



**Fireworks** (No not the A.G.M.) GFBC Members & their family & friends enjoyed a good display & bonfire on the North Bank. The fireworks were varied & up to the standard we have come to expect & the weather was kind. John Bottle & John

Arnold worked very hard putting on the fireworks & bonfire. Geoff & Judi provided the hot soup, Jean Arnold cooked the burgers & Sheila H sold the raffle tickets. The evening was a great success with the Members enjoying a very happy & friendly time. We look forward to repeating it again next Year,

**Alan G**

**Grove Ferry Boat Club Trophy Awards for 2012**

- M.V Burton ..... Steve Hogwood.
- Ladies Cup .....Amanda Hart
- Hawkins Tankard.....Joan & Henry Holmes
- Shaft & Rudder Tankard....Rob & Julie Caldwell
- Best Kept Log .....Colin Brazier
- Novice Shield.....Brian Russ
- Longest Voyage.....Peter & Myra Dowell
- Outboard Trophy.....Terry & Jacqui Robb
- Boat Handling Cup.....Andy Sloan

**Christmas Dinner The Swan, Westgate 1st Dec.** Turn out was disappointing but the 27 members who went along enjoyed a very nice evening. The food was good, the service was excellent & it is the first time ever that the raffle prizes outnumbered the guests, jolly good ones too & all donated by members. This event was a very difficult one for Alan G to organise as there was a lot of dissent over the venue. Some members like to stay the night on their boat avoiding potentially icy roads & allowing them to have a drink so they viewed the Swan as too far away from base. Others were against using the Grove Ferry so the question arises, who do you try to please? Anyone got a point of view?? I say scrap the Christmas Dinner and have a Christmas Party in the Clubhouse.



**THE ELLEN MARY** British built electric trip boat, service started April 2010 & is now an integral part of the river scene. We enjoy exchanging a cheery wave with her Skipper as she glides past & she is quite a celebrity having been visited by BBC Radio Kent & a TV crew from The Politics Show. She is very popular as a venue for every sort of celebration you can think of from Weddings to Remembrance with passengers from 96 years to just 2 weeks. I could go on & on but there's not the space here. The boat has her own website but you can also check out the write up by Peter & Glynn on the Club Website. I learned an important bit of information from there, i.e. trips on the Ellen Mary are half price to Grove Ferry Boat Club

**JOKE** A man told his neighbour that he'd just bought a brand new hearing aid that cost £1000 & was state of the art perfect. "Really," said the neighbour "what kind is it" 12.30 was the reply ????

**Great White Egret** The River Stour is rich in bird life with sightings of Kingfishers, Cattle Egrets, Herons etc. etc. but I was reading a Bird Magazine the other day and was interested to note that there had been a very rare sighting of a Great White Egret at Grove Ferry. It is the size of the Grey Heron, very slender, with beautiful snow white plumage. So keep your eyes peeled, it may still be around.



**RNLI Talk - Saturday 17th November** About a dozen members braved appalling weather to travel to the Clubhouse for the Talk given by John Ray, thank you for your support. John was thanked for his very interesting talk & a donation was passed to him for the RNLI.

Question: What do snowmen eat for lunch??  
Answer Icebergers

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**8th December** at The Boat House we met many other GFBC members who like us enjoyed rides on the trains but the highlight of the afternoon was the visit of Father Christmas who chugged around much to the delight of all the youngsters. The Marina was decked out with coloured lights & there was a lovely spread of very yummy food & music as well.. A smashing start to the Christmas Season. Thank you Irene & Roy for organising & hosting the event.