

## LOCAL RESIDENTS PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN

With the boatpark so exposed, it was obvious that many of the boats moved to higher ground could not be brought back to the Boat Park until some protection against the elements can be assured. Several local residents offered their gardens as temporary parking sites for boats, sheltered from the wind and waves and well out of harm's way.

Our particular thanks go to Mr. & Mrs. Flanagan and to the Wickham family, who are now "minding" some of the Sutton fleet.

## AFTER THE DELUGE - WE'RE GETTING BACK INTO ACTION

As the saying goes, there's no point crying over spilt milk, so the Club Committee have begun the process of "restoring normal service". First things first - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February is a clear-up day, with the aim of removing the debris, saving as much of the fencing units as possible, and clearing the concrete wall sections off the Hard and main slipway. Then (weather permitting!), the Pico Team Racing will take place as scheduled at 10.00 hours on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>.

Because of our location, the Club has never been able to get insurance against storm damage, so the next priority will be seeking ways to raise the money to restore the walls & fencing. To launch the "Jericho Fund", and on a theme of "We love our Club", a Fork Supper at the Club has been arranged for 8.00 p.m. on Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup> - it's only 10 Euro per head, but every little helps!

## THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE

Despite the battering the Club received from the giant waves, the damage was actually less severe than had been feared. The walls which collapsed were ones constructed to protect the boats from the sea: the huge lower walls which form the actual structure were undamaged. The repair work will involve building new upper walls, and erecting appropriate fencing to provide protection as before.

This work will have to be done before the sailing season begins in earnest, so the Club are already involved in evaluating the options for doing this, and getting estimates of what this will cost.

So there's no excuse for not going ahead with paying your subscription, and booking your boat space for 2002 - *we're going sailing, and if you're not ready, you can't blame the Big February Storm!*



**SOME OF THE DAMAGE**



February  
2002



*KNOTS is our Club magazine. We welcome your input & notices - contact the Club office (Tel. 839 3135), or any Committee Member.*

## FEBRUARY ROARS IN WITH THE MOTHER OF ALL STORMS!

### THE DAY THE TIDE CAME IN .... AND DIDN'T STOP!

Many of our members are already aware of what happened at SDC on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February - when the spring tides combined with low pressure and storm force winds produced the largest waves seen in Sutton Creek for at least 80 years. The Club Manager, **Hugh Gill**, and Project Team members **Melanie Ingram** and **Paddy Fullam** were at the Club when this happened, and began to appreciate the seriousness of the situation when the tide continued rising after the scheduled High Water time, and the seas breaking over the outer walls began to fill the Boat Park. Despite the conditions, they went into the Boat Park to do what they could.

The fuel storage bunker burst open, and the petrol tanks floating around the boatpark had to be retrieved - then the rising waters began lifting all of the parked boats and sending them surging across the Hard. Hugh then "called in reinforcements" - Club members **Gerry O'Hanlon**, **Chris Lang**, and **Harry Gallagher** came to the rescue, along with former member **Ray Cassidy**.

### THE BOATPARK BECAME A LAKE - THEN THE WALLS CAME DOWN!

Boats afloat in the Boat Park washed towards the gates with every incoming wave. Opening the gates, the crew battled to move as many as possible to higher ground, trying to save as many as possible from being swept out to sea or smashed.

Then the force of the waves began the real damage, and everybody retreated from the danger zone. The northerly end of the seaward wall was the first to collapse, followed shortly afterwards by the fence and wall along the side facing the Martello Tower - this was swept half-way across the Boat Park. With a clear run across the open space, the waves then flattened the northern wall onto the main slipway.

When the waters receded, the extent of the damage was clear: three boats destroyed, more damaged, the boundary wall & fence demolished. But most of the boats were saved, and nobody was hurt - *the Club Committee congratulate all who put in so much effort on the day.*

**SEE PHOTO INSIDE ⇒**

***The day after the storm - walls & fence demolished!***

