

### A Visitor's Mooring at The Dog & Duck

The Landlord passed on the good news that he has installed a visitor's mooring. Very welcome news to those GFBC members who like to take a trip down river for a drink or meal at this attractive venue. It is only for one boat but perhaps there will be room for another to raft alongside & its better than nothing.



**Laying Up Supper, 12<sup>th</sup> October** - Bit difficult writing up an event you had a hand in, but it is safe to say that everybody enjoyed themselves. 27 Suppers were served, there were 4 in our team so that means an attendance of 23

GFBC Members & we thank you all for your support. Ossies Fish Bar did not let us down with the main course which was both tasty & hot, the Starter of Canapés went down well, especially the sticky sausages & for afters, the homemade Sherry Trifle & Apple Pie slipped down Red Lane most deliciously. There were lots of nice prizes in the raffle which raised £50, with grateful thanks to June who kindly sold the tickets. A big thank you also to Marcia who, during coffee, collected payment & to Malcolm for getting stuck into the washing up & to everybody who at the end of the evening helped put the room back to rights which meant the Team had less to do the next day. We managed to complicate the Raffle by putting the winners through our version of Play Your Cards Right to collect their prizes which was probably infuriating for them but quite funny for the rest of us. The Quiz was won by Kath, with the booby prize of a stick of rock going to Jennie. The tables were decorated with miniature roses which were taken home by the four lucky ladies whose names came out of the hat. I really hope that everybody went home happy, well filled & without indigestion. If you don't usually go to Club Suppers or events, or if you are a new member reading this, why not watch out for the next occasion & give it a whirl.

**Work Party 27<sup>th</sup> October** Considering the bad weather forecast, Works Coordinator, John Arnold, was not surprised when only about 8 members turned up but they managed to get some hedge pruning done, filled in a few pot-holes, again, & fenced off the grassy bit of the slipway car park to prevent it getting churned up over the Winter. John Bottle did a quick survey to find the best of the floating pontoons stacked by the caravans & John Arnold is now procuring the necessary bits & pieces to renovate it with a view to installing it at Red House. Well there might not have been many there but it sounds as though they worked extra hard to make up for the absentees. I am especially excited at the prospect of another pontoon at Red house. Roll on the Spring and many thanks to the stalwart few for their efforts on behalf of the rest of us.

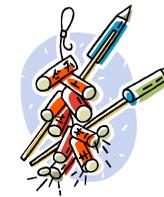


### The Big Surge, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December



We were warned that the predicted flood was going to be worse than that of 60 years ago, which for people living in the flood zones was absolutely nerve racking. It was terrible for those who experienced any flooding but us boat owners were able to breathe sighs of relief when the NE wind changed to NW averting possible disaster for the boats on the river. Various members visited the boats during the danger period which was gratifying for the owners who could not get down to check.. Suffice to say that on this occasion we got away with it but sad to hear that the Salutation Gardens in Sandwich suffered a lot of damage.

**A burglar** was in a house when a voice said "Jesus is watching you" it made him jump. He looked around but could see nothing, so carried on, when again came "Jesus is watching you" This time in a dark corner he saw a parrot & asked if it had spoken. The parrot said yes & that his name was Clarence The burglar laughed & asked what idiot named him that?? The parrot replied that it was the same idiot who had named the Rottweiler Jesus"



### Bonfire & Fireworks 2<sup>nd</sup> November

The numbers were not brilliant, about 30 attended, but I am told that the fireworks were very good indeed. They were organised & set off expertly by Steve Hogwood, Steve Dennis & Rob Caldwell.

Head Chef, Geoff Pryor cooked the burgers, Sou Chef, Judi Pryor did the soup, Julie Caldwell sold the raffle tickets & Shirley collected the entrance money. A jolly good evening & a good team effort. Congratulations & a big thank you to you all.

**Mooring Techniques ?** Knowing the ropes was brought home to us with a vengeance when, during one of the very high tides Sheeco (a 17 foot Shetland) unfortunately sank & had to be pumped out by Roy. The owner had not left enough slack on his mooring ropes to account for the rise & fall of the tides resulting in a bit of a disaster. Take heed.



### WATCH OUT FOR THE MICKIES !!

I hear that the mice are about so try & make your boat as rodent proof as you can. It is very difficult because the little varmits can squeeze in through the most tiny spaces but the secret is probably to try & make it difficult for them to get aboard via the mooring lines by putting funnels on the ropes or less expensive, old CD's. I hope that these methods work & we are going to give them a try. We were lucky last year but the year before they paid us a visit & it was most unpleasant although I think we were quite lucky because they did not make much mess or do much damage but they had started a little nibble at our cabin door, fortunately not noticeable but I shudder to think of how it could have been. So good luck everyone hope you don't have any unwelcome visitors.



What did the fish say when he swam into a wall ?

DAMN !