

Some account of Normandy activities 2018 - 2023.

Although the 'Anelor' team of CEB had been looking for other Normandy class boats for over ten years, the project took on a more serious momentum when it was decided to find out if any were available to join us for the [10th anniversary celebrations of CEB at Pornic in 2018.](#) There was one boat, NY26 'Arvele', known to be based at Port Louis (Lorient) who we managed to contact and she made it to Pornic just in time for the parade. Contact was also established with the owners in the UK of NY16 'Camay' and NY22 'Calluna' whose owners came without their boats. The owner of NY20 'Cresta of Wight' was hoping to come but cancelled at the last minute, and the owner of NY21 'Irene' phoned in from Australia to wish everyone a happy birthday.



NY26 'Arvele' being led to her berth by NY15 'Anelor'

The research continued and more contacts established.

The next 'event' was the [60th anniversary of NY15 'Anelor' in September 2021.](#) The exact date would have been 10th September. Due to the uncertainty surrounding covid restrictions, it was decided a couple of weeks before simply to arrange a photo display in the CEB boatshed in Pornic. Having just recently made contact with the family of Dr Jean Pillet, the first owner of 'Anelor' (or 'Normandy' as she was known then), they were contacted to see if they had any photos that could be incorporated. They did, as well as an old [8mm film of the launching ceremony.](#) Furthermore they decided to come to Pornic themselves for the weekend, and so a small event was hastily arranged for Saturday 13th September involving a trip out to sea followed by a celebration on the boats rafted up alongside the quay.

In **2023** it appeared that perhaps a few Normandies could possibly gather in Brittany. And so it was that **NY15 'Anelor'** called in at **Port Louis** during her cruise after the Semaine de Golfe in order to say 'hello' to **NY26 'Arvele'** and her new owner on about the 23rd May. Contact had recently been established with the owner of **NY19 'Les Six Marie'** up at Paimpol who was keen to join the party, but probably by car. In the end a message was received from Audiernne 48hrs beforehand asking where to berth on arrival at Port Louis ! To add to the surprises, the Australian owner of **NY21 'Irene'** who was in the UK managed to find the time to catch the ferry from Portsmouth to St Malo where he hired a car and made it to Port Louis as well. So with three boats and four owners the party was assured.



NY19 'Les Six Marie'



NY15 'Anelor' arrives at Port Louis



NY26 'Arvele'



Back in Melbourne 'what a trip' !



On his return to Portsmouth the owner of 'Irene' went straight round to Chichester where he spent the weekend being entertained aboard NY 22 'Calluna'.

While at Port Louis, the owner of 'Les Six Marie' extended an invitation to celebrate the 60th anniversary of his boat at **Ploumanach** in July. A date was tentatively proposed, and in the end a party was held with all living previous owners, and hosted by the sister of another who sadly died recently. A delegation from Pornic was hastily dispatched by road to represent 'Anelor', and as Salangane, a privately owned boat, member of CEB, was cruising in the area at the time she put into Ploumanach for a couple of nights as well.



'Les Six Marie' as she was remembered by some of the previous owners. Note shoal draft keel, a rarity among Normandies it seems.

The latest count of Normandies known to be in existence, and for the most part active, around the world stands at thirteen out of the twenty six believed to have been built. Apart from CEB there are over 30 contacts, mostly owners or ex-owners who keep in touch via a newsletter, and some are now actively meeting up on social media, thus helping to keep the Normandy spirit alive around the world.

A summary of the fleet as of August 2023 : (full details [here](#))

France.	NY15 'Anelor' NY19 'Les Six Marie' NY26 'Arvele'	Pornic Paimpol Port Louis
UK.	NY09 'Maalish' NY17 'Madadh Cuain' NY20 'Cresta of Wight' NY22 'Calluna'	Bembridge, Scotland E.Coast Plymouth Chichester
Antipodes & N.America	NY04 'Kestel' (for sale and inactive) NY21 'Irene' NY11 'Amitié' (believed to be active) NY13 'Neptune' (possibly active) 'Galatea M' (stretched Normandy) 'Ariel' a modified Normandy	Sorrento, Melbourne Melbourne Christchurch, NZ. Port Townsend USA Sydney Melbourne