

Mingulay

Cruise July 2022

Bangor, Dunlaoghaire, Isles of Scilly, Padstow, Milford Haven,
Wicklow, Bangor

Johnny & Mandy Ritchie

11th to 26th July 2022



Anchored in New Grimsby Sound in front of Cromwell Castle

Mingulay

Dufour 41 Classic

Johnny & Mandy Ritchie

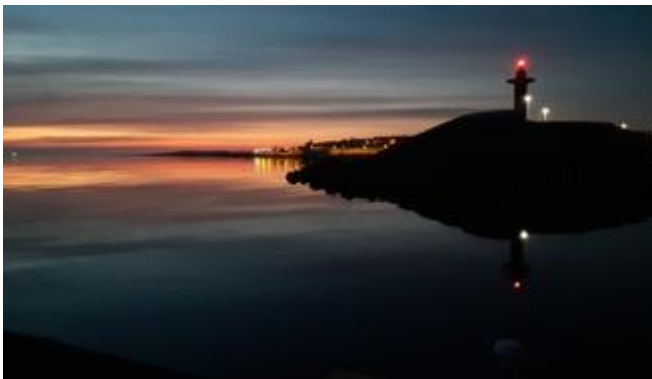
15 day Cruise South 11th July to 26th July 2020

Monday 11th July 2022, Bangor to Dunlaoghaire

HW 03:06 : LW 09:20

Forecast wind SSW 12 – 15 knots

Departed Bangor 03:50 to a beautiful sunrise heading East to South Briggs then South to Dunlaoghaire



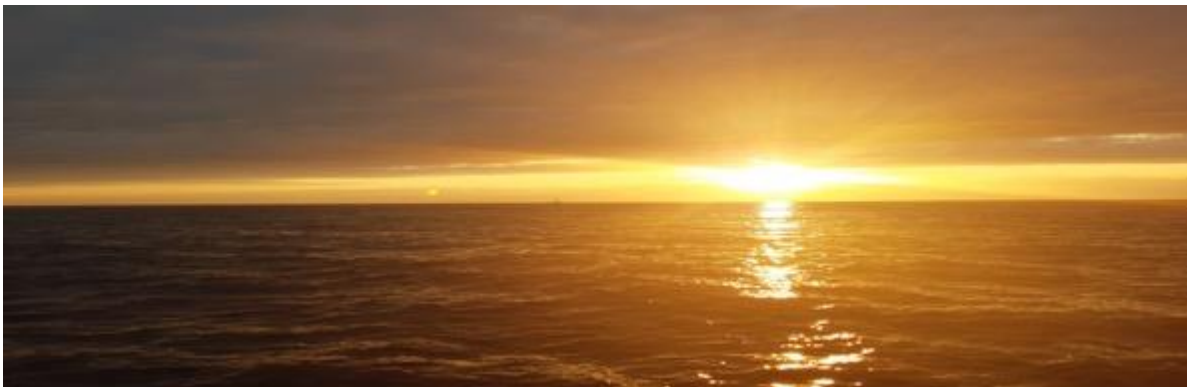
There was no wind until South Rock

The forecast was wrong and the wind strengthened from the South first 15 to 20 knots then gusting 25 knots. We were motoring directly into the wind and the waves to try to make as much ground south as possible. By 15:00 we had had enough punishment banging in the waves so we hoisted the mainsail with one slab and headed SW motorsailing. We fetched just South of Lambay Island. We then continued south towards Howth. We arrived outside Howth 17:30 but decided to crack on around Howth Head to cross Dublin Bay to arrive at Dunlaoghaire 19:00 and decided to drop anchor in Scotsman Bay just South of Dunlaoghaire Harbour but North of Dalkey. We had dinner followed by a very pleasant nights sleep.

Next day Tuesday 12th July 2022 Dublin HW 11:02 LW 04:21 Forecast Light SSW winds

Actually South Winds 6 – 10 knots

We weighed anchor 07:00 heading motoring south through Dalkey Sound to cross Killiney Bay to pass Bray then pass Greystones onward past Wicklow heading south towards Tusker Rock inside the Arklow Banks. We had concerns about how much fuel we had already used and thought it prudent to stop at lunchtime in Arklow for a refill of diesel. Unfortunately, Arklow Marina or Harbour don't sell diesel to small craft. The local fishermen did offer to get a tanker down to the harbour to deliver minimum 500 litres. At this point we called Arklow Marina to ask where the nearest diesel supplier was at which point the manager asked us to tie up to the pontoon in the river and he would meet us. When he arrived he offered to drive me to the nearest Petrol station with my two 20 litre cans. I accepted his kind offer and on return to the boat he refused to take any payment for his trouble. Turned out he owned Arklow Marina and told me I can buy him a drink next time in Arklow.



We carried on motoring South in very light southerly winds and past the Tusker Rock lighthouse at which point the wind very kindly behaved and went into the west 15 – 20knots. So one slab in mainsail and unfurled genoa and we were flying at 7 – 8 knots boat speed as we headed out into the open ocean with next stop Isles of Scilly. With nothing on the horizon to steer towards the Auto Helm did a wonderful job throughout the night. Mandy went off watch at 23:00 and I stood watch until morning. Mingulay sailed a wonderful course with only a few sail adjustments. By first light the wind had moved to the NW and increased to a steady 20 knots. Mingulay was romping along in sunshine, not a

cloud in the sky, and we arrived in Hugh Town, St Mary, Isles of Scilly at 18:30 Wednesday 13th July 2022.

We picked up a mooring inside the harbour pool in Hugh Town. There must be 100 plus moorings very tight together so not much room for error. Mandy did a wonderful job of placing Mingulay's bow over the mooring. We decided to have dinner and stay on board this evening and enjoy the sunset. We watched a lot of other yachts missing their target moorings. Over half the yachts in the bay were foreign, mostly French who are enjoying there freedom.



The next morning, Thursday 14th July 2022, we were awoken by a gentle knock on the hull. On surfacing I was met with a young man standing in a RIB who welcomed us to St Mary's Island. He asked us how long we would like to stay, £21 per night, and asked if we had any rubbish he would take ashore for us, no extra charge. He also was able to take payment by card and then gave us a list of suggestions of what to do and where to visit on the Islands. We had arrived on our holidays, wonderful. There wasn't a cloud in the sky so we had breakfast in the sunshine in the cockpit. We launched our dinghy and fitted the outboard to head ashore to explore Hugh Town. There is a huge floating dinghy pontoon close to the beach at the top of the pier, however, at low water the dinghies are high and dry. There must have been over 50 dinghies most of them had fold down wheels. Mandy and I now know why, having had to drag our dinghy across the mud and sand to get to the pontoon at low water today. There's a 5mtr rise and fall off the tide. I went straight to the local chandlery to buy a set of wheels. He didn't stock them! I told him that he was missing a trick. How many yachts must arrive every year without wheels for their dinghy?

Hugh Town has wonderful clothes shops, I lost Mandy for most of the day!! And the next!!

What the Isles of Scilly do have are many seafood restaurants. We ate out most evening. Food and drink was very reasonably priced. Most restaurants had to be booked in advance.

Several restaurants of note. We took the ferry to St Agnes to visit the Turks Head pub renowned for its Fish n Chips. Another day we went to the Beech Restaurant at Porthmellon Beech where the Lobster was wonderful. Another evening the Restaurant On The Quay which is on the main pier in Hugh Town served wonderful food. Two hotels in Hugh Town are worth a mention, Tregarthens Hotel has wonderful views from the bars balconies over the harbour and over the sound to Treasco, The Sharps Cider was very refreshing. The Sicilian 3 can be seen leaving. The other Hotel is The Star Castle Hotel rooms available from £900 per night!



Friday 15th July 2022 we decided to hire bicycles to explore St Mary Island. Mandy hired and electric tricycle so nothing would do but for myself to have an electric bike. Throughout the day we circumnavigated the Island twice exploring every country lane. We had coffee and lunch in two wonderful establishments. Juliets Garden Cafe / restaurant with wonderful views over Hugh Town Bay. We had lunch later in the Cafe in Old Town on the South.



Saturday 16th July 2022 We took the ferry to Tresco to visit the Tresco Gardens. What a treat! It is quite unbelievable to find such magnificent gardens on such a small island.

Lunch in the Tresco Gardens Cafe.



Sunday 17th July 2022 Exploring Hugh Town St Mary. There are some wonderful walks



Monday 18th July 2022 HW 08:54 LW 15:21

We left Hugh Town 09:30 in Mingulay on passage across the sound to New Grimsby Sound between Tresco & Bryher. We had to cross the Tresco Flats an area that dries at LW.



We anchored in New Grimsby Sound in front of Cromwell Castle north of Hangman Rock.

We took the dingy to Bryher where we again missed not having wheels for our dinghy as there is a long gentle but soft sand beach. Lunch was in the Crab Shack where we had Crab & Lobster for under £20 in total. Incredible value although it was alcohol free as the Crab Shack has no alcohol licence.



On returning to Mingulay we carried onto Old Grimsby Harbour on the East side of Tresco where we picked up a mooring

Tuesday 19th July 2022

We were awoken at 6am to a beautiful sunrise mixed with thunder and fork lightning. Fortunately the Lighting only lasted for about half an hour and we were able to leave Old Grimsby Harbour to make passage to Padstow on the North Cornish coast.

We arrived at Padstow Bay 18:00 and had wait outside the Camel Estuary until 20:00 in order to get over the sand bar. Once into the Camel Estuary we again we had to wait in the pool opposite Padstow Harbour for the harbour lock gate to be lowered at 21:00.

Once into Padstow we felt very safe and indeed it is a hard place to leave because of its position, amenities, restaurants, pubs public transport links to other tourist attractions.

We ended up staying for 4 days in glorious weather. There are so many restaurants one would need to stay for a month to make any attempt to get through them. Among them, Rick Stein has 5 restaurants with prices to cater for all!



Mingulay comfortable in Padstow



Above Don't be fooled by our NOT so friendly neighbours smile, he bites! Below brother Stuart joined us for lunch.





Mingulay in Padstow

Saturday 23rd July 2022 forecast 18 – 25 knots SW

We eventually left Padstow on route for Milford Haven in flat conditions heading North for Padstow. The SW wind was perfect for Mingulay but we put in two reefs in the main as a precaution. That was a good move because the forecast was again wrong! The SW blew up to a steady 35knots gusting over 40 knots. Mingulay was surfing down huge waves at 14 knots boat speed, not something she is designed for. We also experienced surfing sideways surfing down waves. I was on the wheel for 10 hours because the AutoHelm had no chance of coping with the wind and seas. At one point the dolphins were jumping out of the following waves at my head height and Mandy is certain one winked at her.

During one particularly gruelling surf as we crashed into the next wave we accidentally gybed and the double Harkin mainsheet block disintegrated! I had to start the engine and motor into the wind and waves while I dropped the mainsail and lashed the mainsheet to the deck. At this point Mandy decided our next yacht will have in mast furling.

We eventually arrived at the west channel entrance to Milford Haven 22:00hours only to be met by what looked like the lights of a super tanker above us and heading straight for us, but there was nothing showing on our radar or AIS chartplotter. At this point our cockpit VHS speaker burst into life and it was Milford Haven Harbour master. He called us by name, benefits of our AIS signal, "Mingulay this is Milford VTS, the West Channel is clear for you to enter until 23:20" It was like an angel calling. I couldn't leave the wheel to respond until safely anchored in Dale Bay when I called Milford VTS and thanked them for their call. The lights that looked like a tanker were the extra bright leading lights on the cliffs above the west entrance. I had been confused after 10 hours on the helm during horrific conditions. Once safely anchored, Mandy, who hadn't moved in the cockpit during the entire 10 hour passage, went into her aft cabin and didn't surface for 20 hours.

A note for anchoring in Dale Bay in the dark. There is an unlit concrete pontoon moored in the middle of the bay that needs to be avoided at all costs. When we found it by torch light it was too choppy to tie up to but we had a very comfortable night at anchor.

Daylight showed that there was sun powered light at one end but very dim.

We got diesel from Milford Haven Marina where you have to enter through lock gates.



26th July 2022 Forecast Northerly 10 - 12 knots wind.

We eventually left Milford Haven and had a lovely close reach to Tusker Rock when the wind died and we motored onto Wicklow where we spent one night alongside the pier.



Next morning still not a breath so we motored the whole way from Wicklow to Bangor.

We had fabulous weather for most of our cruise.

Johnny & Mandy Ritchie

Yacht Mingulay

Dufour 41 Classic

