

GCCC BEAULIEU RIVER RALLY – 13-14 May 2017

It was a lovely day and south westerly winds gusting 4-5 meant an exciting upwind sail to Beaulieu River. Sailing down from Gosport, the sea state was relatively good until we rounded Lepe Point. Once inside the shelter of the Beaulieu Estate, we motored gently to our berthing alongside the fuel pontoon at Bucklers Hard.

It seemed that most boats had already arrived and tied up. With plenty of people on hand, we were able to raft up alongside Cadh'Ruadh before catching Hey Jude. (Apologies Hey Jude, we didn't realise that you were members of GCCC, otherwise we wouldn't have barged in front of you!)

We hadn't tied up for long before four of us (all ladies) set off for a brisk walk to Beaulieu village, stopping en route for an ice cream.

Just had time to change before pontoon drinks at 6pm. There were nine boats in total with twenty crew, so it was time to meet new faces and catch up on the gossip. The foghorn sounded at 7pm and the safari supper began. For those unacquainted with this format, each of the 3 courses are eaten on a different boat. It requires detailed planning (thanks to Vikla). No-one discloses beforehand what they are planning to serve up, so it is a "Surprise" safari dinner? It can seem daunting to sit down for dinner cooked by people you barely know ... but it works. We met some lovely new members.

Four hours later and we made it back to our beds. We enjoyed sunny conditions on Sunday and a fast downwind sail back to Gosport.

Thanks to everyone who took part and special thanks to Vikla. Same time...same place ... next year?



