

GASS WEBSITE VOLUME FOUR
OCTOBER 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017

GASS OKTOBERFEST
HELD THIS YEAR AT DIGGERLAND

Dress - Leaderhosen!!! (und stout shoes!)

ZE PROGRAMME

**Ve met at the 'DIG INN' at 7.00 for velcoming Steins of Lager, and to admire
each others knees.**

Ve drank several more Steins!!!

Ve went outside and ve had a race in Robots



**Zen ve vent back into se Dig Inn and had a Bavarian meal of Sausages and
Saurkraut (or somsing similar)**

To say that Hugh put a lot of effort into this event would be like saying that the Panzer was "quite a decent tank all being considered".

in other words - it would be a bleeding understatement!!!!

All our thanks and congratulations go out to Hugh and the Staff for what was a quite amazing event.

Everyone made an enormous effort and as a direct result - we had an absolute ball.

A few pictures will tell the story....

First of all we got together for a group shot to set the scene



Zen ve vent out to do battle, man against machine, on ze North Kent plains.

And boy oh boy - zis vos man against machine. Dumbest machines ever invented!!

Zis below is called a GIFF - wait a second and it changes.....



Herr Spree was declared ze vinner of ze war.
Ze only man who could get close to driving a JCB skid
steer.



Battle over, minimal casualties (although God only knows how),
we returned to camp for a well earned Schinken und Scheiben (voteffer they are).



DIE GASS OKTOBERFEST 2016
MIT BESCHLUSS DES FURER, HERR HENSLOW
AT DIGGERLAND KENT
MENU

ANLASSER

Kartoffelsuppe Soup

NETZ

Auswahl Deutsch Würstchen
Deutsche Hot Wings
Deutsch Knoblauchbrot
Deutsch Quiche
Deutsch gemischte Fleischbällchen
Deutsch gemischten Schinken und Huhn Scheiben

DESSERT

Deutsch Kuchen
Käse und Keksen

Erfrischungen

Deutsches Bier
Wasser und alkoholfreie Getränke für die Leichtgewichte

Vegetarier Menu

Spezial-Menü für den Vegetarier, die aus Rochester kommt

Hugh vis his enormous dinner - Und Hugh vis und
massiver cakie





Und finally - Herr Henslow - vis the CHEESE!!!!!!
Cheese that is banned in GASS under a number of well
known rules dating back years and years!



Say "cheese" ladies.

GASS OKTOBERFEST - A TRULY GREAT EVENING!



Many thanks to Hugh and all his excellent staff.
The girls and guys on the bar and in the kitchen.
Andy and his crew out on the battlefield.
Plus anyone else who worked to put it all together.
Thanks folks!!!

NOVEMBER



WINE TASTING - WITH A DIFFERENCE

An amazing find courtesy of Hugh - The Vinorium, in Lenham.
"This guy is one of the best in the country, and very entertaining, he was excellent!"

I went to their HQ and it is amazing!!!! A regular treasure trove hidden away in a
Lenham Industrial Unit.
Stuart McCluskey, the owner has promised us a very interesting evening sampling a
variety of fine wines.
Talk about a Christmas present buying opportunity.

We had the place to ourselves all night from 7.30 until late.
Tasting a variety of fine wines and scoffing some good food.

www.thevinorium.co.uk

The Vinorium, Ashmill House, Ashmill Business Park, Ashford Road, Lenham, ME17
2GQ
Tel: 01622 859161

I took Mike Saffery along for a private view and he spent £1,300!!!!

We all turned up on time, 7.30, some straight from work, all pretty hungry.
The organiser had made it plain that we would need a meal, the budget covered a meal. Sadly between cup and lip there had been a slip.
Stuart had translated my words "there will be 20 of us and we will need feeding a proper dinner, I suggest a decent buffet" into "a small starter size of cheese and cured meat will do".
The starter was cleared in seconds and it was quickly obvious that we were going to starve.

Stuart then got off to a good start on the tasting, great venue, lovely table, superb wines.
Rather too many technical questions that we were never going to be able to answer - starvation making you light headed.
Not enough of "this is a very good value wine and it's priced at £20, buy some if you like it".
So by 10.00pm, hungry and pissed, it started.

Heads down, whispers, signs of mobile phones, occasional shout "where's the nearest Indian?"
To be fair Stuart took it well. Instead of being upset at the lack of attention paid to his fascinating two hour lecture, he took his annoyance out on poor Hugh's swede. Every time someone barracked him, by suggesting he wind up his speech and FEED US, he slapped Hugh round the bonce. A novel approach and one that GASS could happily adopt.
In the end he gave up. His intended finish time of 01.00 was brought forward to 10.15, mainly due to GASS getting up en-masse and pissing off down the Indy-bum.
He sold not a drop of vino. Nuff said.

I later took Mike Saffery along for another private view and he spent another £500!!!!
He even refused the offer of tasting his purchases.
The blokes not right.

DECEMBER

THE KENT COUNTY SHOWGROUND

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 2016



Best Parties Ever annual shindig.
We've been before and had a laugh, the issue was getting home, hence we
recommend Teslas!

18 places were booked at £46.20 each - an amazingly 18 appeared on time and
dressed to the nines.

Not Attending - Chris Spree, Ray Guttridge and Stuart Gilbert (apologies sent in).

It has to be said that the evening was great fun. The organisation was very good,
the food was just fine,
and weirdly, for North Kent, the 1,000 people attending were all well dressed, polite,
and good fun.

More weirdly - we were all well behaved, with the exception of one rather over
enthusiastic member who decided to crush
girls by waiting until they had tripped and fallen to the floor, then he jumped on top of
them, football goal celebration style.

Cue some rather surprised girls, also some slightly flattened girls.

As you can see the good old OPPOSUITS got yet another outing - and once again
they were amazingly well received by everyone, lots of compliments!





Not everyone came out quite so well in the pictures - sadly.



So off we go into another year!

Our 35th!

JANUARY

TUESDAY 10 JANUARY

THE ROFFEN SUITE

for

Hoverboard Racing



Simple bit of fun - Hoverboarding.
Hovermania, our local specialists, brought along a bunch of boards and helmets.

www.hovermania.co.uk

We then lined up against the wall and hopped aboard our trusty steeds.
And off again, and on again, and off again.....

Not too difficult though and within minutes we disproving the tabloids description of
Hoverboards as lethally dangerous.

They are just normally dangerous, although we had no injuries to speak of.
Probably because we all have full licenses for Segways from our Lithuania trip, that
helped no end.





We then started the racing, or rather half the guys raced. The results were as follows:-



For some strange reason there were a larger than normal number of chickens who refused the chance to race these little mothers..

The chickens justified being chicken by the fact that they had each paid £2,000 to go off skiing at 05.00 the following morning and they were damned if they needed a broken wrist that night.

At least they had been man enough to turn up for the meeting where the programme for the rest of the year was decided and the AGM location agreed (for a second time), read on....

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEXT MEETING - Chris came up with a great suggestion of CHEESEMAKING at The Geroage at Newnham, a Sittingbourne based event for MARCH.

The APRIL meeting was going to be VELODROME, but Hugh has the Archer in mind, so we are waiting on a price from Hugh.

The MAY meetings is provisionally BANGRA DANCING in Gravesend.

AGM 2017

The previous agreement was to return to Puerto Banus, the good old Andalusia Palace Hotel.

At this meeting cold water was poured on that idea by Owne & Gary who said its full of Russians and costs a packet.

The new proposal is IBIZA.

Sadly, there was not much actual discussion. We run the risk of a location just being plucked from a hat unless members take some part in the decision process.

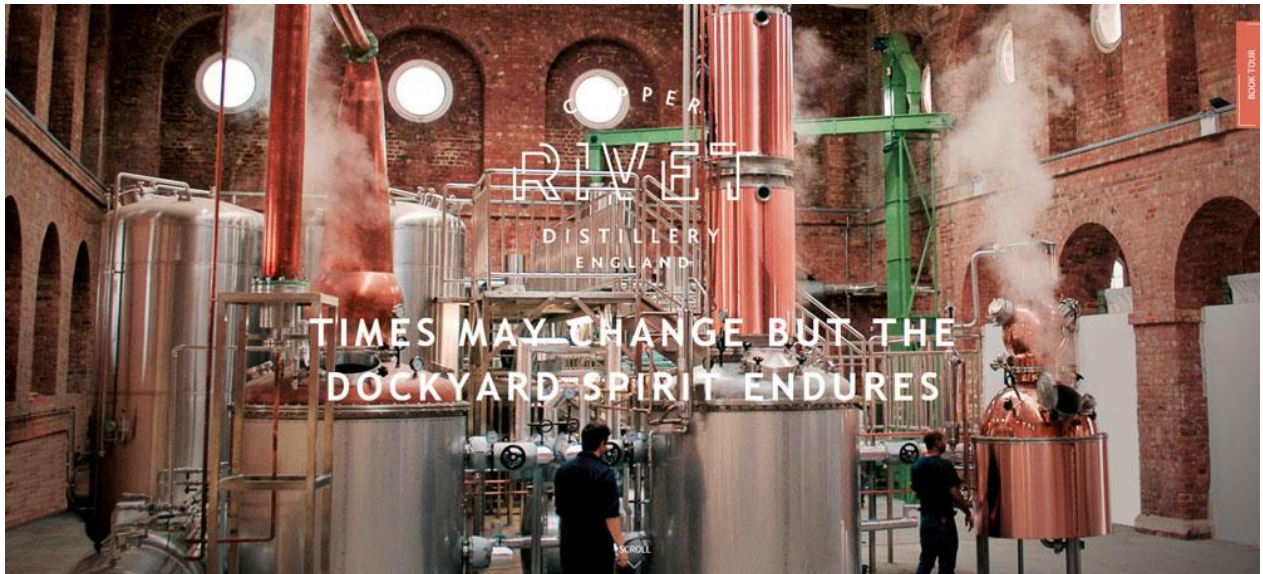
Nothing more has been done and it's all a bit in limbo. Where do we fancy for 2017?

FEBRUARY

The Copper Rivet Distillery

Chatham Dockyard Marina.

WWW.COPPERRIVETDISTILLERY.COM



Now that is what you call a GIN distillery!!!
DOCKYARD GIN would you believe?

Distilled in fair Chatham - we HAD to try this!!!!



And try it we did - lovely little bar in the foyer area.

Amazing place!

Good guided tour of the distillery, it looks just like the picture above - except no
smell, no steam, no mess.

It looked a bit like my fitted kitchen on the day it was installed, not a scratch on
anything, all just right.

Lord knows how they manage to produce 1,000 gallons of Gin without touching
anything.

Good CCTV coverage, we were even asked to "move away from the bonded area" after we were spotted by the boss.

We moved 5 yards to our left. But an important 5 yards (apparently).
Lovely little nip of Gin - which broke poor JB's record - Finally we got to a Brewery that offered us a drink of their product!!!

Then back to the bar for a lovely Gin & Tonic.
Before off to the Ship & Trades for a fine dinner in their much improved restaurant area.

Only 12 members attended with apologies from most of the members - which helped.

No decision on the AGM venue as yet. Another month slips by boys.

Dinner at The Ship & Trades.
www.shipandtradeschatham.co.uk

MARCH

**"BLESSED ARE THE
CHEESEMAKERS!"**

CHEESE MAKING

The George at Newnham
<http://www.georgeinnnewnham.com/>

Big Cheese - Chris Spree

GASS met at The George and learn to make a soft cheese.
Not only to learn cheese making but you also to take some home.
Followed by Dinner.
(normal GASS rules on 'Cheese' are relaxed for this evening alone).

The landlord and landlady were Paul and Lisa, assisted by master cheesemaker Jeff.



A demonstration ensued with GASS members putting there hands into the Whey which was a wet mash of white bits like baby sick!!



A bowl of water was placed to wash hands prior to insertion into the mix,
however in true GASS tradition,
nobody listened and used it to wash hands after the cheese handling.

It was pointed out that the cheese is formed by promoting bacterial growth
from the background where its made.

Hugh pointed out that had diesel oil under his finger nails so god alone knows what bacteria will form or what the cheese will taste of.

A sample was produced for Brian to remember the evening by, as he was missing, this was packaged in a special preserve made of plastic.

(He never got it - and now two months later as he writes this - he really doesn't want it - thank you Chris)

Jeff and Paul then demonstrated by passing tasters round, 6 of the finest British and French cheeses, these were however purchased from Macknades Faversham.



We all managed to take home a sample of the soft cheese
Chris 'Cheesy' Spree

That's all very well but in reality -
THE GASS PREFERRED CHEESE



Many thanks to Chris and to the team at The George for such an entertaining evening.

APRIL

ARCHERY - WITH A DIFFERENCE

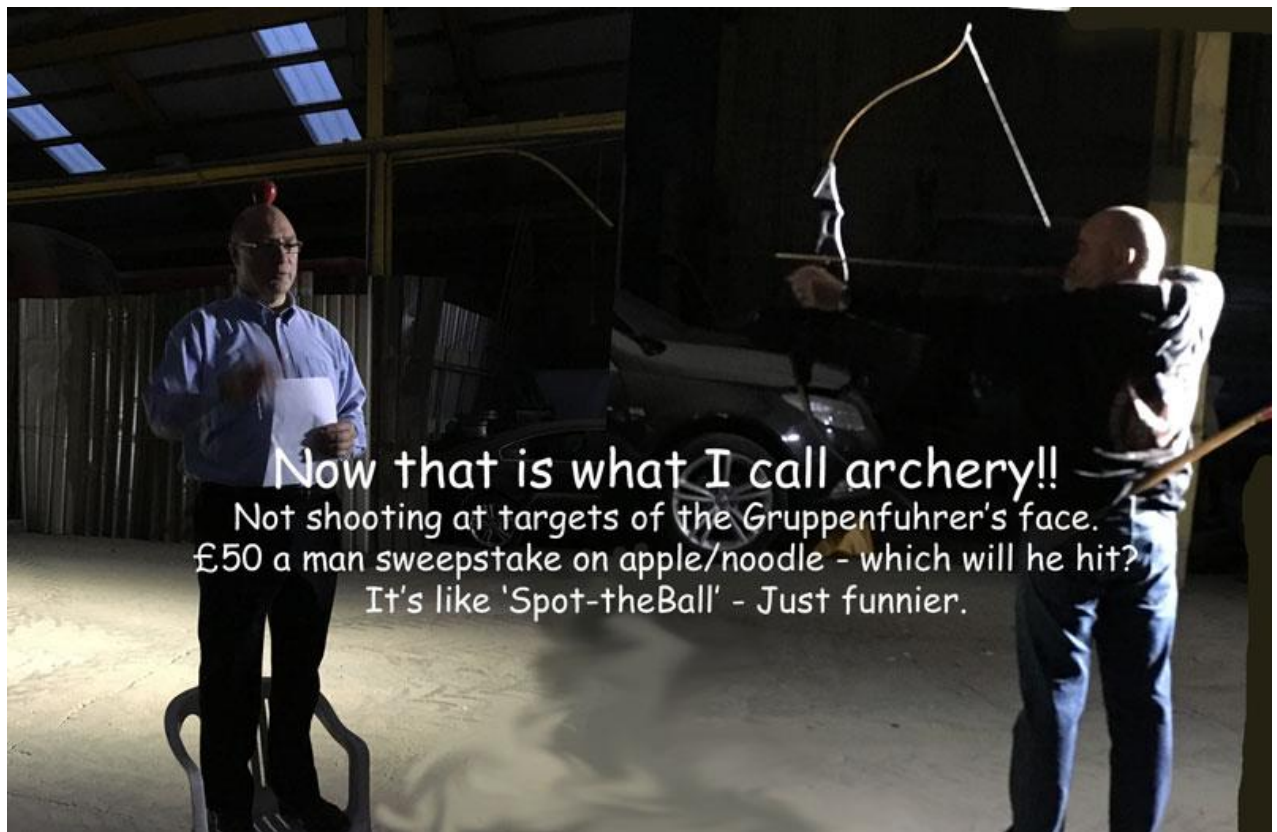
Nico, the World Class Archer comes to town

Venue - a place in Strood, the name of which we are not allowed to mention.



Nico and his lovely wife Netty came all the way from Holland to show us how to shoot at a weird targets.

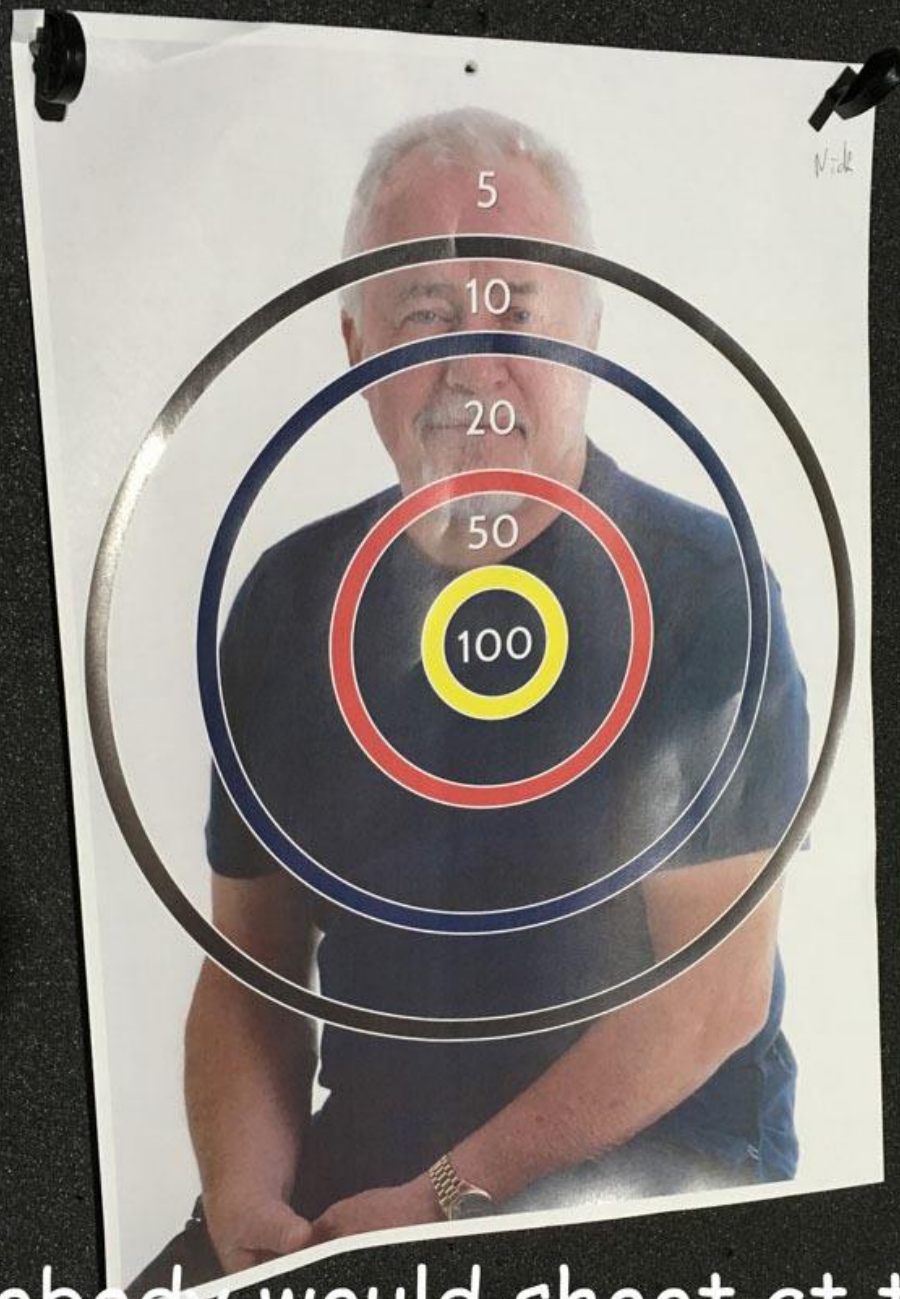
He started with the weirdest.....



Now that is what I call archery!!
Not shooting at targets of the Gruppenfuhrer's face.
£50 a man sweepstake on apple/noodle - which will he hit?
It's like 'Spot-theBall' - Just funnier.

Then he moved on to show us all how to shoot at a really annoying target.....

Now this is downright wrong!



Nobody would shoot at this

Nobody was prepared to shoot at their old mate Brian.....

To be fair to GASS, good guys all,
only Ron did!



All the rest og GASS just stood around dreaming of an Indian
Meal.....



Which was served up at the excellent Volsharn only a short while later.....



Many thanks to Nico and Netty for such an amazing display of skill,
 To Hugh for the excellent organisation,
 and to the staff at the Volsharn for such lovely grub.

RESULTS
 1st - Keith 180

2nd - Hugh 170
3rd - Andy 165
4th - Phil R 125
5th - Pete 100

At the restaurant there was a historic moment of decisiveness. Faced with the AGM actually being in Sheerness it was suddenly decided by an unanimous vote that we would risk a re-run of Puerto Banus.

Keith leapt into action and within hours had booked it!

FOR ALL THE AGM DETAILS - [CLICK HERE](#)

We cracked it!

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MAY

BANGRA DANCING LESSON

Jungu Bhangra
www.jugnubhangra.com

Gravesend



THE GASS BHANGRA TROUPE
Available for hire - For very little money.

Another box ticked. Another dance format under our
belts.

Don't believe me - then watch the video....

That is how you Bhangra!

Then it was off to the pub for a spot of grub - and they
did us proud.

The Wellington Tavern
55 Wellington Road, Gravesend DA12 1JQ

PARTYOKE

GASS got together to make a 'Partyoke' to celebrate Ian & Hayley's wedding.

With predictable results.....

As you will see we used every single fancy dress that GASS members have aquired over the years.



You can play the video here from YouTube

(apologies for the adverts, it is because the music is copyright and the ads are the trade-off)

If the YouTube link does not work try this one... <https://vimeo.com/221015410>

The password to access the video is - gass

Enjoy our attempt at partying!!!

JULY

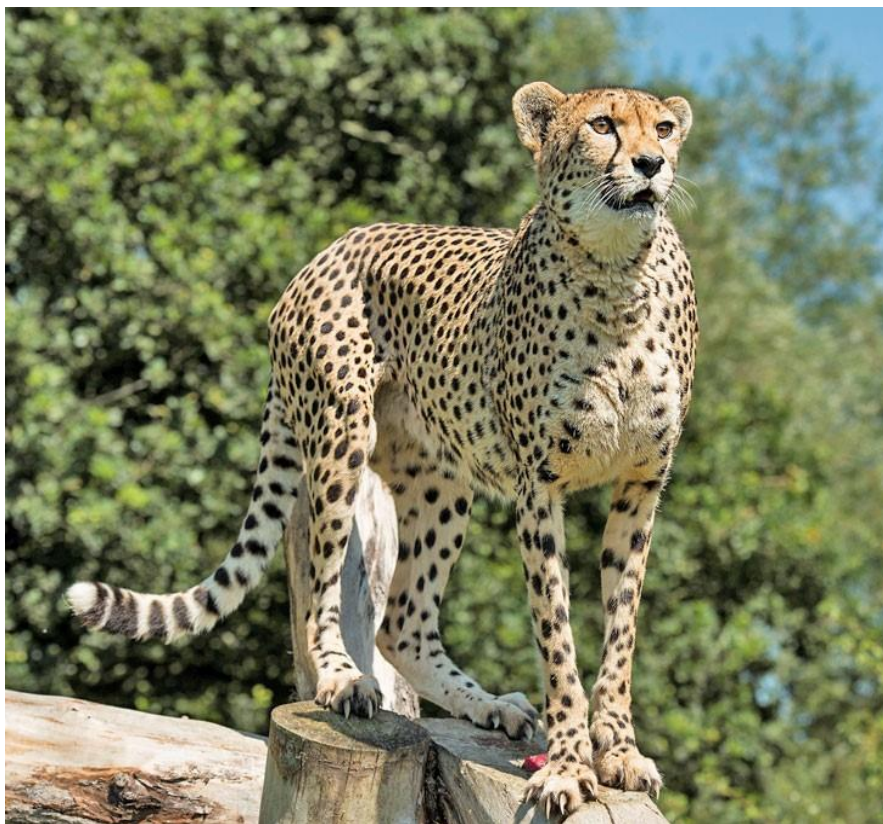
BIG CAT SANCTUARY

Chief Game Scout - Ian

A visit to our little known but world class big cat sanctuary in Smarden.

<http://whf.org.uk/>

Headcorn Road, Smarden, TN27 8PJ



PROGRAMME

NUMBERS - Booked for 20-25 GUESTS - up to 5 spaces at £60pp

And we managed 25, just JB missing, and 5 guests!!

Derek, Rob, Dan, Paul and Rob

Ian did a cracking job of organisation, as did our chief scout Tanith.

**We first did a hand feed of what we expected to be a small cat, but found to be an
f'ing great lion...**

**A lion really looked like he fancied a mouthful of grey hair in place of a measly
chicken leg, can't blame him, great hair!**



**The crowd would also have preferred it if the Lion had a mouthful of straggly
grey furballs - too slow Lion!**



We then walked around several acres of top quality pens with amazing numbers of big cats, small cats, sleepy cats, cats everywhere.



Until finally it was time for dinner.....



We were memorable visitors, but only Pete bought his own bench along....



**To Pete, from Pete, "The greatest gift of life is friendship" Well said Pete, nice bench.
Now get your round in!!!!**

Many thanks to everyone at the sanctuary, in particular to Tanith who did an amazing job.

AUGUST

BOATING ON THE MEDWAY

We had a good turnout for the river trip.

Almost everyone was there. Quick livener in the pub then 'Ship Ahoy!'

Onto a nice big tub with a proper bar and a nice buffet to keep the seasickness at bay.

Out into the River Medway, past all the sights we know so well.

Then up came the RIB, big and fast.

Lifejackets on and a hearty "Abandon Ship!" and onto the RIB.



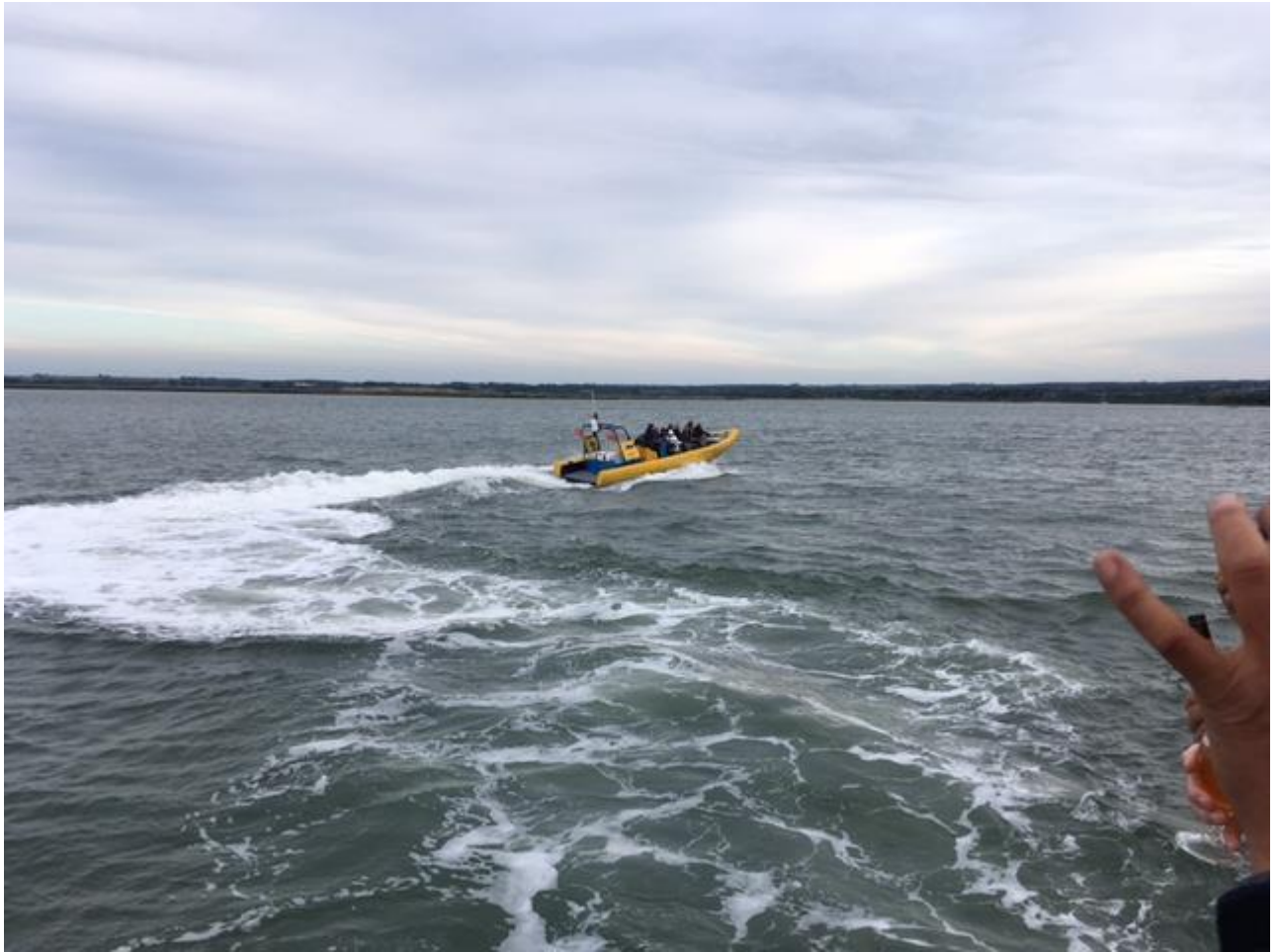
Look cheerful for the camera.



And off into the wild grey yonder - at a right old rate of knots!

Up down, round and round, splashety splash, lickety split. You name it, we
did it.

Looks tame in the photo but it was quite lively on the water.



After the RIB is was back to Rochester, back to the pub, back to an Indian meal to supplement the buffet.

Back to winding up Brian by trying to put everything on the bill in an attempt to make it the most expensive meeting ever.

Why? Why? You only pay £40 a month. Don't try and get more out of it than you put in (Keith).

Or, don't wind up the poor organiser, either way, just don't.

SEPTEMBER - BONUS MEETING

Worlds fastest city based ZIP WIRE

Opposite the Houses of Parliament
Tuesday September 5th

Train up - ZIP IT at 18.30 - Dinner.

Longest and fastest inner city zip wire in the world

ARCHBISHOPS PARK – CARLISLE LANE – LONDON SE1 7LE - Arrival time to
get kitted up is 18.30. Zip Wire 19.00.

GASS is paying for the Zip Wire, the rest is from a whip on the day.

MEET AT THE ROFFEN FROM 15.00

TRAIN FROM CHATHAM AT 16.24 ARRIVES ST PANCRAS AT 17.10

CABS TO PUB NEAR ARCHBISHOPS PARK (30 mins)

Arrive at THE PINEAPPLE P.H, 53 Hercules Road, about 17.45, 5 mins walk from
the park.

BE AT THE ZIP WIRE AT 18.30 - DO THE ZIP WIRE

Walk across Westminster bridge to THE RED LION, Derby Street, for sit down
dinner at a table of 15.

BACK TO CHATHAM ABOUT 23.00

GASS IS PAYING FOR THE ZIP WIRE - MEMBERS PAY TRANSPORT - RON
DECIDES IF THE FUND CAN PAY FOR DINNER OR IF ITS A WHIP!

AND - RON DID SO DECIDE!!!

GASS PAID!!!

**Great trip up - Race from St Pancras to the pub - won by the boys
who simply jumped in a cab.**

All other methods failed, some by up to half an hour.

ZIPPING WAS FUN - VERY HIGH - A LITTLE SCARY



A BLOODY LONG WAY UP!



LOOKING GOOD BEFORE THE CLIMB



LOOKING SLIGHTLY MORE NERVOUS NOW WE ARE UP THERE





LOOKING EVEN MORE NERVOUS NOW!



THEN DINNER - GREAT ATMOSPHERE



Another good GASS day out.

SEPTEMBER - AGM PUERTO BANUS

FOR FULL AGM DETAILS - [CLICK
HERE](#)

This year we had agreed that it was OK to return to some of the old haunts. Puerto Banus drew the short straw.

The place was excellent, just like the old days before the Russians took over. Just a nice place, with nice people, lovely bars and restaurants, supercars to watch, something for everyone.

Great hotel, massive rooms and balconies, lots of breakfast bars just downstairs and good beach clubs within a few yards. What more could you want??

Well we wanted to dress up - obviously!





We wanted to go fishing - well, some of us did...



**We really wanted to go CANYONING - well, the two people who knew
what it was did,
the others just came along for the ride.**



And we did a photoshoot for 'MOBS MONTHLY'



Victorian Strong Man Troupe on tour
A very rare shot of the famous Gassometer troupe on their annual outing 1887

And obviously we walked around a bit, ran into other plonkers, did a few clubs, canyoned a canyon, as you do.

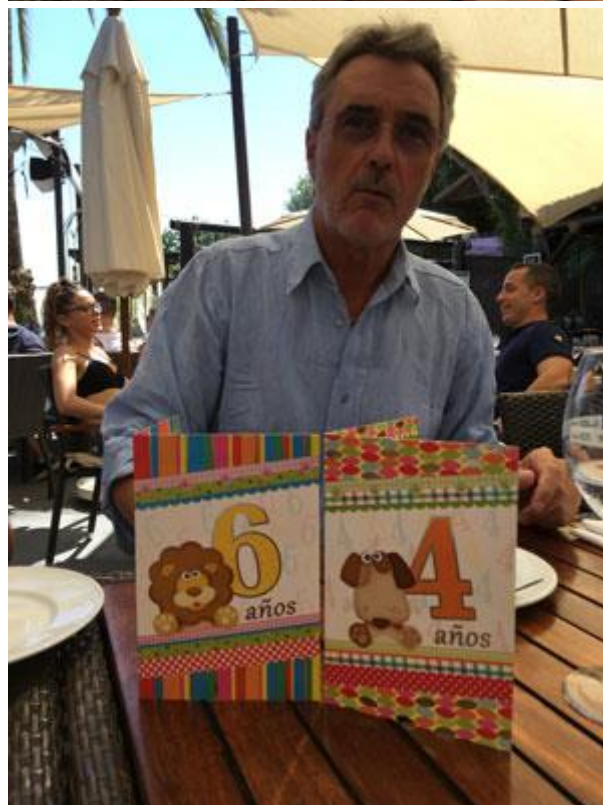






If you want to see the full load of Canyoning Shots go to the GASS DROPBOX and there are tons there.
If members can't remember the log-in then just text me.

**And celebrated Steve's birthday as is traditional on GASS
AGM's..... You choose which is the right age!**





**Once again - a great trip, very memorable, nobody injured, all home safe.
Quite amazing really, all considered.**

OCTOBER

TESLA DRIVING

The Dancing Dog Saloon, Sittingbourne

Drive the latest two models, the new Model X, easily the fastest people carrier in the world,
and the P100D, easily the fastest production car in the world.
Beers on the Terrace, dinner in the pub.

CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN CAR TO COLLECT YOU AND TAKE YOU HOME.
Hugh will be arranging your collection from home and back by Tesla.

The cars were there as promised, every bit as fast as promised, and no damage this time.

Amazing cars! Lovely pub and a nice spot of grub.

Well done Hugh.



After you Claude - No after you Cecil!

NOVEMBER

VERY ADULT QUIZ

GEORGE VAULTS - ROCHESTER - TUESDAY 7
NOV

www.georgevaults.com

Nick was the organiser and Steve Riches the quizmaster.
Knowledge of all things quiz-like, such as history, geography, sport, politics etc. was
completely useless.

Come armed with a totally different knowledge set - or look like a complete virgin.

Dinner served during the evening.
Private room downstairs.

7.30 start as always - Guest Welcome £40

Sadly I was away and so I missed the fun.
So no minutes or pics.

DECEMBER 2017

THE BEIRKELLER - MAIDSTONE

www.thebierkellerm Maidstone.com

WE HAD THE TOP FLIGHT 'WUNDERBAR FOOD PACKAGE'
And it was pants.

Christmas Wunderbar Food Package at £24.95 includes:

Priority entry
Reserved Seats at a Bench
Live Oompah Band Show
One famous Stein (Haus Beer, Cider, Cocktail) Or Double Spirit & Mixer Or Large Wine
Giant Pretzel & Sauerkraut
One Turkey Bratwurst in a Brioche Roll with Stuffing Balls, pigs in blankets, Cranberry Sauce and a side of fries or Vegetarian substitute.
An Apple Strudel with Ice Cream

You could have fooled me.

In terms of dress, most of us took the careful route, and below is what the minutes suggested.

Hugh, Graham and Stewart pushed the Lederhosen boat out though, more fool them.

*DRESS - I am guessing that the good old Lederhosen will be suggested - but really??? A bar in Maidstone at night??? Really???
Probably best to make it optional..... Discuss at November meeting??*

Let the pictures tell the story..... SADLY THERE WERE NO PICTURES

AT THIS POINT THE OLD WEBSITE OF

WWW.GASS.ORG.UK

CAME TO AN END.

The reason was that it was based on very old technology from Microsoft, some 15 years old by that time, so way past its best and no longer supported.

The plan was to leave it up for posterity and we did for another four plus years.

But all good things come to an end – and start to get costly!

The annual cost of maintaining it outweighed its emotional value, especially as I was able to download the contents to be put on thumb drives for all the GASS members to treasure for years to come (or until the next GASS BOOK is printed in years to come!).

So we moved on to WIX, a top flight website hosting programme and to a new address

www.gass.uk

The next pages were going to bring that new site into the realm of storage as well, but sadly they don't copy the same way, only the text comes across and so if you want that lot you must go to the web itself for the moment.

I was going to copy it ALL just in case.....

Of Armageddon – or some such.....

Who knows?

Brian

(I don't mean 'Brian knows', I mean 'signed by Brian' – just in case you misunderstood)