

## MOA Solent Branch Rally Reports

### Beaulieu, Cowes, Folly and Southampton Town Quay

#### Beaulieu Rally 22nd and 23rd July

Lorraine and Ian Bevington hosted the Beaulieu Rally a Bucklers Hard, this rally traditionally includes our summer BBQ at what is a beautiful location. As usual the rally was fully booked but the weather forecast was not looking good with a front coming through over the weekend with many skippers deciding to stay at home. Four yachts made it to the rally arriving over Friday and Saturday. We did manage to have our BBQ sheltered in a marquee. Despite the wet and windy conditions the social company was warm and made it worthwhile. One of those rallies I'm sure we'll always remember.

#### Cowes Rally 26th to 28th August

It was our turn when Karen and I hosted the Cowes rally over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The rally was held at Shepards Marina with 15 visiting yachts including Gentle Whisper from Poole and Moana from Chichester. We arrived on Saturday in warm sunshine with a light breeze. On Saturday evening we had a meal at the Island Sailing Club where the food and service was first rate. The evening gave members an opportunity to catch-up and share their stories from their summer cruises. On Sunday we were grateful that the forecast showers held off and we were able to enjoy a picnic in Northwood Park followed by friendly games of croquet. On Sunday evening we had a fancy dress social at Shepards on the theme of 'What were you wearing when the ship went down?' with members joining in the fun with a wide interpretation of the 'ships' being imagined. In addition to co-ordinating the rally we had the additional challenge of an overheating engine. So our personal thanks to Jon Bell for helping with diagnostics and a temporary repair, and to Lesley for her patience.

#### Island Sailing Club dinner



## Rally at Shepards Marina



## Folly Rally 16th and 17th September

Chrissie and Ian Campbell co-ordinated the Folly Rally on the River Medina in mid-September. This was a first return to the Folly for the MOA for some years. Six visiting yachts attended arriving over Friday and Saturday to take up berths on the mid-river visitors pontoon. We had a social gathering for drinks and nibbles on the pontoon before taking the river taxi to the Folly Inn for our evening meal. The meal and Service at the Folly was very good making for an enjoyable social evening.

## Folly pontoon social



View of Folly Inn from visitors pontoon



### **Southampton Town Quay 30th September and 1st October**

Back by popular demand for the end of season was Southampton Town Quay, hosted by Dave and Helen Nurse for a second year. Ten visiting yachts and one berth holder joined the rally. It was nice to meet a couple of new members attending their first rally. Although late in September, sunny warm conditions were enjoyed on both days. A very well catered pontoon party was enjoyed although it had to be moved inside to the marina reception area due to a cool breeze developing late afternoon. A lively evening meal was held at a local quayside brewery pub restaurant - The Dancing Man.

And Billowes

19<sup>th</sup> October 2023