

BONJOURNAL



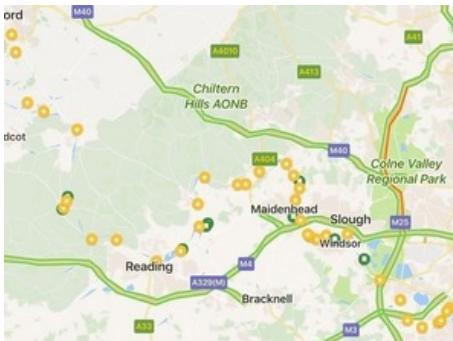
24 Jul 2017 – 17 Aug 2017
bonjourn.al/journal/79905

24 Jul 2017

9:00 am
Planning

So we now have a plan for the trip in August.

Rather than start on the Saturday we will go to the Hawaiian Themed Marina Annual B-B-Q and then head off on the Sunday.



3:00 pm
The Plan

Essentially it is fast-track to Oxford and take our time coming back.

Sunday upstream to Windsor,
dinner at Go Go's

Monday upstream to Henley

Tuesday upstream to The Leatherne
Bottel at Goring

Wednesday upstream to Abingdon

Thursday upstream to Oxford

Friday downstream to Wallingford

Saturday downstream to Mill at
Sonning

Sunday downstream to Hurley

Monday downstream to Cliveden

Tuesday Cliveden

Wednesday downstream to Windsor

Thursday downstream to Walton

Well, that's the theory anyway !!!

05 Aug 2017

5:00 am
Cabin Fever ?

It's the day of the annual Marina Bar-b-q and the beginning of our holiday.

What a two weeks it's been though. Graham had been running a temperature of 38'c plus (over 100 in old money) for a week and probably shouldn't have been at work. But with so much changing at work it was the only chance of trying to get to a position of being able to enjoy the holiday.

Having been to the doctor for unfruitful tests, Graham finally gets a diagnosis from the dentist.

An emerging wisdom tooth had caused an infection in the gum sending the temperature rocketing.

Who would have thought there could be any more wisdom to come from that head ? and at the age of 59 too !

Anyway, Graham is now half-way through a course of anti-biotics, fighting bravely (Fiona may disagree) to get into better health for the epic journey about to commence.

No alcohol for two weeks so far and now a warning on the Penicillin box. However Charly, our housesitter while we are away, has done some research which reveals that, for these specific pills, there should be no adverse reaction, just a reduction in the effectiveness of the anti-biotics.

God bless you Charly !

First major decision of the holiday will be made at the Bar-b-q !



9:00 am
Preparation

It's a busy day with lots of stuff to take down to the boat for our two week epic journey. Having divided to conquer, Fee does the food shopping, Graham prepares the boat.

On the way back from the boat, Graham notices a funny repetitive clicking noise from outside the car. On inspection this reveals a bolt (not just a nail) stuck into the rear left tyre.

"You sayin' bolt ?"

"Yep " !

A quick trip to the car dealer in Cobham and, an hour later, mi wheels are booked in for a two week holiday whilst we are away. Fortunately there is tyre insurance to cover the cost and they will do the free summer check at the same time. Happy Days !

6:30 pm
Dressing up

By 6:30 we are ready for the night ahead. Graham with matching shirt and shorts, Fee complete with grass skirt.



10:00 pm
Lawnmower

We have a lovely evening, meeting up with fellow boaters to swap stories - mostly about disasters or near-disasters - I wonder why this is ?

7:00 pm
Hawaiian Night

What a great night. The food and entertainment put on by the Marina is even better than last year. A hog roast and a combination of DJ and live 50's band take us through the night.

Graham makes the big decision and has a very limited venture back into the world of alcohol with no ill effects. Hopefully on the road to recovery now.

One of the most interesting new characters is two-boat Denis. Denis must be late 80's, not very steady on his feet, and a bit forgetful., but he does have two boats in the marina. It's either that which attracted his lovely much younger companion, or maybe the fact that he spends more time shuffling around the dancefloor than anyone else. Definitely a bit of a card in his time !

Others on our table include the crew of C'est La Vie. They are very nice and full of the enthusiasm of new boaters. Unfortunately we think they have bought the wrong kind of boat for the river, but they will have lots of fun and learn like the rest of us.

One of the frisky old men offers to use his lawnmower, but, due to the

quantity of dancing, and the quality of the material, Fee's grass skirt does not all make it to the end of the night anyway !

Something for Adam, Rachel and the gang to clear up in the morning.



10:30 pm
Run out of steam

Graham runs out of steam long before the party ends and we retire to Drift a Wey for our first night aboard.

06 Aug 2017

9:00 am
Ready to go

After a good night's sleep aboard, we awake to a beautiful Sunday morning in the marina. Nice weather to start the journey.



12:30 pm
Good progress

We make good progress throughout the day.

Taking turns at the helm, well, not equal turns but turns nonetheless !



10:30 am
and off we go

It's quite a long way from Walton to Windsor with many locks to negotiate and usually takes between 5 and 6 hours.



8:00 pm
GoGo's

We are soon settled into Racecourse Marina and have a reservation at the South African themed GoGo's waterfront restaurant.

It has a welcoming bar and, especially if you like meat, it's a great restaurant to visit even if you are not a boaty type.



Easy on the alcohol for the skipper - still on antibiotics but feeling much better.



3:30 pm
Traffic jam in Windsor

On the last stretch and we get stuck behind. Duck Tour !

07 Aug 2017

9:00 am
Breakfast on board

Fee cooks a fine bacon sandwich to set us up for the day.

Last antibiotic for the skipper - woo hoo !!!

11:30 am

Rain

We fill up with diesel and head off at 10 o'clock.

All goes well until we reach Boulter's Lock and the drizzle starts !



12:00 pm

Rain

Cookham Lock, still raining.

and a First Mates's work is never done !

"£5 for cleaning the windows gov ?"

12:30 pm

Bounty and Sandcastle

No time for The Bounty today

and what's this sandcastle doing on the Thames near Marlow ?

1:00 pm

Peggotty and a space capsule

At Marlow Lock we see Peggotty, a revamped Dunkirk boat bought for £1

It cost the proud owners considerably more to overhaul, but what a beauty !

and then what is that space capsule doing in someone's garden in Marlow ?



2:30 pm
Medmenham

Nice houses at Medmenham including what used to be the old Priory.



2:00 pm
Dragons

Dragon Boat at Hurley



1:30 pm
Rain

Temple Lock and true to form it starts to rain again



3:00 pm
Henley

Hambledon Lock is the last one of the day. A duck tries to hitch a lift on the Dutch barge in front of us whilst in the lock. Then tries to fly into our boat but slips on the side and falls

back into the water - nice try !

By 3 o'clock we reach Henley and find a mooring spot by the park.

Settled for the evening.

7:30 pm
Fish for supper

Fee cooks a fine dish of plaice, potatoes and peas washed down with a glass of rose wine.



9:30 pm
Winners and Losers

Fee wins three in a row at Yahtzee to take a 3-0 lead on day one. As a result, she also has the Highest Score so far and Graham has the lowest !

Graham plans revenge on the Scrabble Board.

Graham has a gut feeling that his opening 7 letter starter will pave the way for victory !



10:00 pm
Good Night

Graham does go on to win the opening round of Scrabble so honours are even !

Good night !

08 Aug 2017

7:00 am
Magnet Fishing

Wait for it. Graham decides it's time to introduce a new hobby and places an Amazon order to have Fishing Magnets delivered to an Amazon Locker in Abingdon where we should reach in a couple of days.

Fee despairs once again !

9:30 am
Marsh Lock

We wave goodbye to Henley and head off up through Marsh Lock, following a boat called Penny Lane - obviously a Beate lover !

10:00 am
*Shi*lake*

We arrive at Shiplake Lock and we have to wait . . . and wait . . . and wait whilst one particular boat goes up the lock, turns around and comes back down the lock. Very strange.

Transpires that they want to use the Pump Out upstream but it is not working which is why they turn around and come straight back !

Still, we are in no rush.

Shiplake, forever to be remembered as Shi*lake which is a shame because it is pretty around here.



11:00 am
Sonning

We pass by the Clooney residence on the approach to Sonning Lock.

Needless to say, the Clooney residence is hidden behind thick trees, a fence and plenty of CCTV !

Not sure what Mr & Mrs C would think about one of their neighbours !



12:30 pm
Caversham

From Sonning to Mapledurham it's pretty industrial along the banks as it is basically Reading.

For some stretches they have tried to improve the setting by upgrading the tow-path into a running track, much used by joggers.

There is probably still an opportunity to have some trendy restaurant/bars overlooking the river, but maybe there isn't the custom in the evening.

In the middle of this stretch is Caversham Lock and, in keeping with the area, we have to wait for a large crane on a barge to be towed up the lock.

It only just fits in !



1:00 pm
Mapledurham

By the time we reach Mapledurham we are returning to more picturesque surroundings including the lovely Mapledurham Estate itself.

Apparently the location has attracted many film and television productions including The Eagle has Landed, Miss Marple, Midsomer Murders, Sharpe and The Big Allotment challenge !



1:30 pm
Mapledurham Lock

We are alone in the lock and moor at the back which allows the lock-keeper to open up the sluice gates

big time. The water whooshes in.

No time to stop at the nice tea-room beside the lock.

2:00 pm
Hole in the wall !

What a strange place for a letter box !

We should try to post a postcard on the way back !



2:30 pm
Whitchurch Lock

As we approach Whitchurch Lock there appears to be some confusion.

It seems that the lock is on self-service as the normal lock-keeper is on duty at a different lock - presumably one that requires more supervision.

This in itself is not unusual on The Thames. However, a group of teenage rowers and canoeists coming downstream have managed to trip the electrics.

This means that we have to operate the lock by using a selection of levers and a big wheel that has to be wound round and round and round and round and round and round for each action:
 Close sluices
 Close gates
 Open sluices
 Open gates

To make matters worse, it is now pouring with rain !

Two Argentinian ladies waiting to come downstream are here on holiday and have rented a boat.

Fee shows them how the manual lock works but we're not sure how much sinks in.

We wave to them as we leave.

Good luck ladies . . . and good luck with the British weather too !



3:30 pm
This way please !

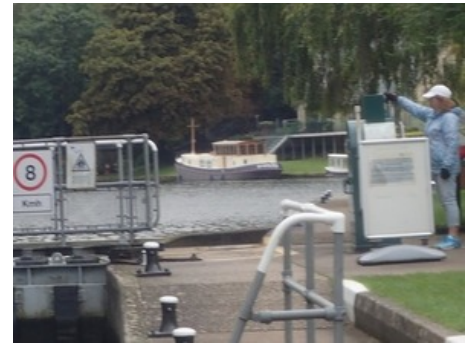
A helpful heron directs us to our final lock of the day.



4:00 pm
Cleeve Lock

Cleeve Lock is self-service but at least the electrics are working.

We go through the lock, top up with water and head to Rossini at The Leatherne Bottel where we will spend the night.



6:00 pm
Rossini at The Leatherne Bottel

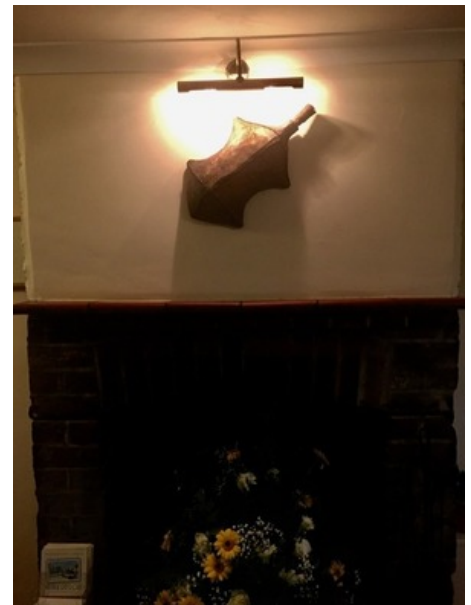
We have a table booked and a mooring for the night.

Presumably this is the Leatherne Bottel in question !



3:00 pm
Goring

Goring is lovely and some people will do anything to extend their property to enjoy the river more !



8:00 pm
Rossini

What a lovely restaurant and a great location. Good job we booked. Mooring is limited and the place is full but we have the best table in the house.

Fiona goes for Carbonara (cooked properly and traditionally without cream or parmesan)

Graham has the biggest most tender piece of pan-fried calves liver ever !



9:00 pm
Sunset

The sun goes down on another fun day !



09 Aug 2017

9:30 am
Final Upstream Day

We fill up with fresh water at Cleeve Lock and then wave goodbye to The Leatherne Bottel as we head upstream to Benson Lock - the first of only four today.



10:30 am
Benson

It's a one hour trip up to Benson Lock made all the better by the smell of bacon sandwiches wafting up from the cabin below !

11:00 am
Beetle and Wedge Boathouse

On the way to Day's Lock we pass by The Beetle and Wedge Boathouse at Moultsford. Looks very nice - one to watch out for in the future !



11:30 am
Day's

The sign at Day's Lock says Self-Service but that is only because the Lock-keeper cannot find the key to change it so he helps us through.

12:00 pm
Pouring

By now the rain is pouring down relentlessly.

The next lock is Clifton.

It says Self-Service - and it is !

We both get soaked.



12:30 pm
Culham

Our final lock for the day is Culham.

It is the second deepest lock on the Thames so we are very grateful to the Lock-keeper for staying back to help us through before going for his lunch, especially in the torrential rain.



1:30 pm
Abingdon

We reach Abingdon by 1:30 and manage to grab a great mooring right in the middle of town.

This gives us enough time to dry out before meeting Fee's Mum and Tony for lunch in The Nag's Head.



3:00 pm
Magnet Fishing

Graham collects Fishing Magnets from Amazon Locker and some strong line.

Initial attempt fails when first magnet comes apart from the line.

Second magnet is rigged up and used to successfully retrieve first magnet from the riverbed.

This proves to be the most valuable find of the week.

Other finds mainly consist of old screws and nails !



6:00 pm
Chilli and Duck

We spend the rest of the day pottering about in Abingdon before settling down for a fabulous pot of chilli cooked to perfection by the First Mate !

Fee makes friends with the locals.





10:00 am
Bus to Oxford

After a Costa coffee we jump on the bus to Oxford City centre.

"Mum, can we sit upstairs at the front ?"



11:30 am
Oxford

More beautiful buildings

10 Aug 2017

8:00 am
Sunshine

We awake to sunshine for the first time in days !



11:00 am
Oxford

We have a sunny day in Oxford with all it's many buildings and spires.



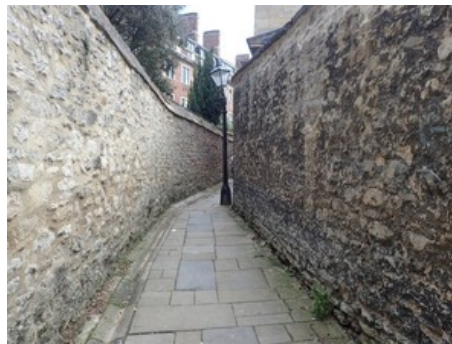
12:30 pm
The Bear

We stop at The Bear, the oldest pub in Oxford dating back to 1242. We lunch at 12:42 !



2:00 pm
Oxford

and then we find a dodgy little lane near Oxford Castle



5:30 pm
Abingdon

We return to Abingdon by bus - very cheap and efficient- and then pick up some new wiper blades for the boat, just in case it rains at some stage again !

Graham fits the new blades so "bring on the rain !"

Actually, no, don't bring on the rain, we've had more than our fair share this week.

1:30 pm
Oxford

and then we see more beautiful buildings



7:30 pm
Fajitas

Tonight we eat on board again and First Mate serves up Fajitas !



3:30 pm
Oxford

and we find a Real Tennis court !

11 Aug 2017

8:30 am
Sunny Days

Another sunny morning in Abingdon before we head back downstream.

The Nag's Head on the bridge looks nice in the early morning light



9:30 am
Refuel

We top up with water and diesel before heading off back downstream . . . slowly

10:30 am
Culham

By 10:30 we have reached Culham Lock.

The Lock-keeper has a little jack russel who is running around searching avidly.

Apparently a mink has just run across the lock and is now in hiding from the jack russel !

11:00 am
Nice houses

This is the stretch we suffered in the rain a couple of days ago on the way up. It's much prettier on a sunny day !



11:30 am
Clifton Lock

Clifton Lock is Self-service today and we meet up with a family who keep their boat at Byfleet, just over a mile from where we live - what a coincidence !

12:00 pm
Cows

Some cows having a drink !



12:30 pm
Day's Lock

Once past Day's Lock we pass by the lovely house for sale on the river at Shillingford.

Fee looks it up to see how much.



1:00 pm
House for Sale

It is £1.2 Million and it is beautiful.



2:00 pm
Boathouse for Sale

It is £1.2 Million, but it is only the Boathouse which is for sale !

It looks very nice, but £1.2 Million for a 2-bed boathouse ????????



3:00 pm
Air Show

We are treated to a free air show including the Red Arrows !

Tomorrow there is an airshow at RAF Benson - today they are practicing.



2:30 pm
Shillingford

We moor up outside the Shillingford Bridge Hotel where there is electricity available - a great opportunity to recharge the batteries !



3:30 pm
Air show

Great to see these folks doing their stuff



5:00 pm
Get a room !

Fee does a cheeky check-in at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel and we have a Kingsize room for the night.

Is that cheating on a boat trip ?

Who cares - there is a bath !!!!!

5:30 pm
Any old iron

"Fee ? Shall I pop back to the boat and bring up my shirts ?"

"Ouch ! That hurt !!!!!"



12 Aug 2017

9:30 am
Onwards

After a hearty breakfast at the sneaky hotel and all our batteries recharged, we set off downstream.



10:00 am
Benson Lock

As we go through Benson Lock a kite circles overhead.

No doubt its sharp eyes can see some tasty prey below.

The Beetle and Wedge Waterside

Restaurant still looks inviting.



10:30 am
Wallingford

We soon pass under Wallingford Bridge.

This is in fact where we had originally planned to stay last night, but stopped short when we saw the hotel beckoning !

Probably a good thing as Wallingford Bridge looks jam packed this morning so we might not have found a mooring spot.



11:00 am
Pill Box

Not sure what this Pill Box is doing on the way to Cleeve Lock.

Are we expecting invaders to parachute into Oxfordshire and then cruise down The Thames to attack London ?

They probably won't be able to work the locks anyway as the instructions are in English only !



12:00 pm
Goring

Goring looks such a pretty village as we approach the lock.

It proves to be very windy in the lock and for the first time in a long time we struggle a little.

We think about stopping for a coffee and cake but there is nowhere left to moor - a very popular spot, especially at the weekend.



1:00 pm
Whitchurch & Mapledurham

On through Whitchurch (at Pangbourne), this time with a lock-keeper. Last time it was raining and the lock was not just self-service but also manual !

And then through Mapledurham Lock where we just squeeze into a ten foot wide gap to be last in.

1:30 pm
Post Box

We try to post a card at the letterbox in the wall, but First Mate calls out that it is too shallow on the approach.



2:00 pm
Caversham

We pass through the Caversham area of Reading where we can see them preparing for the Reading Festival which is due to be held on Bank Holiday weekend.

Then there is a small island in the middle of the river.

This is home to The Island Bohemian Bowls Club !

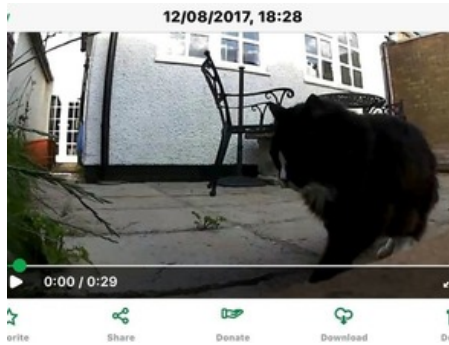


3:00 pm
Thames and Kennet Marina

Once through Caversham lock, we arrive at the Tingdene Thames and Kennet Marina - just opposite the start of the Kennet and Avon canal - funnily enough.

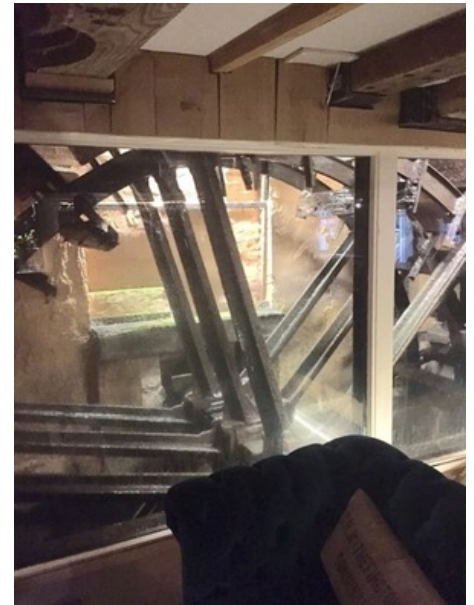
6:30 pm
Snickers Returns

After not being seen all day, and worried phone calls from Charly and Tasha throughout, Snickers finally appears from nowhere to much relief all round.



7:00 pm
The Mill at Sonning

Highlight of the day is definitely our visit to The Mill at Sonning. The only Dinner Theatre in the UK !



7:30 pm
Up Close

Can't believe how close to the stage and actors we are



10:00 pm
Good Night Clooneys

After a fantastic performance we have a nightcap, wave goodnight to the Clooney Gates and take a cab back to the marina.



10:30 am
Not a lot

This house magically appears near Wargrave

Can we see Debbie warming up for Strictly Come Dancing ?

10:00 am
Sonning

By 10am we are passing The Mill at Sonning where we had such a great evening yesterday.

Then we admire more beautiful houses.



13 Aug 2017

9:30 am
Breakfast at Boaters

We say good morning to the ducks and then have breakfast before setting off in the direction of Sonning Lock, passing the Redgrave Pinsent rowing lake.



11:00 am

Shiplake and Marsh

Shiplake and Marsh locks seem to come and go quickly-



12:00 pm
Temple Island

This little temple on an island near Henley is popular for weddings !

1:30 pm
Hambledon and Hurley

The last two locks are Hambledon and Hurley

11:30 am

Henley

Before we know it we are cruising through Henley.

A bit too early for Prosecco. . . isn't it ?



1:00 pm
More houses

More nice houses as we head down to our final two locks of the day.



2:00 pm
Harleyford Marina

We moor up for the night at Harleyford marina.

Pump up the dinghy ready for Cliveden tomorrow

And jump in a taxi to Marlow for a late lunch

3:30 pm
The Ivy Garden

First Mate Fee chooses The Ivy Garden Marlow and we have a lovely meal.

Fee does not hold back on the Rose

This is a Methuselah (6 litres I think)



4:30 pm
Espresso Martini

We then move on to the Espresso Martinis !



5:00 pm
The Botanist

We then move on to The Botanist.

First The Ivy, then The Botanist - does this count as a Nature Walk ?

Probably not judging by this smokin' fella !





9:00 pm
Taxi !

We eventually order a cab back to the marina

14 Aug 2017

9:30 am
On to Cliveden

The mist is settling over the water in Harleyford Marina as we get ourselves sorted for our short trip to Cliveden.



11:30 am
Marlow

We pass through Temple Lock and then stop off at Marlow for some supplies - no alcohol this time !

Then it is on through Marlow Lock and then Cookham Lock.

There is a big queue at Cookham Lock but we manage to squeeze in and we are soon approaching the islands at Cliveden.

2:30 pm
Cliveden Islands

Would you believe it, the space we really want is available so we dive in there like a shot !



3:00 pm
Dinghy

Graham plays around in the dinghy



3:30 pm
Afternoon Tea

Three thirty is definitely time for afternoon tea with scones, jam and clotted cream - yummy !



9:00 pm
No party boats

No party boats on a Monday so we have a pleasant evening and a good night's sleep.

15 Aug 2017

8:00 am
Change of plan

This morning over a mug of hot lemon and lime we decide on a slight change of plan.

Current plan

Today:

Stay on island during the day and tonight

Tomorrow:

Travel to Bray to meet Kathy and Dave for lunch at 3pm then on to Windsor Racecourse Marina and dinner at GoGo's

New Plan

Today:

Stay on island for the day, then travel down to Windsor Racecourse Marina and dinner at GoGo's

Tomorrow:

Travel up to Bray to meet Kathy and Dave for lunch at 3pm then back to Windsor Racecourse Marina and eat on board.

9:30 am
Bacon and Egg sandwich

What's that smell coming from the cabin ?

Mmmmm sizzling bacon and egg !

10:30 am
Dinghy around

Graham goes for another play in the dinghy, exploring the islands and doing a bit of magnet fishing



1:30 pm
Off to Windsor

With our new plan in place, we head off to Boulters Lock.

Who's this funny looking man watching the world go by ?



2:00 pm
Self-service

Boulters is self-service and unfortunately nobody else wants to help - or maybe they don't know what to do ?

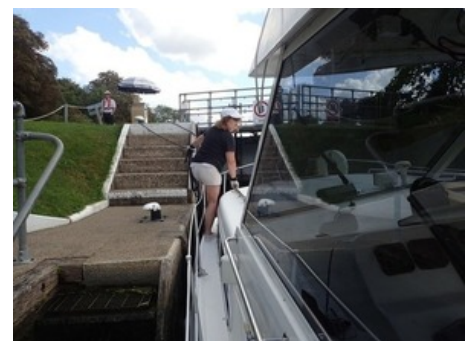
There are enough people because the lock is full.

But Fee ends up doing all the hard work.



4:00 pm
Bray

Bray lock is manned and then Fee opens a well-earned Crabbies for our last stretch to Windsor Racecourse Marina.





7:30 pm
Revenge

Wash up, brush up, in to the bar at GoGo's and revenge at Yahtzee for Graham !

UPPER SECTION		HOW TO SCORE		F		G		F		G	
Aces	1-1	Count and add	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Twos	2-2	Count and add	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Threes	3-3	Count and add	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Four's	4-4	Count and add	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Fives	5-5	Count and add	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Sixes	6-6	Count and add	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
TOTAL			24	18	30	24	24	18			
BONUS	1-6 on one die	SCORE 35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
TOTAL			05	98	116	105	61	100			
LOWER SECTION		HOW TO SCORE		F		G		F		G	
3 of a Kind	3 of a kind	Add total of all dice	23	13	15	15	13	14			
4 of a Kind	4 of a kind	Add total of all dice	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	30	
Full House	3 of 1 kind + 2 of 1 kind	SCORE 25	25	25	—	—	—	—	25	25	
SM Straight	1-2-3-4-5	SCORE 30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	
LG Straight	2-3-4-5-6	SCORE 40	—	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
YACHTZEE	1-6 on all dice	SCORE 50	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	
Chance	1-6 on one die	SCORE 25	23	19	21	26	21	18			
YACHTZEE BONUS	1-6 on all dice	SCORE 100	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
TOTAL			105	98	116	105	61	100			
GRAND TOTAL			206	225	372	176	164	257			

10:30 pm
Go Go's

Great meal at GoGo's but probably didn't need the Bailey's



16 Aug 2017

11:00 am
Lazy Wednesday

We spend a lazy morning at Windsor topping up with fuel etc

2:00 pm
Bray

Then we go upstream to Bray Marina to meet up with Kathy and Dave whose boat Nanook is moored there.

3:30 pm
Late Lunch

We have a delicious lunch with them at the waterside restaurant accompanied by a jazz saxophonist who has been paid for by some ladies who arrive by slipper launch dressed to the nines.



6:00 pm
Sunbathe

Then it's back to Racecourse marina for some evening sunbathing and our last night aboard.



8:30 pm
Early night

After a late lunch we have no need for dinner tonight and settle for an early night.

17 Aug 2017

8:00 am
Homeward bound

After a good night's sleep we are fit and ready for the last leg home

8:30 am
Windscreen Wipers

It's been raining overnight and there is still a bit of drizzle so Graham gets his first chance to exercise the new wiper blades.

And what a fine pair of wiper blades they are . . . and expertly fitted by the skipper . . . of course !

Then we head off



9:00 am
Boveney

It's too early for the lock-keeper so it's self-service at Boveney.

There is a dutch barge at the lock coming upstream.

They are clearly inexperienced as they expect the gates to open by magic !

We help and advise politely !!!

10:00 am
Romney

Romney lock is manned.

There are three rental day boats coming upstream and we have to wait for them. They look ready to party.

Both locks against us so far- this could be a long journey home.

10:30 am
Old Windsor

Old Windsor lock is also self-service today and once again we have to wait a bit for other boats to cone through.



11:00 am
Runnymede

Past Runnymede where the Lucy Fisher is preparing to take some tourists out for a spin, we go past one of Fee's favourite houses.



11:30 am
Bell Weir

We arrive at Bell Weir lock, right outside the Runnymede Hotel.

There is a lock-keeper on duty; he keeps the gates open and we are straight in.

Our fortune has changed for the better and we are through in no time.

Next we pass through the lovely Staines-upon-Thames .

What a pleasure !

12:00 pm
Rescue

We are a few minutes shy of Penton Hook Lock, there is a bend round to the left and trees reach out.

As it happens, the ground also reaches out.

Fiddlesticks IV is not aware of this and has run aground !

Someone is up to their waist trying to push the boat into deeper water, but their boat is much bigger than ours and it is well and truly stuck.

We mount a rescue operation to pull them off; carefully making sure we don't end up high and dry ourselves.

Skipper moves Drift a Wey close to Fiddlesticks IV bow to bow.

Fee gives them directions : Two lines bow to bow, two cleats for each and ease back gently.

There is just enough river width for Drift a Wey to reverse far enough to

pull Fiddlesticks IV afloat without ending up in a similar predicament herself.

Success !



12:30 pm
Reward

We are rewarded with a bottle of Pinot Grigio, transferred by fishing net, for our efforts and head off through Penton Hook.



1:00 pm
Chertsey Lock

Chertsey Lock is also ready for us.

So the first three locks were against us and the next three with us.

It's even warm enough for t-shirts



1:30 pm
Home

We wave goodbye to our last lock st Shepperton and soon we are back at base.

I think a curry might be in order tonight !

