

MBL 008**Summary –Bruce Eastwood born Aug 1936 now living in Arnside****Bruce talks generally about sailing around the Kent Estuary and Morecambe Bay. He has links with Arnside from 1960s, first as a weekly visitor to Arnside Sailing Club then moving to the town.**

	Originally from Halifax, he took up sailing instead of gliding moved to Liverpool and met someone who lived in Arnside whose father in law sounded the siren for bore (manually when he could see it coming). A ww2 siren used to be sounded. He explains the estuary including quick sand and funnelling of the tide to create the bore - Irish sea being squeezed into the estuary at the speed of a galloping horse. Danger of channel and sand. Have to be lifted vertically if trapped.
4.35	10 minutes advanced siren to get off beach. Talks about tide coming in channels.
5.30	Does this make sailing more difficult? Strong tides you can't sail against - have to allow an hour run of the tide. Only sail one hour either side of tide. You have to know and study the Bay. Study when tide is out. Risk of sticking on sand in which case you need an anchor to stop you being dragged to viaduct. Hulls safe because they hit soft sand.
8.50	Always sailing wrong way at Arnside away from viaduct against incoming tide and back with outgoing tide. Cut across from Grange. Sand moves every tide. Bay on a 20 year cycle, some say 60, Bruce say 100 years. Some things Bruce has only seen once in 50 years. It helps to talk to people who know the Bay and the patterns. Others have learnt from their mistakes
11.15	How did you first learn about the difficulties of sailing in the Bay? By having wrong boat. Bruce didn't know how to sail and his boat wasn't ideal. Lots of people were happy to pass on their experiences. Also keep an eye on other people and not to stay down in the Bay too long. Difficulty was getting into dinghy park, talks about this.
14.00	What was the club like when you first joined (1960s)? Less formal. Huge variety of boats and no class sailing. Races were more basic no set triangular course. Used Inner or Outer rock as turning buoys. Talks of tactics. Less PC. Better balance within the programme of cruising and racing days. Racing made it boring. Talks of sailing to Morecambe and back. More social sailing.
1800	Talks of someone sailing to New Barn when channel disappeared under Holme Island. Two tides to Morecambe. Normal sailing limit on tide to Grange Baths. On way to Morecambe get out of boat and wait for tide. Head for Morecambe lifeboat station (before barrier work).
20.00	Channel changes look of sea. Getting out of Morecambe easy but you need to sit for an hour in middle of the Bay. Talks of seeing seals.
22.00	Favourite things about sailing? Getting away from people. Only time to relax and be yourself. No one could touch you. Tells a story about being stuck at Holme Island with wives being worried. Talks of people thinking he was dead when he was out sailing. Talks about being 'carved up' by trawler.
25.25	Bruce would come to Arnside every weekend, staying in caravan or with friend (where he now lives). Talks of a day when he capsized, rescued by

	coastguard. His friend had been swept up to viaduct, whose boat was snapped in half. They give coastguards mugs.
28.25	Used to 'potter'. Used to go to Holme Island and Piel Island. Coming back from Piel Island completely surrounded by mist they could only see Blackpool Tower. They came across a 'cliff' of sand. Done quite a lot upstream. Bruce has been as far as Gilpin Bridge when they were building by-pass. Been to Levens Bridge but water, because of turbulence, was being taken in cooling system so they rowed. Sailed under Arnside viaduct and behind station where there is an old contractors line. Sailed over Winster embankment.
33.45	How do you plan your trips? Talks of tides, careful to make sure upstream that you are in channel and not on fields. Talks of kayaking, capsizing and finding himself in 20 foot of water. It's very different from sailing in other places. Goes up to Knott when tides out and have a look at Bay to see where channels are. Talks of sailing in other places.
39.00	Outboards were frowned upon when they started, but gives more sailing time. Then he bought a motor boat when he couldn't sail any longer which enabled him to see more of the Bay. A land bridge appeared by Jenny Browns Point, and Victorian iron work under viaduct. Things appear due to tides, winds and long term shift of sand. He has been stuck at Grange and walked to Cedric Robinsons to ask safest way back but Cedric didn't know as he only knew the Bay when the tide was out.
41.45	Changes over time. There used to be a whirlpool by Viaduct but opening up another arch got rid of whirlpool . Talks about sailing through viaduct. Used to have nets across the channel at Grange for salmon. Talks of proposal for bridge and why it wouldn't work. Talks of Kent being previously called the Ken.
45.35	Planned to go from Bowness to Arnside by any boat by any route. Sort of thing sailing club used to propose – a much broader use of Bay.
46.55	Has numbers of sailors dropped? Constitution of members has changed. Now a club rather than sailing club, used to be more cruisers and bigger day boats. Lost 11 boats in first storm, some sunk in mud. Used to have a mast on pier. Boat yard was active. John Durven (?) senior coastguard ran the boat yard in 70s 80s (?). A lot of people in sailing club were also in coastguard. Coastguard was specific to Arnside before it was moved to Liverpool. Bruce questions why they haven't used hover craft on Bay.
52.40	Doug Ellis steered a boat back when rudder went by steering with his feet. Doug was in coastguard. Arnside felt more friendly and local in past. Shops had been owned by people who lived there. Village has become a lot harder to live in. No transport. Talks of secondary train services which used to be offered such as collecting luggage.
56.15	Talks of going to Heysham on holiday as a child, talks of train route there. Remembers walking a long way down to Half Moon bay and fuchsia hedges. Remembers Heysham Head as a fairground, knickerbocker Glories - one at end of holiday cost half a crown. Went on big dipper. Dukes at Morecambe. Fishermen used to do rowing trips around the Bay. Hermit crabs and jelly fish. Clods of ship's fuel oil, finding 'balloons' on the beach. Not many people.
	Interviewed by Emma Aylett 18 th Oct 2016 Summarised by Emma Aylett