

# Quantum Network–Newsletter Winter 2011

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

- **Sailing adventure – Fecamp Fireworks** – A cross channel weekend with added entertainment.
- **Featured location – Falmouth**. Steeped in maritime history, a great stop-over on a West Country Cruise.
- **Focus on Outdoor Adventure** – Introducing Quantum Sailing's new partner Rock UK Trailblazers.
- **Free taster session** – Special offer for organizers thinking about getting a group together.
- **Dates for the diary** – Get your sailing planned in, with lots of opportunities for Adventure Sailing cruises.

## Sailing Adventures – First visit to Fecamp

Now a favourite destination for our long weekend cross channel trips, our first visit to Fecamp came about by accident but was a definitely one to remember.

We had gathered in Haslar marina on Friday evening ready for an evening departure and the usual overnight jaunt across to Cherbourg. Checking the shipping forecast, the predicted strong S/SW winds would be dead on our nose the whole way and could easily change the usual 10-12 hours trip into 20 hours plus. A quick replan was called for and Fecamp in Normandy was chosen as the alternative destination. The wind would be more on the beam and we could potentially have a fast sail across and certainly be more comfortable.

Indeed, the wind proved to be kind. We sailed for most of the night with one reef in the main, with the wind easing as day broke to allow us to sail the last part under full canvas. We were welcomed into Fecamp in bright sunshine shortly before midday, after averaging around 6 knots on the crossing.

After an excellent lunch at a local café, we had time left to explore the town, and discover some of its history, including its famous Benedictine liqueur.

The town became extremely crowded as evening fell, with seemingly every café and restaurant full. Returning to the boat, we noticed that hordes of people were now moving down to the harbour area. As we sat eating supper in the cockpit on this balmy evening, we realized why everyone was here when we were treated a most magnificent firework display, set off from along the harbour wall just a short distance away.

As we enjoyed the spectacle that at times lit up the boat like daylight, we eventually realized that the date was 14<sup>th</sup> of July, which of course is Bastille day!

We had enjoyed a fantastic day, good sailing, lots of sunshine and a fascinating town to visit, rounded off with front row seats for a free show. Even the torrential rain and thunderstorms, followed by fog as we crossed the main shipping channels on the return journey, did not dampen the enthusiasm on board. All of the crew vowed to go back again next time Bastille Day is on a Saturday!



## Featured Location - Falmouth

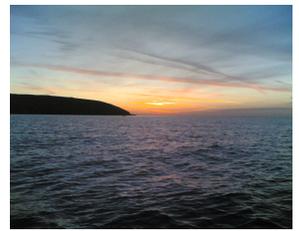
If you have ever cruised the West Country, you will most likely have stopped off in Falmouth. Strategically placed, it is often used a jump off point when leaving the mainland to sail to the Isles of Scilly or when heading south across the Bay of Biscay. It has a long been an important seaport, with strong naval traditions.



For the leisure sailor, it also has some great traditions. The origins of the Falmouth Sailing Week, held in August each year, dates back to the 1820's. Falmouth was the port where Robin Knox-Johnson landed in 'Suhaili' in 1969 after completing the Sunday Times Golden Globe Race to become the first person to sail single-handed non-stop around the world. (Read his account of the voyage in 'A World of my Own'). More recently, Falmouth also hosted the return of Ellen MacArthur after her record breaking solo round the world trip in 2005 and there have been many other notable sailing firsts that concluded or started in Falmouth.

Navigation into the Fal is straightforward and safe with the exception of the famous Black Rock, an Isolated Danger, well marked but right in the middle of the mile wide entrance. Entering from the east, you will round St Anthony head, with its lighthouse made famous in the 1980s children's TV program 'Fraggle Rock'. Coming from the west, after rounding the Lizard peninsula, you just need to watch out for the famous Manacle rocks, now well marked and covered by a sector light from the St Anthony lighthouse.

Falmouth has the third largest natural deep water harbour in the world, after Sydney and Rio, where the Fal and connected rivers meet in the Carrick Roads. Further up the Fal, you will pass King Harry chain ferry and quickly get to some very quiet and picturesque reaches. If your boat can dry out, then you can navigate all of the way up to Truro.



The town of Falmouth is small and friendly, with some 21 thousand residents. It caters well for visitors, with three marinas available and a fourth possibly being completed in 2011.

Our favourite option though is to stop on the Town Quay. Apart from being close to the center of town, it is right on the doorstep of the famous Chain Locker pub, a location that continues to be popular with most visiting crews.



If you have time to stop in Falmouth, then a visit the Maritime museum is very worthwhile. Other locations to include on any tour of the area are St Mawes, a picturesque town on a sheltered bay by the entrance to the Fal and also the Helford river, just a few miles away - the place that inspired Daphne du Maurier's book 'Frenchman's Creek'. (Picture left - passing Cornish gig racer on our last trip to the Helford).

So don't just look on Falmouth as a convenient stop over, it is well worth a visit in its own right and it's a port we try to include on every West Country Cruise.

## Focus on Outdoor Pursuits - Rock UK Trailblazers

Interested in sailing? Then you may also be interested in other outdoor pursuits. Quantum Sailing is proud to announce that it is partnering with Rock UK Trailblazers to deliver Adventure Sailing holidays, Charity Challenges and Adventure Projects in 2011. Formerly know at the Barnabas Trust, Rock UK is the leading Christian supplier of outdoor adventure activities, with five centres across the UK.

Rock UK exists to create life long memories for all who visit their centres. Through Trailblazers, Rock UK offers Mini Expeditions and Adventure Holidays, Charity Challenges and Adventure Projects in locations throughout the UK and across the world. They believe that spending time away from routine, in the great outdoors with friends, family or alone is something everyone should experience whether young or old. Rock UK Trailblazers embraces this through the provision of an increasing range of adventures and destinations.



For more information see to <http://rockuk.org/trailblazers> , call 0844 8000 222 or email [trailblazers@rockuk.org](mailto:trailblazers@rockuk.org) .

## Charter – free taster sessions

Thinking of organizing a group or family charter but not sailed with Quantum Sailing before? We know that you will enjoy sailing us but we want you to feel confident of this too:

**Free Taster Experience ½ day** - For anyone considering organizing a group or family charter, we are offering a free taster sail in early April. Come down to Haslar marina for half a day, meet us and other Quantum Sailing Network members, see the yacht and have a short sail from Portsmouth harbour. There is no obligation but we hope that it will inspire you to go on and organize sailing trips. Places are limited so please get in touch if you are interested.

**Personal recommendation** - Many of the people providing feedback on our testimonials page are happy to talk about their experiences too (<http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/testimonials.html>). So if you want a personal recommendation please let us know and we will put you in touch.

## Dates for the diary

Time to start planning your 2011 outings. This year we have lots more Adventure Sailing Cruises / Mileage Builders available and, with many prices being held or even reduced this year, they are great value too. Here are a few ideas:

Why not join us for our Easter weekend 4 day cross channel Sailing Adventure – 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April?

Our West Country adventure includes Falmouth and, weather permitting, the Isles of Scilly – 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> June.

How about something more adrenaline filled? We have places on the Round the Island Race – 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Check out our web site for details of all our open events <http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/adventurecruise.html> and contact us if you would like to join the crew – 07919 017835 or [glenn@quantumsailing.co.uk](mailto:glenn@quantumsailing.co.uk)

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