HAVEN.

**Day 2:** Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Gentle cruise down to Yarmouth (pm) followed by excellent meal at "On The Rocks"



4. Mikey's Diet Goes West

**Day 3:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> good forecast (SW 3-4/5)



5. Twister En-route to Portland off Totland Early AM

Left Yarmouth calm sea, spot of fishing (0), wind picked up, and sailing closed hauled at about 5/6 knots, sunny.



6. Cruise Liners Anchored in Weymouth Bay

Ten cruise ships anchored in Weymouth bay including the three QUEENS awaiting orders!

Arrived Portland Marina, Visitors berth

On end of pontoon about 10 minute walk to facilities! Dinner on board (Geoff's chicken curry). Forecast favourable for passage to Dartmouth tomorrow (Aug 18<sup>th</sup>).

**DAY 4:** Tuesday Aug 18.

Early start wind SW 3 to 4 gusting 5, lumpy sea off Portland Bill but smooth through inner passage. Good sail across Lyme Bay some motor-sailing to make the Mewstone (Dartmouth



entrance). Moored up on visitor pontoon opposite Town quay water taxi to get ashore. Salad dinner on-board. Dodgy forecast for rest of the week. Must change our mooring if possible!!

**DAY 5:** Wednesday Aug 19<sup>th</sup>.

Great news!! Helpful harbour master has found us an inner berth on the Town Quay with water, electricity, walk ashore to shops restaurants and ferries etc. Moved Nyda in double quick time ! We are now ok for the next five days during this stormy spell of weather.



7. Rosie

Who is this? Extra crew or Mikey's protégé (Rosie shanghaied)

Dinner in Dartmouth Yacht Club and joined by Allan and Gilly from Twister of Mersea. Excellent value meal with £10 off Government subsidy (super homemade Bread and Butter pudding)

**DAY 6:** Thursday Aug 20<sup>th</sup>.

Shopping, Paddle Steamer (Coal fired) trip up river Dart. Dinner on board Corned Beef Hash (a Mikey speciality)

**DAY 7:** Friday Aug 21<sup>st</sup>.

Joined by Rosie (Mikey's new Lady) having driven down from Oxford for a 3 day visit. Seafood Dinner; Scallops, Crab, for starters plus fresh fillets of local Plaice for the main course.



8. Greenway

**DAY 8:** Saturday Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>. River trip to GREENWAY beloved home of Agatha Christie (house closed but the grounds were open)

Dinner on board. GEOFF's speciality delicious Paella.

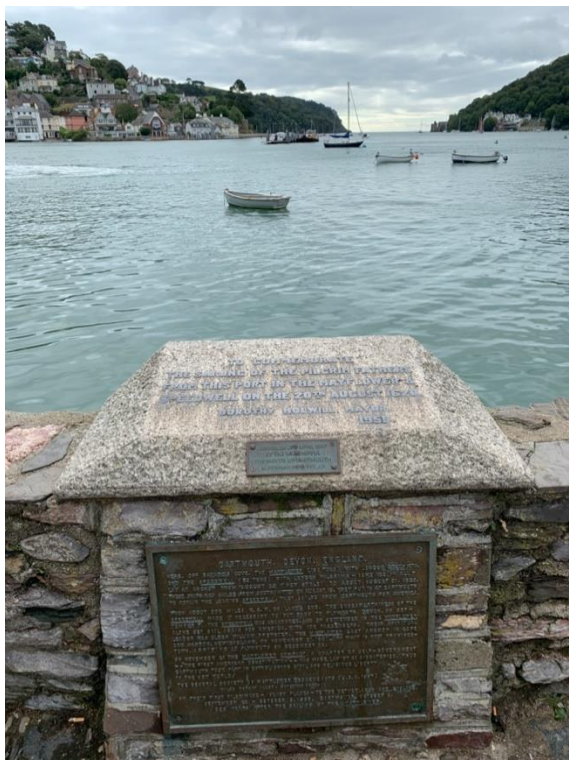
**DAY 9** Sunday 23 AUG: M400 rally presentation Day (DARTMOUTH)



9. Dartmouth Dignitaries Assembled

Dignitaries: Deputy Mayor of Dartmouth, Clr. Sally Hibbert, Admiral Robin Shiffner M400 project leader for Dartmouth.





10. Dartmouth Memorial



12. Paignton

After ceremony steam trip to Paignton!



11. Deputy Mayor Sally Hibbert

Badges and flags presented to Deputy Mayor Sally Hibbert by: David Monks and Graham Tracey.



13. Skipper Enjoying Fine Conditions





14. Under a Milky Sun

Skipper enjoying fine conditions under milky Sun!

**DAY 10** Monday Aug 24<sup>th</sup>: Passage to Plymouth  
Wind SW 4 to 5 Lumpy off Start point otherwise good sail arrived and locked in to Sutton Marina at around 6:30pm. Gale Francis forecast for tonight and all day tomorrow (Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>)

**DAY 11** Tuesday Aug 25<sup>th</sup>: Plymouth presentation day.



15. Plymouth Dignitaries



16. Mayflower Memorial

Dignitaries: Chris Mavin Lord Mayor of Plymouth and his lady Mayoress. Project Facilitator Laura Campbell. Graham Tracey presented Club Burgees and the 1920 Mayflower 300 Badge and certificate to Chris Mavin Lord Mayor of Plymouth. Followed by signing of certificates in the Mayflower Museum. Good Dinner in Harbourside Seafood Restaurant Packed out NO social distancing? But £30 off the bill!!

**DAY 12** Aug 26<sup>th</sup>: Passage to Torquay  
Wind West Force 4, Sunny 7 hours under PARASAILOR!

Reserved Berth in Torquay Marina (MDL) not that good. Dinner on board Smoked Salmon followed by BBQ chicken.

**DAY 13** Aug 27<sup>th</sup>: Passage to Weymouth  
Wind SSE Force 4 to 6, Rain, Cold, 2 reefs in main. Left Torquay 7am off Portland Bill by 2:15 Tied up on reserved berth on Weymouth Quay (opposite) harbour master's office by 4pm. Visit to fishmongers for fillets of BRILL for supper. Heavens opened up with torrential downpour, roads turned into rivers but all over in 30mins.

**DAY 14** Aug 28<sup>th</sup>: Passage to Cowes (home)  
Wind West Force 4 to 5 mostly sunny with storm clouds hanging about. Great sail with Parasailor up ALL the way to Gurnard, 40 miles in six hours.

Great fresh Weymouth Bay Crab salads for supper.



17. Mikey and Graham



19. Cowes in Sight



18. Parasail

#### END of NYDA M400 RALLY 2020

PS Saturday am, Nyda was refuelled, and returned to her mooring up river, followed by a very wet trip back to ECSC in the dinghy (Wind against tide in Medina!) tide out at ECSC muddy return!



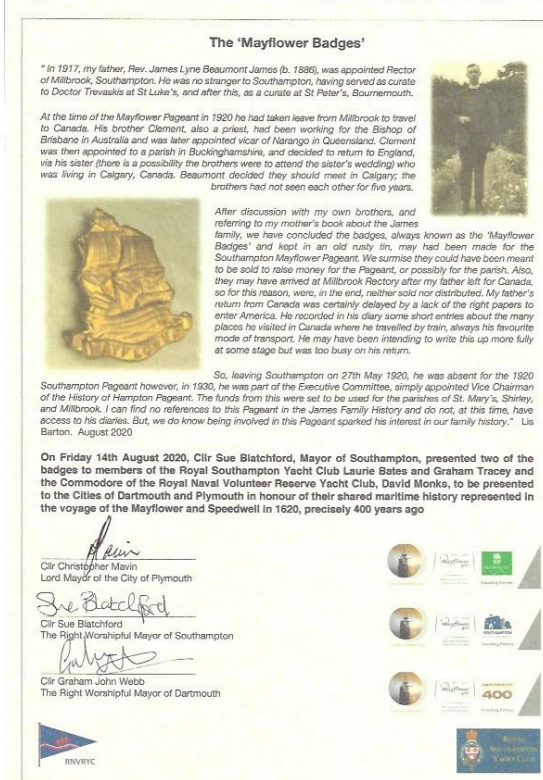
20. Final Ceremony





21. Councillor Sue Blatchford

On Thursday Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> Graham took SHIATSU over to Southampton for the final Ceremony with the Lord Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Sue Blatchford. He presented a copy of the certificate signed by the Mayors of Dartmouth and Plymouth with a Mayflower 400 badge from Dartmouth.



## CONCLUSION and LESSONS learnt

This Rally was 2 years in the planning and a tremendous amount of work and effort was put in by RSYC members Graham Tracey and Lauri Bates. No one could have foreseen COVID-19 which of course changed everything. No Tall Ships, parade of sail, no parties or social events. The Media showed little interest no reporters, local radio, tv, or newspaper reports etc.

Despite all this and the inclement weather forecasts the Rally went ahead, and all participants got something out of it, whether for the two weeks duration or for only a couple of days.

Of the 40 entries Nyda and Moonlite (a Swift Trawler yacht) completed the itinerary.

Weather: Although two major depressions came through during the rally including two force 8 to 10 gales. Prudent weather planning and decisions on Nyda enabled us to find suitable windows to complete seven passages of over forty miles with no more than force 6. We had a few lumpy and confused seas notably off Portland Bill and Start Point. Most of the passages were slight or moderate seas. Winds were mostly WSW .

The finest way of surviving bad weather is to put three reefs in the main before setting off; set the Storm jib; prepare a sea anchor and a 100-foot warp with heavy chain; securely stow anything that is loose and then go ashore and SIT IN ANY BAR until the weather gets better. (credit: The Art of Course Sailing)

Michael (Mikey) Palette