



<b>Waterway</b>	River Great Ouse - Tiptree - Ely	<b>Date</b>	2 August 2009
<b>Weather</b>	Sunny, some breezes becoming and warm	<b>Engine hrs</b>	3
<b>Final mooring</b>	Tiptree	<b>Miles</b>	14
<b>Cruise notes</b>		<b>Locks</b>	0

Crew: Brian & Ian with Sophie, Lawrence, Niki (Lawrence's sister) & her husband Andy plus 2 year-old Fletcher and baby Marshall & Andy's sister, Emma.

Nice easy run down the river which was reasonably busy.

Filled the tank with 80 litres of diesel at Cathedral Marina. Once full, we moored outside the Cutter Ferry Inn for a picnic whilst the visitors (sans baby!) walked alongside the river.

Speed log finally working again although fuel gauge stubbornly showed full even when obviously 3/4 empty!

Good use of small life-jacket by Fletcher and it fitted well.

First sighting of 'Prince Charles' - a new hire craft (hosting a 70th birthday party!) which overtook us and then turned back at Upware.



<b>Waterway</b>	Tiptree to Cambridge	<b>Date</b>	8 August 2009
<b>Weather</b>	Cloudy and mild.	<b>Engine hrs</b>	3
<b>Final mooring</b>	Fort St George Cambridge	<b>Miles</b>	10
<b>Cruise notes</b>		<b>Locks</b>	2

Crew: Carol, Brian & BrianM

Amazingly, this is the first day Carol & Brian have managed a trip up-river!

It was nice to be out on a lovely mild day with not much wind, although there was plenty of water in the river down-stream of Baits Bite Lock. In fact, the lock's landing stage was completely flooded, so it was lucky for us that the lock was in our favour and we were able to motor straight in. With the levels on either side of the lock being almost the same, it took almost no time to fill and we were on our way very quickly.

The journey down to Cambridge was very calm and we moored easily by the Fort St George in Cambridge. It isn't as noisy as you might think and it's very handy if you fancy a drink!

After a short while we welcomed Tessa and Jesus aboard for an evening supper. Very pleasant.

BrianM stayed aboard overnight and reported a good night's kip!



<b>Waterway</b>	Fort St George, Cambridge to Tiptree	<b>Date</b>	4 July 2009
<b>Weather</b>	Some cloud, becoming sunny & warm	<b>Engine hrs</b>	3
<b>Final mooring</b>	Tiptree	<b>Miles</b>	10
<b>Cruise notes</b>		<b>Locks</b>	2

Crew: Brian & BrianM with Jesus Sanchez

Left after lunch to allow the discharged batteries to charge up again in the slowly clearing cloudy sky. Started easily, but we left without turning the fridge on in case we had problems at the locks.

And, as it turned out, both locks were against us and we kept the engine running -- just in case! At Baits Bite the emergency alarm had tripped and it was filling extremely slowly. We reset the alarm and the lock went back to normal speed again.

Very pleasant run with the speed log working until Bottisham lock when it stopped. Then, with Jesus driving, we hit weed which needed a burst of reverse thrust and suddenly the log was working again!

The river was surprisingly quiet for such a nice day.

Riverbank near Tiptree was a blaze of pink flowers on the bank-side shrubs.



<b>Waterway</b>	River Cam, Old West River to Lazy Otter	<b>Date</b>	30 August 2009
<b>Weather</b>	Sunny at first, but overcast & some drizzle later. Windy.	<b>Engine hrs</b>	4
<b>Final mooring</b>	Tiptree	<b>Miles</b>	12
<b>Cruise notes</b>		<b>Locks</b>	0

Crew: Carol, Brian & BrianM

The 'A' Team took to the river in slightly windy conditions, but we took our time and left Tiptree in a bit of a lull.

As we motored downstream, we saw lots of swifts & swallows swooping across the river. Most land-based swifts have left by now, but the river still provides plenty of insects. It was a little busy on this Bank Holiday weekend, but not unduly so - and it gives you plenty of opportunity to wave at fellow boaters!

As we turned down the Old West at the Fish & Duck Marina we found ourselves behind a large barge. We timed ourselves past the markers -- well under the allocated 30 seconds! Further on, we were dumbfounded to see that the EA mooring at Bridge House is now a private mooring at £10/night!

BrianM made an excellent mooring manoeuvre at the Lazy Otter into one of only two remaining spaces. After a walk up to the Lazy Otter to see the lodges, we returned to the mooring and washed Nimue's starboard side - witnessed by our neighbour at Tiptree and fellow Birchwood owner - Polly!

Unmooring in the stiff breeze was tricky (push the stern out first and reverse right across the river) but we managed it with the minimum of fuss.

An uneventful journey back (although we were chased by canoists!) made for a nice trip.