

North Brittany & Channel Islands Cruising Companion

by Peter Cumberlidge

2nd Edition

Update No. 4 – April 2018

CAUTION

These updates should only be used for navigation in conjunction with up-to-date charts, chart plotters and Notices to Mariners, etc. We accept no liability for any errors or omissions, or for any accidents or mishaps which may arise from the use of this (or any) update or the original publication.

ST MALO

p. 129 Visitors' Berths and Anchorages

Bassin Vauban marina renovations

The marina at the north end of St Malo's locked Bassin Vauban has been substantially extended and refurbished, with new wider pontoons and a larger facilities block with more showers and WCs. To my mind, this makes what is now called 'Port Vauban' by far the best place to berth in St Malo. The outside marina at Port des Sablons has become a noisy place to stay overnight because of the continuous whining generator aboard the Condor fast ferry, which lies alongside right next to the marina basin. Several yachtsmen have reported to me that they no longer use Port des Sablons for this reason, and we don't berth there ourselves now.



New port layout at St Malo Port Vauban

THE RIVER RANCE

p. 136 Plouër Marina

New scrubbing grid on the River Rance at Plouër

We have kept *Stormalong* in Brittany since 2008, and soon after we arrived a new French law came into force, causing some inconvenience. In January 2009 it became illegal for yachts to dry out in harbours, rivers or creeks and scrub off on the tide in the traditional way.

For years shellfish producers had been lobbying for legislation against anti-fouling pollution, perfectly reasonably considering the vital importance of mussels and oysters on French restaurant menus. Enjoying these treats ourselves we sympathised with the new law, but for a traditional yacht of a certain age it was a flipping nuisance. Now we would have to be lifted out for scrubbing and anti-fouling, never so kind to an elderly wooden hull as settling down against some sleepy quay up a sheltered river.



Scrubbing grid on the River Rance at Plouër.

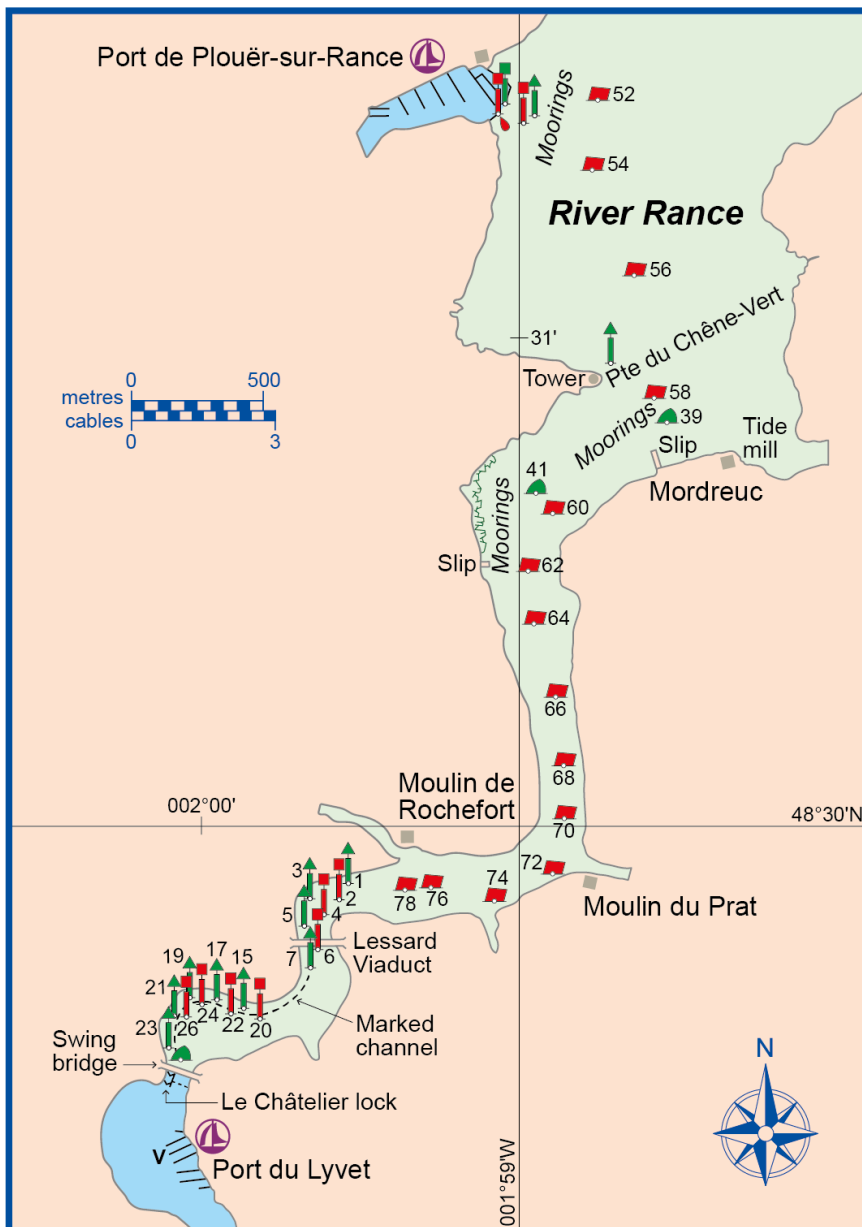
But in the spring of 2017 a new quayside scrubbing grid – *cale de carénage* – was opened right next to where we berth at Plouër-sur-Rance. Here, for a modest charge, you can dry out on the ebb and scrub off to your heart's content. All the nasty antifouling gunge drains into a sump and is pumped to a holding tank for collection and treatment. Water and electricity are on hand and the Restaurant de la Cale is just opposite. Available to any visiting yachts cruising in the St Malo area, the new facility is run by Plouër marina's helpful *surveillante de port* Liliane Faustin and her genial *adjoint* Thierry Baujard.



Le Châtelier lock and swing bridge

p. 137 Reaching Le Châtelier Lock

New large-scale sketch chart for the upper Rance



Cruising up the Rance between Plouër marina and Port du Lyvet is not difficult and the directions in the current edition of *North Brittany and Channel Islands Cruising Companion* still apply. However, this new sketch chart of the River Rance between Plouër and Le Châtelier lock should make this short passage simpler and clearer.

ST CAST

p. 142 St Cast Restaurant Guide

In St Cast, my favourite restaurant is now **Le Jardin Délice**, a block in from the seafront at 23 Boulevard Duponchel. The attractive covered terrace has a cool, soothing atmosphere. The cooking is creative and refined without being precious, and everything is home-made.

Tel: +33 (0)2.96.81.05.27,
www.restaurant-stcast-jardindelice.fr



BINIC

p. 149 Binic Restaurant Guide

I'm sorry to say that what was once my favourite Binic restaurant, **À la Table de Margot** in Place de l'Église, has now closed.

PERROS-GUIREC

p. 195 Perros-Guirec Restaurant Guide

Le Relais du Port and the Restaurant Le Levant are both closed. Up in the town centre in Place de l'Église, **La Crémaillère** is still in great form and remains my first choice in Perros-Guirec.

