

## **Woodbridge Cruise (failed) July 2018**

17 boats booked to join our cruise to Woodbridge. A splendid company, especially since many of our cruisers were far away or only just returning from distant adventures. But fortune was not on our side and after the long heatwave, the Friday evening meeting on the Lightship saw the weather break in dramatic fashion.

We sat on the top deck of the lightship as night was falling; the lightning flashed over the Felixstowe cranes and the thunder rolled in dramatic fashion. Then the rain came. The drumming on the canopy was accompanied by whoops and laughter from the assembled diners. The drama continued. Our retreat to the relative calm of the bar and Cromer room was interrupted by intermittent flashing lights and darkness. Our lightship somewhat resembled a night club until the whole marina was plunged into darkness. Officers debated the relative effectiveness of our emergency lighting. At the same time, the power line on the approach lane to the harbour had been struck by lightning and caused a serious fire that kept the Fire Brigade busy until three in the morning. During the mayhem, skippers considered the forecast for the weekend. . Gusty 7's and possible 8's were mentioned on the BBC Inshore...



*Pic: The Deben Bar High Water Saturday*

and Windfinder was predicting 38 knots for Saturday and 40 knots for Sunday. Unsurprisingly, everyone agreed that to attempt the Deben Bar would be dangerous. Time for a plan 'B', actually plan 'C'. In the end we opted for a barbecue in the area at the East end of our Yacht Harbour. The coals were fired at 1800hrs. and bottles opened. The wind was warm (ish) and decided to fall off as the revels proceeded.



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Thirty or so members made the barbecue and a convivial time was had by all. The coals were hot, the wine flowed, the commodore had a silly smile and as evening fell, the company repaired, once again, to the comfort of our Old Lightship. For a time, we actually forgot we hadn't sailed anywhere!

Mike

Halcyon XVI