

- Realising when we were the furthest point west or north, when we sailed through 0 degrees to the east and noticing how the latitudes and longitudes were changing as we plotted our waypoints.

- Noticing the temperature changes as we went north –average 9C in the day, and in the south the waves of really warm air wafting across the Wash.

- The wildlife that accompanied us – terns, guillemots, dolphins, puffins and kittiwakes. The changing nature of the cliffs .....and so much more.

Getting the tides correct was a huge time saver and very satisfying. We poured over the tidal stream charts and the passage notes in the Almanac and the diamonds on the paper charts. For instance, when going from Crinan through the Sound of Luing

and Fladda, we would never have made it against the 7 knot flow if we had timed it wrongly. Similarly, in the Moray Firth, from Inverness under the Kessock Bridge and past Fort George, there was a very strong tidal flow (6knts) which needed careful timing. Best of all we had 9 hours of favourable tide crossing the Wash, and also from Ramsgate past Dover to Brighton because the north/south and west/east flows meet somewhere between North Foreland and Dover. One of the strangest concepts, which we had to get used to, was the fact that the tidal stream floods south in the North Sea.

Other highlights for me were the lighthouses and well-known headlands. To actually round these places, with their dramatic tales, filled me with anticipation and then a feeling of achievement. The most well known of these must be Ardnamurchan Point, the most westerly point of the UK mainland. We had force 5-6 (20-27knts) SW, going north to Skye, with poor visibility but the forecast was for improvement, which turned out to be correct. On our return south to Mull we had a decreasing westerly force 4-3 (15-10knts). The lighthouse is amazing and we were very pleased to attach our sprig of heather to the pulpit to signify our rounding.

The sunrise over St Michael's Mount on leaving Penzance was so special, marking the beginning of an adventure of a lifetime for us. Lands End was quite a landmark for me – to see it from the sea and to round Longships Light.

Other well known landmarks include Hook Head, at the mouth of the River Suir at Waterford. It is famed for the 'Hook or by Crook' story. It actually has two stories – Strongbow fighting his battle said he would find and defeat his enemies by Hook Head or Crook



*Dun Longhaire*



*Jim - Crinan Canal, Dunardry Bridge – 68ft above sea level*



*Good Crack at Ardnamurchan Point*