

Wildcat Heads to Ireland

July 2015

Fri 3rd LIMEKILNS – BOWLING (49 NM / 17.5 hrs)

Today was my last ever day of primary school and I was very emotional and sad to be leaving everyone behind. Our leaver's assembly was very successful and great fun. Miss Reimer is heading to Oxford Uni and I wish her the best of luck (I'll miss everyone.) Although I have something to cheer me up it's the HOLIDAYS (YAY!!!!!!!!!!) and I'm off to Ireland on Wildcat. I'm so excited! Having gone through the Forth and Clyde canal last weekend we arrived on the train in Bowling and hauled even more kit onto the already full Wildcat. Mum and I dived in and got weed off the prop AGAIN..... at least it was lovely and sunny.

Sat 4th BOWLING – KIP (10 NM / 3 ¼ hrs)

Today we went up to a craft fayre in the rain and bought some presents for relatives. Tegan and I made paper flowers and we had free burgers. We later sailed to Kip. Our first day out of the canal was great and the sun even came out. We came in next to a boat full of children starting their holidays like us and we all went to have drinks at the Chartroom having had pies for tea enroute. One of the boys fell off the climbing frame and got a huge egg on his head (ouch). We got midged and had to move inside and we had ice cream. Time for bed...NIGHT NIGHT.

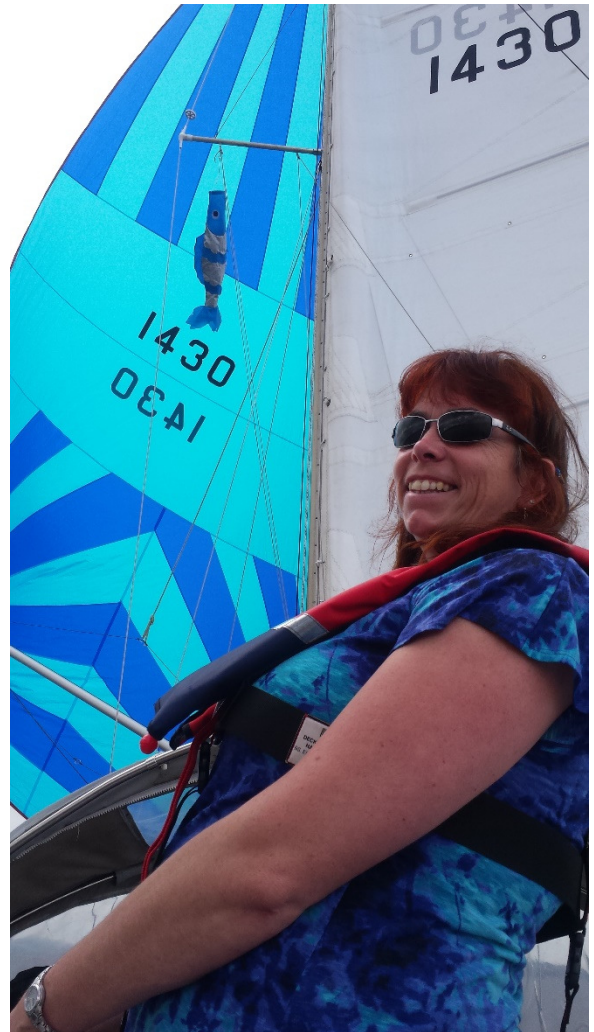


Sun 5th KIP – TROON (30 NM / 6 ¾ hrs)

We set off for Troon with the cruising chute and ended up motor sailing. On our way we saw a pod of dolphins. We had some rain but generally nice weather. We went for fish and chips from the 'Wee Hurrie' fish bar and sat outside opposite Holy Isle, it was beautiful as the sun was dancing across the sea from Arran. We stocked up the boat and went to bed, all very tired. NIGHT NIGHT!!!

Mon 6th TROON – PORTPATRICK (THE **BIG** DAY – 52 NM / 10 hrs)

Mum and Dad got up at 1am this morning to avoid the bad weather. They were hoping to reach Portpatrick and they did it; having sailed for 10 hours! They arrived at midday completely shattered (we had slept to Stranraer!) THANKYOU MUM AND DAD!!!!!! We tied up against a huge boat from Ireland against a huge wall. He was impressed that such a small boat had got through the tiny entrance in the bad weather. Mum and I had a shower and we all went to have a drink at the café. The TV was stuck on women's Wimbledon (boring) but luckily we went to the pub next door and watched Andy. We went to our bunks whilst Mum and Dad got the charts out to plan our crossing to Ireland.



Tue 7th PORTPATRICK – BANGOR County down (30NM/ 6 hrs)

Today was.....Tegan's Birthday!!!!!! We got up, had breakfast, opened presents and went to play pitch and put in the rain. Tegan got a hole in one through a tube! I didn't really get the hang



of it until later on. We had lunch at the Harbour House hotel and got presie for Uncle Geoff's baby (furry animal shoes). Tegan said she would like to sail to Ireland on her 13th birthday so we then headed off. It felt like miles away even though it was shorter than our previous journeys!? We had

tried to see it from the restaurant but couldn't. We left the harbour and it was immediately a very confused sea which threw the boat and us all over the place. We managed to hoist the main sail which helped stabilise the boat. This made everyone sick; apart from Mum luckily. Even with all this Mum stuck to the agreed course to steer and we ended up at Mew Island light house at the entrance to Belfast lough. We had managed to avoid a ship and judged the cross tides right. We were proud but tired as we sailed into the lough; Limekilns seemed a long way away! We had planned to go to Carrickfergus which was 10 miles further but Mum revolted and we changed course to nearby Bangor. I was glad to get to land; even then I was still swaying hours after. It had been a hard trip because the first hour had made us feel so ill. Our trip across the Irish Sea was a challenge. Having not had time for Ts birthday cake we had it at 11 o'clock at night. Wrong elevenes!!! And then we..... slept!



Wed 8th July BANGOR, COUNTY DOWN

We had a lazy day today as we were all so tired. We watched Andy play at Wimbledon and he won the quarters (yay). Later we went for an evening explore along the coast and went to bed very tired.

Thurs. 9th July COUNTY DOWN COAST

Today we went for a walk along the coast (for Stumps as he was desperate to get off the boat) and we got the train back. We had ice cream in a country park café, a picnic in a sunny grassy field (which Stumpy rolled in) and ended up having drinks in the Cultra Inn waiting for the train.

Fri 10th July TITANIC MUSEUM, Belfast

Today was amazing we went on the train to the Titanic museum in Belfast and looked all over the place, into the history of the famous Titanic and its creation, down in the dark engine room, around the poverty pits of the ship workers, and down, down into her deep graving dock.



We had a snack in the café and I had an Irish make of crisp called Tayto. We then looked around the Nomadic: Titanic's tender – she is 100ft long built in 1912. On the way back from the station we bought the world's largest takeaway pizza – Mum carried it along the pontoon on her head but woops the wind blewluckily Dad caught it! She was using it as an umbrella (weird!). I took Stumps for a short walk after dinner and he made me laugh when he almost fell off the pontoon. Today was great. Although Andy Murray lost against Federer.



Sat 11th July BANGOR – GLENARM (24NM/ 5 hrs 40 mins)

Today Mum and Dad sailed to Glenarm, County Antrim while we slept and later did some puzzles from our Titanic activity books enroute. For lunch we had left over pizza. Once in the marina we were greeted by a drunk marina man. We went to Glenarm Castle Gardens and it was beautifully manicured even in the rain. Tegan and I had a race down a wet hill and I fell on my bum hysterically laughing, I still won the race! We had a cake and juice, then went home to the boat.

Sun 12th July GLENARM – LAMLASH, Arran (61Nm / 10 hrs)

Today we sailed back across the Irish Sea to Arran, Tegan wouldn't eat her porridge so Dad fed her and then she felt less sea sick. I helmed and it was fun although sometimes a bit scary (I nearly accidentally tacked when the wind strengthened to a F5/6 – oooooops). We are staying in Lamlash for a few days to get some well-earned rest, also we are hoping to climb Goat Fell and explore the island a bit. When we came into the harbour we saw a brand new huge boat that was at least 100 ft and very expensive. We stocked up the boat as rain was forecast for tomorrow.



Mon 13th July LAMLASH, Arran

The rainy day has come. The weather is not so good but we are going to walk around Brodick castle and gardens. This morning Stumpy got caught up in Tegan's sleeping bag trying to get out of bed (poor dog). Again Mum found it hilariously funny, waking me up by laughing. When we were at the castle lots of French tourists turned up and the queues for lunch and the loos were huge. We then walked to the Arran outdoor shop, leather shop and brewery. T and I got long sleeved down Jackets (toasty.) We walked to Arran aromatics and watched soap being made then had a picnic by the beach before getting the bus back to the boat. We admired a lovely traditional boat that came moored near us (it was beautiful). In the end the weather wasn't too bad (most days we had all weathers in one day it never stayed the same).

Tue 14th July LAMLASH, Arran

Today we caught a bus to Whiting Bay and then walked up to Glenashdale Falls. The weather was very nice despite all the midges they are soooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo annoying and itchy. Mum got bitten all over and Tegan was bitten by a horse fly. We had a lovely lunch high up on a forestry track overlooking the mainland; the weather was very clear and we could see for miles. We didn't end up going for a swim but our day was amazing. All ready for our climb up GOAT FELL tomorrow!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Wed 15th July LAMLASH, Arran (Goat Fell)

Today was sooooo much fun!!!!!!!
We got an OPEN TOP BUS!!!!!!!!!! (My hair went wild) to the castle and walked Goat Fell from there. I say that so simply. Trust me walking Goat Fell in hot weather and with hardly any water is NOT easy. After our trek we had dinner in the wine port pub. Mum had, wait for it..... 2 cokes, 1, 2, 3 waters and a coffee. She was sort of pooped!!!!!! She called it an oasis at the bottom of the hill. We later went swimming at Auchrannie spa. Tegan and I met a girl called Hannah Louise and we played water tag. We got eaten by the midges outside waiting for the bus. We got home and all flopped.



Thu 16th July LAMLASH – EAST LOCH TARBERT (26NM/ 6hrs 15mins)

This morning I searched Stumps for ticks, he had one under his eye, Dad removed it. We had a lovely journey to east loch Tarbert and we had lots of laughs whilst teaching Mum sea shanty nursery rhymes, (this was particularly poignant as we had sailed “over the Irish Sea” and “we had gone this way that way, backwards and forwards”) at least that’s what Mum thinks - she sang it wrong! We had pies for lunch and I read some of my book about Malala - it is getting really exciting!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Once we got there Tegan and I went out on the canoe and paddled to and island. We then went out for a celebration meal at the Star Fish restaurant for getting to Ireland. We had sea food including fish pie, bass, sea food stroganoff, Queenies and Tarbert Prawns (YUM YUM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!).

Fri 17th July EAST LOCH TARBERT

Today we got up quite late, had breakfast and went for a walk to Shell beach. Tegan and I collected some of the shells – they were very pretty (discarded from an old scallop factory). I wanted to swim in the sea but it did look cold so maybe not. We are having sea food for tea again, we went to get it from the fish shop this morning and the man told us all about them.

Sat 18th July EAST LOCH TARBERT

Today was surprisingly nice considering the weather forecast. It was admittedly quite windy and in the evening it did rain a bit. We got up very late and went to have a look at all the old boats there for public views. We looked around Araby Maid, Swyn Y Mor (an ex life boat from the 1930s that has since travelled around the world). Her owners were so lovely and later did the greasy pole and won a



bottle of whisky!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Araby Maid was designed by the designer of our boat 'Alan Hill' and was lovely. Tegan and I lost Mum and Dad and missed out on the greasy pole challenge.

Later Mum and Tegan went to make scented candles and they smelt lovely. We then played boules; of course Dad won. We had burgers for tea and then went for pudding at 'lite Bite' as there was so many midges outside. I had chocolate of course and Tegan had a gigantic waffle!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Yum. We all had a shower then went back to the boat to make tomorrow's tea and then T and I went to bed whilst Mum and Dad went to a music festival up at the marquee.

Sun 19th July EAST LOCH TARBERT – PORT BANNATYNE, BUTE (27NM/ 6hrs)

Today T and I went to play table tennis. Just as we were getting ready to leave Hilarity (The Maylins from Aberdour) sailed in and came and said hello. They had just picked her up from Inverness and were heading back to the Forth so we expected to meet up again! We then set off to sail to Bute seeing all of the old boats mustering out in Loch Fyne on the way. We tacked all the way the West Kyle in lovely sunshine. When we got to Bute we went to have a look at the village and then prepped tea and T went for a wiz in the tender. I wasn't particularly talented at that. I think some practice might come in handy! We had a lovely tea of spag bowl and then went to bed.

Mon 20th July PORT BANNATYNE, BUTE – HOLY LOCH (15NM/ 3hrs 30mins)

This morning we saw Hilarity again as we were leaving. We also saw Hannah (from South Queensferry). We walked across the Island to a café for lunch and we all had soup, sandwiches and curly fries and Stumps had a swim from the beach; it was lovely. We then got the bus back. Later we sailed to Holy Loch and it was raining; I stayed inside. We all helped make dinner and watched a film.

Tue 21st HOLY LOCH - GOUROCK (5NM/ 1hr)

This morning Tegan cooked us burnt porridge (mmm!) as we sailed to the to the Royal Gourock yacht club moorings. We went swimming in the salt water outdoor pool having been taken ashore from our mooring by an extremely old boat and had lunch in a café by the sea. I had soup and a chocolate brownie and a lovely ice shake. We went on the cinema to watch Jurassic World; it was great. We went back to the boat club and had a lovely tea in their restaurant it was lovely and Mum and Dad talked about keeping the boat here one day. We were taken back to the mooring at 10 by the old boat.

Wed 22nd July GOUROCK – BOWLING SEA LOCK (20NM/5hrs)

Today we sailed to Bowling via Rhu for a lunch break; seeing an upturned sunk ship on the way. It hailed on those topside (not me!). Once in Bowling, after I had helmed for a bit up the Clyde, we caught up with Hilarity again. We went through the sea lock and immediately got weed around our prop and could not move. Hilarity was going through the canal with us. We all picked a mountain of weed out of the canal and had a BBQ for tea YUMMY!! DUCK PANCAKES!!!!

Thurs 23rd July BOWLING

Mum and I took Stumps for a pre breakfast walk along the canal to the Erskine Bridge and then we got the train to Glasgow to the transport museum. It was great fun and T and I took ages looking around including exploring the steel ship the Glen lee which is older than the Titanic! Later we did one lock



so we did not have to get up too early tomorrow. I took Stumps for a walk and we did some running around with Adam and Oliver from Hilarity. We had spag bowl for tea and it was lovely.

Fri 24th July BOWLING – THE STABLES, KIRKINTILLOCH (16NM/8hrs)

Today we are heading for the Stables pub. I did my 1 hour shift then went and played with Adam and later we watched Bolt it was great. Unfortunately Hilarity struggled with the weed and overheated and we limped into the Stable in a cloud of steam. We all had tea at the pub and Dad and Mark then sorted the problem – weed in the water intake! 8hrs

A man in a grey jacket and dark shorts is standing on the deck of a sailboat, holding a blue rope. A woman with red hair and sunglasses is sitting on the left, smiling. A small dog in an orange vest is standing on the deck. The boat is on a body of water with a bridge in the background.

Today we are going home. The motor home was lovely. We waved goodbye to Hilarity as she headed home to Aberdour. Once home we unpacked (more than a land rover load!) and went to get Thomas from the cattery; he was so happy to see us. We explored the new Sainsbury's. I went to bed and fell out as it was so big! LOL

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