

Bucklers Hard Rally

August 13 -15 2021

The Bucklers Hard rally this year coincided with the festivities celebrating the marina's 50th anniversary. As it was a private affair (berth holders and guests only) and the marina closed to visiting boats that weekend, GCCC rally boats were assigned to the 'Bucklers Hard Pier' for our berthing - a detached pontoon, down river of the marina and well out of the way of the celebrations taking place. It's not a long pontoon and the river cruise boat that operates from there takes up part of it, it looked like it was going to be a bit of a squeeze getting us all on there and initial concerns about its suitability, access to water, power etc ensued. Needless to say, all concerns were eventually put to rest and the eight boats attending found themselves cosily rafted up three deep on the pontoon. It turned out OK, close enough to the facilities and far enough away from all the activities and live music taking place in the marina for it not to be intrusive. Breezy and overcast on Friday for the trip to the Beaulieu River, Saturday produced a beautiful sunny day with a fine clear evening to follow for the bbq feast. It's a pretty good spot for a BBQ, the seating arranged on the sloping lawns fronting the Beaulieu river, with picturesque Bucklers Hard village as a backdrop. A good enjoyable evening was had by all and as night fell and we had drifted back to our boats, we had a ringside seat to watch the marina's celebration firework display, topping off the evening very nicely.

Sunday's trip back was breezier still for those brave souls determined to sail, but at least it was behind us this time, that and the extra boost of a following tide would hopefully have meant a swift journey back to our respective home berths. A very enjoyable weekend.