



I'll let you in on a secret 😊 Many don't know this...

The North (UK) is actually AWESOME!

From the 29th-30th of June a party of 8 from Manchester and Bolton drove further up north to participate in a fishing expedition from North Shields fishing port near Newcastle. To start, us Northerners congregated at the Newberry household to enjoy our *pineapple* pizza and some warm North Eastern hospitality as we eagerly watched the Euros football together! We were also happy to meet up with John's family and the Asos for first introductions for some and catching up for others.



Before hitting the hay we stretched our legs together with a walk around the local area then bedded down for a reasonably early night.

Like true fishermen (and fisherwomen) we arose early Sunday morning and had breakfast before heading out to Royal Harbour about a 20 minutes ride away. Happy to report that, despite 9 hours on the consistently swelling waves during the full day that followed, only 3 of us were later reacquainted with our breakfast.

And there it is. Our ride. The "Sweet William".



Following True Father's early start tradition we all had a few moments to contemplate the immense beauty of the ocean as we headed out to the specially selected fishing spots, most of which were over various wreck sites at different distances from shore and various depths.



We started off slowly. But then, our captain picked up an enormous school of mackerel on his super duper fish finder radar. We started reeling in mackerel by the truck load (almost enough to feed 5 thousand) "It's almost too easy" - Mona Jones.

And that's when we knew, we were ready for the cod. Slicing and dicing our mackerel at the back of the boat we used the filets as bait. Traveling from shipwreck to shipwreck, we dropped our lines hoping to reel in a big one! We owe half our fish to the "cod queens" who clearly had strong heavenly fortune. Overall we caught approximately 120 mackerel, 15 Atlantic cod including the prize 7.6 pounder by Ceri and one large ling, all of which provided excellent eating for the next week.



Tired from a hard day's work, we headed back, where we celebrated the three master fisherwomen and fisherman based on largest single catch and quantity caught who each won a valuable prize organized and generously supplied by John's successful tackle business.



We really enjoyed this trip. The pictures can only show a snippet of how much we enjoyed the weekend which brought us all closer to God's presence in the creation and in ourselves and each other.

Hope you had fun reading :)



Special mentions:

John Newberry for allowing us to benefit from his extensive commercial fishing experience and excellent local contacts that have resulted from his lifelong dedication to successful Ocean Church outreach year in year out in his beloved hometown.

Our brother Vianni for representing the Newcastle area community and persevering diligently.

The Sweet William captain Jeff and his assistant John for going beyond their normal responsibilities to provide a wonderfully memorable experience for all involved.

Chris, Mike and Ceri Jones for driving

John's parents for accommodating us overnight.

The photographers

And of course all the fish who cooperated and made the biggest sacrifice to participate in our adventure!

