

Osborne House Concert Rally

Well, after the terrible wet Saturday for the Folly rally, we got our just rewards with a beautiful fine Saturday for the Osborne House rally. The week before it rained most days so we were very lucky, we even had wind, lots of it, F5 gusting F6. Three boats moored on Whitegate pontoon, Elante, Stagers, Liberté and three in East Cowes Marina, Andromeda, Kamelya and Tiddely Pom II. With club stowaways Phillip, Sue, Jenny, Marianna and many guests, including Nicola's mother we numbered twenty four. We can definitely say GCCC caters for all ages, the age range for the last two rallies is 18months to over 90 years! We left East Cowes just before 6pm for the trek up the hill, it was rather warm carrying the food and bottles; David and Wendy arrived first and saved space for the rest of us. Picnics were spread around and everyone tucked into some fine fare. Gareth and I carried the two remaining wine boxes left over from the pontoon party (yes GCCC left some booze); Gareth obviously did a better job than me because I carried the box back down the hill! Maurice, who was with the RNSA, came to see his "loyal GCCC subjects" wearing his MCC cap. The atmosphere was great, the music and soloist were very good but they need to sack the script writer, it was so cheesy. The evening finished with fireworks to some of the last night of the proms favourites. I am told the Welsh contingent felt left out because they managed to mention every other nationality, to protest at this Julie sang a very unusual version of Land of Hope and Glory, with most words changed to Welsh village names.

Sunday was a bit grey but the wind picked up SW F5, those on Whitegate left mid morning to get the tide back to Portsmouth. With Phillip and Sue as stowaways we decided to take a longer route back with a circuit of Bramble bank and along the North channel, even then we got back remarkably quickly and just back before the rain started.