

August

Catch up with Mark “the fish” le Riche.

Going away on holiday is in most people’s minds during the months of July and August. Mark has already had one short break (reported in last months issue) but in the spirit of “make hay while the suns shines” he ventured to France to compete in a Petanque competition with the Cider and Calvados folk of Granville. Accompanied by a small band of Petanque enthusiasts from the island they made the short sea crossing to Granville for the one-day event. Mark represented the island well by wining his rounds in the competition but was somewhat hazy about other aspects of the trip. He recalls enjoying the refreshments, sitting on bales of hay and the merry sound of music lulling him into a deep sleep. We can but form our own picture of the French hospitality but it sounds as if the day’s competition was accompanied by a very lively barn dance that evening and continued into the early hours of the following day. The hay bales appear to have sufficed for the overnight accommodation.

With all that has been happening in Mark’s life he has spent the last couple of weeks catching up with his friends, telling stories of his trips and finding out whether he had missed out on any good fishing. Apparently, the Jersey fishing environment has changed! The sandbanks southwest of La Corbiere have been altered by the winter storms and bass are now being fished in different parts of the seabed. However, the popular spots for turbot close to the recent earthquake zone, seven miles offshore between Jersey and Guernsey, have not been adversely affected.

On Sunday, 26th July, Mark was once again keen to make the “Blessing of the water” event and service a memorable occasion. He took part as a human figurehead dressed in his interpretation of Lord Nelson. Standing at the bow of the RNLI Tamar Class All Weather Lifeboat the “George Sullivan” he braved the sea spray for the high-speed passage from the Lifeboat station in St Helier to St Aubin’s harbour. The shore-side spectators and Christians gathered to enjoy both the formal service and uniqueness of the ancient maritime tradition were rewarded with a wonderful sunny afternoon. The large representation of St Aubin residents and a good proportion of St Aubin’s Boat Owner Association members filled both piers and many visitors boosted the number making for a real time of community sharing.