

## **"AGNES"**

I was surprised and delighted to see the small open fishing boat "Agnes" when I visited the Maritime Museum on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July with Llangwm Local History Society.

A placard on the boat read that it was built on Front Street, Pembroke Dock, for 14-year-old Fred Knight of Hakin – a name I immediately recognised as my "Uncle Fred" from years ago, a close friend of our (Brace) family. We lived up at the top of St Anne's Road, Hakin and the Knight family – Fred, Jessie and young Jessie – lived in a dockside cottage in Bridge Street near Hakin Point.

It is stated that the "Agnes" was used as a ferry boat and I remember that Fred used to ferry people from the Hakin side of the docks to the Milford side when the dock gates were open (when no one could walk across the gates as a shortcut). My wife's aunt, May Leggett (nee Lewis), had told her that she often used to go to work by boat, from Hakin Point over to the Docks office.

The placard mentions "recreational use" – and Fred certainly made the most of "Agnes" for that.

I remember that when the weather was fair (in the 1950s this would be) as many as nine of us would go in the boat over to Angle for family picnics. Three Knights, five Braces and Jack Kellen the cobbler. Everything from sandwiches and cakes to the primus stove to make tea would be packed and taken aboard. By this time Fred had a Seagull outboard engine fitted to the boat (and oars as back-up). These were great times – apart from once, when a storm blew up as we were making our way back across the harbour, complete with thunder, lightning and huge waves, causing us all to bale out water as fast as possible with anything we could grab – pots, pans, cups. Thankfully we arrived back safely to tell the tale. In those days none of us wore life jackets.

We also used to go up to Pembroke Dock to see the Sunderland flying boats on their moorings. The other trips in that boat were to Kilpaison (Angle Bay) cockling. We used to come back with a few old tin baths full. I still hate cockles to this day.

One memorable trip was when "Uncle Fred" took us out to see the royal yacht "Britannia", moored in the harbour. That was the time when Prince Charles and Princess Anne first set foot on Welsh soil, at Lindsay Bay, St Ishmaels.

GRAHAM BRACE

(written 18 July 2023)