

VIC 96

Report No 23

Chatham

**Julian & Joanna Swift
Rockhill Farm
Egerton TN27 9DP**

13th April 2011

Saturday 9th April 2011

Arthur and Gladys were firing up the Rayburn as we all arrived, we all sorted ourselves out to various jobs. Barry helped Arthur put the nav light boxes back up and fitted the lights as well while Tony and Jim got started in the engine room, later joined by Steve Pettett. Frank came as well so the boiler room started to fill up, and as we found later a lot of greasy and dirty work was done finishing the boiler clean and other things. I had not met Steve before but when he asked for the new gaskets I thought I knew that accent. I asked for his second name and when he told me I said I knew someone with a similar name, just spelt differently. 'Richard' he said 'that's my brother. Small world! Poor spelling! A friend in our village said yesterday that his pal had a pal who had just started coming to the Vic. No prizes for who that was! Steve's brother is another vintage motorcyclist and also a top pattern maker. Keep 'em coming.

Barry helped prepare the rest of the hold coaming for a coat of undercoat and after I had finished painting it that was the last of the original rusty metal covered. Now for the cream. Later on we loaded and strapped down the life raft. Derek offered Jason a lift to get his scooter from work, but found himself at the Vic so Jason only got away after they had cleared the hold ready for 8 one tonne water containers to be delivered Monday evening for use as ballast tanks. Food, cakes and tea and clearing up as usual as well as good company.

The work party was: Tony and Jean, Barry Too and Marylyn, Arthur and Gladys, Derek and Louise, Frank, Jim, Steve and Joanna and Julian.

Monday 11th saw us back at the ship and Jo and I got on with fitting new taps to the stand pipe so we could get a decent supply to fill the boiler etc and Simon, Derek and Louise and Frank and Colin turned up, then Luke and his cousins Jake and Isaac came for an evening getting a trailer full of big water tanks over the railing and into the hold. That gave Security something to do checking up on the hooligans round the Vic who were on the wrong side of the fence.. Umm

Forthcoming Dates Saturday 16th April, Friday 22nd April to Monday 25th April
Call to confirm! My no is 01233756346 or mobile 07802453232

JULIAN and JOANNA