

## **Catch up with Mark “the fish” le Riche.**

### **September 14**

When I telephoned Mark to catch up with his latest news and when he heard my voice he responded by belching out, “r..rr...rrr”. I was a little taken back by what he said and pictured him on the other side of the line dressed in his pirate costume. However, I tried to move the conversation forward by asking, “What’s new?” Mark responded, “it’s nearly September!”. The “penny dropped” and his simple statement began to now make sense.

September is the first month with an “r” in it that follows the summer and when traditionally low water fishermen set out on the larger spring tides to harvest cockles, clams and perhaps the odd lobster. Mark is a keen low water fisherman and knows the best spots to search out and collect simple but interesting food on which to base a healthy meal.

On the big tides, or should I say: the low tides, a trickle of locals set off from Grouville bay, Green island, St Aubin’s bay and a few other spots around the coast to harvest the shellfish. For many of these active folk it is normally for the sheer pleasure of getting out on the beach and just enjoying the amazingly diverse landscape that is revealed as the tide recedes.

If the weather is kind visitors and locals that are curious to see what the attraction is follow those who are more informed. Should the weather be less inviting, Mark will, without doubt, maintain his resolve and simply don his oilskins and boots, then press on regardless of the elements. Hopefully, it will prove to be a fine autumn and those of us of a less durable disposition will make the effort to enjoy this simple but rewarding pastime.

September is also the month that many local fishermen test their skill by competing in the Jersey Open Shore Conger Festival – 27th to 28th September. Others will be keen to gather some fresh bait and try for the larger Bass that are presently swimming around the island harbour entrances.

When not fishing Mark is keen to be one of the first to test out the newly laid Petanque pitches in St Aubin’s village. Mark has taken a keen interest in the development of the redesigned harbour environment and has not held back from offering his advise to those who have been involved in its construction.

Overall, the project has been one that has captured the imagination of many local residents and it should not be long before they, and Mark, will be able to enjoy the reward of the enhanced area and facilities compensating them for all the inconvenience they have suffered over the past few months.