

Moving the Dinghy and other Marina sights



The old wooden sailing boat is finally back in the water and we were particularly taken with the new anchor windlass

Waterway	Tiptree - Gt Ouse - Bottisham Lock	Date	8 June 2008
Weather	Sunny and warm, some breeze	Engine hrs	1.52
Final mooring	Tiptree	Miles	6
Cruise notes		Locks	0

Crew: BrianM & Ian

Short pleasant trip prior to filling the water tank at Tiptree on return.

Much boat traffic coming from Cambridge after the Strawberry Fair.

Two attempts at turning to starboard to enter the Tiptree slipway for water failed due to the breeze, so we had to go downstream and enter from that direction. Same thing for entering the marina itself.

A few days later, we retrieved the dinghy and brought it back to BrianJ's for repair, re-painting and re-varnishing. Once that's done, we'll either put it back up for sale or...?

The old copper-bottomed sailing boat is finally back in the water and leaking like a sieve. The bilge pumps are going continuously to keep her afloat. Once she's soaked up a bit of water, though, she'll be fine.

Oh, and we spotted that the new owner has added a few tasty items to the boat. Note the new anchor windlass.



Waterway	Tiptree - Gt Ouse - Five Miles Inn - Lazy Otter	Date	25 July 2008
Weather	Calm, sunny but hazy	Engine hrs	4
Final mooring	Tiptree	Miles	13
Cruise notes		Locks	0

Crew: Brian & Tessa and Brian & Carol

Before setting off, we fitted the newly-strapped green canopy. Much struggling to get it into the correct position, but it *does* look smart! We also fitted the new mast base and erected our re-varnished mast.

We then set off for the pub in time to order lunch. BrianM unmoored perfectly and as we got out into the river, we found that the distance log had stopped again. So we turned it round again and it worked again!

We were assisted in tying-up at the Five Miles Inn by the chap who *nearly* bought the dinghy. A bit of a tale! Anyway, some salmon fishcakes and a glass of Black Dog later we decided to motor on up to the Lazy Otter to have a look at the marina lodges. BrianJ performed a neat mooring against the bank making good use of the revs *and* the gears!

It's such a shame about the road noise at the Lazy Otter. It spoils the whole scene. We saw 2 bigger Birchwoods (Sierra Bravo - 27' and Obsession - 33') as we walked up and down. Very nice!

A tricky unmooring and 180 by BrianJ in the wind (righty-tighty!) had us motoring back home. En route we were overflowed by the Vulcan (too far away to get a photo) and we passed a beautiful sailboat barely moving in the still air.

BrianM got us back into our mooring with only a modicum of fuss -- the wind having picked up a bit.

Wildlife seen: Loads of Grey Herons, a pair of Crested Grebes, a White Egret and lots of ducks and coots.