

Quantum Network – Newsletter Spring 2010

Welcome to the spring edition of the Quantum Newsletter. In this edition we have –

- Sailing adventure – a windy night in the channel, the inspiration behind the Quantum Network
- Featured location – picturesque Alderney, just a boat trip away but so different
- Focus on sailing – this month's feature web site sailers.co.uk
- Dates for the diary – Channels Island cruise (7-13th June) plus Quantum Open Weekend (8-9th May)

Sailing Adventures – A wet and windy night in the English Channel

One cross channel sail stands out in my memory as both a great trip and a significant turning point in more than one way.

It was in early September 2005, we were onboard a Bavaria 36 sailing from Falmouth. There were 6 of us, four adults and two teenage lads, all from the Peachcroft Christian Centre in Abingdon.

Following a quiet night holed up in a secluded part of the river Fal, we had a great sail, in almost perfect conditions, to the fabulous port of Treguier in Northern Brittany. After a day exploring the town we sailed on to Morlaix, spending a night anchored in the beautiful estuary, before making our way up with the tide to the town.

The return journey however was quite a different story. Having left Morlaix late afternoon, the first part of the 100 mile return leg to Falmouth started well and we made good progress on a beam reach. It was as night closed in that, true to the forecast, the wind increased and come round onto our head. This meant a hard night's work, and making slow progress, pounding into growing seas, grinding out the miles and hoping for the forecast improvement in the morning.

Although it was cold, wet and windy, we have sailed through worse. What I remember most from that trip is sharing a night watch, three hours together from 3 o'clock in the morning, with my teenage son James



Alone together in the cockpit, battling against the elements, James really worked his socks off that night. He demonstrated a mature level of application and perseverance that I had not seen before. His skill in steering by compass, and those of you that have tried will know how difficult that is, really impressed me. What's more, I found out that he really likes sailing when it gets windy and rough. I hadn't expected that.

I saw James in a new light after that, and I think that was the point where our relationship moved on to more of an adult-to-adult level. We have sailed together a number of times since but I know that he looks back on that trip, as I do, as a very special shared memory.



What has this to do with the Quantum Network? That trip was full of memorable experiences and it demonstrated to me that sailing is a great way for people to spend quality time together. I want to make that available to more people

If you have teenage children, I recommend that you do something challenging together, you never know what might come of it!

Featured Location - Alderney

Located some 60 miles from the Isle of Wight and less than 10 miles from mainland France, Alderney is one of the most unspoiled and peaceful locations in the British Isles and is a great place to visit on any cross channel trip.

Whilst Alderney is an idyllic location to visit, it is also a fascinating destination for sailors. Don't expect any marinas here, Braye harbour has visitors buoys for 70



yachts plus space for anchorage. As with other Channel Island ports it has an extremely large tidal range; in excess of 10m can be experienced. The famous Alderney races pass between the island and the French mainland, where tides can reach 10 knots .



The island is just one and a half miles wide and three and a half miles long with just over two thousand inhabitants. Alderney people are known as "Ridunians" (the Roman name for Alderney was Riduna)

Like Guernsey and Jersey, the island enjoys a mild climate and independence, with its own government. Alderney enjoys nearly 2,000 hours of sunshine per year. With temperatures averaging between 20C-24C in summer and between 17C-20C in spring and autumn, frost and snow are extremely rare. Alderney has an ancient and varied history; an abundance of flora and fauna, beautiful beaches and is a magnet for birdwatchers.

The town of St. Anne, with its quaint cobbled streets lined by small boutiques, offers a great choice of pubs, bars and restaurants. Shopping is VAT-free. Alderney is renowned for its excellent cuisine, particularly for its seafood, such as lobster and crab. In May, the island's top chefs, restaurants and hotels team up for the annual Seafood Festival.

Alderney has the only working railway in the Channel Islands. The railway, opened by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1847, celebrated its 150th birthday in 1997 and attracts enthusiasts from all over the world. Elizabeth, the diesel engine, pulls two old London Underground carriages built in 1959 along a scenic coastal route from the harbour up to the north-east coast, then towards Mannez quarry and lighthouse.



The Alderney museum covers the geology, archaeology, natural environment and social history of Alderney. Exhibits include the building of Braye Harbour, the breakwater, associated defensive forts and gun batteries, materials from the German Occupation, and the islanders' mass evacuation in 1940 and return in 1945

One of the most famous residents on Alderney is the extremely rare Blonde Hedgehog (Leucistic). Also known as "Alderney Spike Girls", these Blondie's are very rare in Britain and became extinct on the island in the early nineteenth century, but today there are said to be over 1,000 pairs inhabiting the island. Alderney is famous for its seabirds, especially gannets. Puffins, fulmars, guillemots, dartford warblers, peregrines and many others are regular residents. Alderney's west coast and Burhou Island are officially recognized as a wetland of worldwide importance. Other wildlife includes the grey atlantic seals that inhabit nearby small islets.

All this adds up to a fascinating and beautiful location. With interesting and challenging navigation, and a friendly welcome Alderney, is recommend for any sailing trip. For more info, see <http://www.visitalderney.com>

Focus on sailing – Sailers web site

Sailers is a web site run by sailors, for the sailing community. It is full of informative editorials, independent equipment reviews and interesting stories, so that you can follow other peoples sailing adventures. There is a forum and useful tips on seamanship such as MOB recovery, anchoring and sail trim. Why not check it out? www.sailers.co.uk

Dates for the diary

Mileage builder Cruise - 7th-13th June - If the description of Alderney has wetted your appetite, why not consider one of our Mileage Builder Cruises for a seven day cruise to France and the Channel Islands? Proposed destinations include Braye and Treguier. Individual places can be booked to share a trip with other interested sailors, all standards welcome. Your skipper will ensure the right balance of challenge and adventure to suit the crew's experience. Contact us for details – glenn@quantumsailing.co.uk.

Open weekend – 8th-9th May - Are you thinking of planning a sailing trip? Would you like to see Quantum Leap and meet the team? We are holding an open weekend, 8th-9th May at Haslar Marina in Gosport where we will be available to meet to discuss any aspect of sailing or planning for your sailing adventure. A limited number of free taster sailing experiences are available during the day. Contact Glenn to book a place - 07919 017835 or email glenn@quantumsailing.co.uk