



Waterway	River Cam - Old West River	Date	14 September 2008
Weather	Sunny and warm, wind light.	Engine hrs	4.5
Final mooring	Tiptree	Miles	13.5
Cruise notes		Locks	0

Crew: Brian & Carol and BrianM

On what threatened to be the last day of summer sunshine, we decided to go for a short cruise down to the Old West River and have a bankside BBQ! But first, we had to get rid of the hundreds of spiders...

That done, BrianJ unmoored and we motored smoothly out onto the river and headed off in the direction of Upware. As usual, the Five Miles looked nice and busy. On past Dimmocks Cote (where GOBA are rumoured to be getting another mooring) and up to Pope's Corner the weather was gorgeous -- slight breeze, little cloud, warm sun.

We had planned to moor on the EA moorings just past Stretham, but the mooring is dominated by a rusting hulk and Portakabin, so we moved on and came to the Lazy Otter. There, no obvious spot presented itself, so BrianM did two tight 180's and we tucked ourselves in at the very very end of the GOBA mooring. Perfick!

The charcoal was lit, the wine was opened, the meat was cooked and the buns were sliced. Locker panels were used to provide a little shelter from the breeze and the BBQ was under way. It all tasted delicious!

BBQ over, we relaxed for a bit before tidying up and setting off back home. On the way back Carol did a spot of expert manoeuvring while we spotted kingfishers in the tree-lined bank. A couple of orbits later, we had some reasonable photos so we motored on home.

Carol then brought us round for a in-control mooring back at our berth. A thoroughly enjoyable trip!

Memo to all: do not leave the roof-mounted navigation light down in wet weather. It will soak you when you re-stow it!



Waterway	River Cam - Old West River - Lazy Otter	Date	21 September 2008
Weather	Sunny and warm, wind light.	Engine hrs	4.5
Final mooring	Tiptree	Miles	13.5
Cruise notes		Locks	0

Crew: Brian & Carol and Ian & Cath and Joni

A lovely sunny day to go on the river. The Cam and Old West were busier today than we had seen them all year. It seemed as if everyone was having a final outing!

We ended up mooring at the GOBA moorings near the Lazy Otter again and enjoyed a generous picnic. While there, we spotted a smart Birchwood 22, *Jean Pierre*, who turned out to be owned by some friends of Brian & Tessa.

Ian did lots of the driving, ably assisted by Joni who also enjoyed communicating her sightings via the 'Rubber Ducks' -- at least, until the batteries ran out!

We also tried some more kingfisher spotting, but they were mostly too fast for us this time -- all except for one who did sit still for a picture, but, unfortunately, a long way away from us.

Had a lovely relaxing trip.



Waterway	River Cam - Ely	Date	12 October 2008
Weather	Sunny and warm, calm.	Engine hrs	3.5
Final mooring	Tiptree	Miles	12.3
Cruise notes		Locks	0

Crew: Brian & Carol

Making the most of the balmy autumn weather, we decided to take our new *Birchwood Owners Association* gear out for a trip. A quick spot of cleaning and rope-work later we unmoored and motored off downriver in the calm. The river was very weedy with large encroaching banks of lily-like growth and several floating 'islands' of the stuff. Just out of the marina, we needed a burst of reverse to clear the rudder.

We decided to moor up at 'Kingfisher Alley' to do some bird-watching. Alas, nothing was to be seen. However, when we wanted to move off again, we found that we had low voltage. Off with the fridge and wait 5 minutes until the solar panel built up sufficient power to start us. Must remember to switch to 1 battery when moored!

Motoring on underneath the newly-constructed railway bridge, we made our way to Ely and the EA moorings and a picnic on the grass opposite Ely Marina. Afterwards, we paid a visit to our old mooring where *Winter Rose* now lies. It's quite 'industrial' at the Marina now.

Back home again and this time we saw a kingfisher in the trees just past Upware. Yay!

Carol was at the helm as we approached the marina, but we were prevented from turning in by 2 passing boats, so we had to motor past and turn around. As we came back, we were faced with 2 more boats -- this time both going into the marina! So, we had to motor past yet again and turn round and come back for a 3rd attempt. This time the river remained clear of other craft and a smooth mooring was made by Carol.