

## Ecton Men Go Sailing 2008 and 2009

I thought I would start by recalling the time Ecton men went sailing last year.

The crew were Ady, Colin and myself with friends Hugh and Steve. From Chichester Marina, in fairly strong winds we sailed to the Isle of Wight and moored at East Cowes Marina.

That evening we caught a taxi to Island Harbour Marina's Bistro where the meal was quite acceptable and then on to the Folly Inn to enjoy some live music and watch other geriatrics, as well as younger people, dance on the tables. If you don't believe me go there on a Saturday night during the summer.

And now for the fun part. The following morning we awoke to strong winds and the feeling was 'it was going to be a bit lumpy'. At first there was a few other boats heading our way, but they peeled off heading for Portsmouth. Here there was a decision to be made, either put into Portsmouth and take the train to Chichester, or continue by boat which is what we did.

The wind got stronger and was touching strong gale force 9. Did it get lumpy? You bet it did and for those on deck they had to contend with waves breaking over them and at one point the cockpit being swamped.

On entering Chichester harbour the wind and sea subsided. Here the expressions of concern went from faces and replaced with smiles of relief. One crew member commented 'That was awesome' as though they had got off one of those rides in a theme park. Usually at this point there are numerous boats, but this time we only counted another two.

I do believe the right decision was made what with all crew members wearing life jackets and clipping their harnesses and lanyards to deck anchor points and jack stays, emergency flares on hand as well as 3 crew knowing how to operate the VHF radio the risk of injury had been minimised.

Mind you I doubt if I would have made the same decision if the mother-in-law was on board, or if I was in a mischievous mood, maybe I would!!

As for this years voyage, and because the above turned out longer than expected I shall leave it for another time.

Liam

## Ecton Witches

### Picture from the last gathering

