

Oyster Bay 2013

After a few boatless years, we decide to purchase another boat for the Thames. This time we buy a boat designed for cruising on rivers – a Viking 23 called “Oyster Bay”



2013-6-8 (Graham and Fee)

Our first trip is on the day we take delivery of Oyster Bay from Windsor Marina.

It is a Saturday and we think we will be able to take her out for a test drive and then leave her moored overnight. We will then come back on the Sunday morning and sail her to Walton Marina where we have our berth reserved.

On the Saturday evening we are going to dinner at Nick and Molly's and it takes a good five hours to get from Windsor to Walton. However, we are told that there is no room at the inn and we have to take her away on the Saturday !

We are totally unprepared for this.

It means leaving a car at Windsor, we have no spare fuel container, we are not even really dressed for a long trip, we

have no car at Walton, we have no berth reserved in Walton for the Saturday night !

Nonetheless, we borrow a fuel container and filled it with petrol, hoping that there will then be enough to get to Walton. We head off keeping one eye on the weather. We phone ahead and secure a mooring in Walton. We phone ahead and Jane very kindly says she will pick us up from Walton.

As it turns out we have a very enjoyable trip but, by the time we get to Nick and Molly's, Graham is well ready for a cold beer !!!

2013-7-4

(Graham, Fee, Jenni, Kev, Leah, Claire)



The first trip with passengers had to be with Jenni, Kev, Leah and Claire. We bought a special pink lifejacket for Leah which made Claire a bit jealous.

Leah was a little bemused by the boat. She seemed more interested being down in the cabin. She thinks the berth under the helm is her own special play area.

Kevin, on the other hand, was very keen to get his hands on the steering wheel - not that he's a boy racer!

We didn't venture through any locks on this trip. Everyone was happy enough just going around the islands.

A good introduction to the boat for Leah.

2013-7-13

(Graham, Fee, Mark, Dee)



The first trip of a double-header on one of the hottest days of the year. Our neighbours Mark and Dee took up the offer of lunch aboard Oyster Bay.

Having gone around Desborough Island we went through Shepperton Lock and then up to a mooring on the right bank, about five minutes upstream.

A lovely day for beer, wine and a tasty bite to eat. Must do again next year!

2013-7-13

(Graham, Fee, Kev, Jo, Mark)



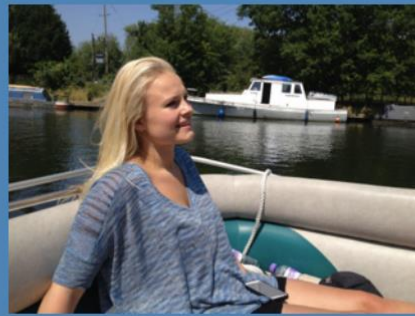
The second of two trips out on another sunny day. This time it is the turn of team McLaren to tear around the Desborough circuit at a blistering pace of more than 4 miles an hour - in fact a full 5 miles an hour!!

Mark wanted to open the throttle and suggested we put on slicks until I pointed out the amount of water on the track.

With a speed trap on the Desborough Cut straight (actually markers on the bank) and the risk of course officials in the shape of an Environment Agency boat, we kept the pit lane limiter switched on at all times.

In the meantime the grid girls, looking gorgeous as always, delicately sipped their champagne.

2013-7-20 (Graham, Fee, Livi, Brittany)



Another scorching weekend and this time we are in the company of the glamour girls.

We set off around Desborough Island and then through Shepperton Lock. About 10 minutes upstream of the lock, just short of Chertsey Meads, there is a place to moor on the right bank.

It was so hot, we had to put up a parasol to prevent sunburn while we had lunch.

After lunch we headed back down to Shepperton lock at a leisurely pace. Being such a lovely day there was a bit of a queue at the lock, but that allowed us time to enjoy a refreshing ice-cream.

Livi had a go at the helm but Brittany preferred to continue sipping the champagne.

After negotiating the lock we went down the Desborough Cut and back to Walton Marina.

A very hot, sunny day.

2013-7-21

(Graham, Fee, Ernest, Jane)



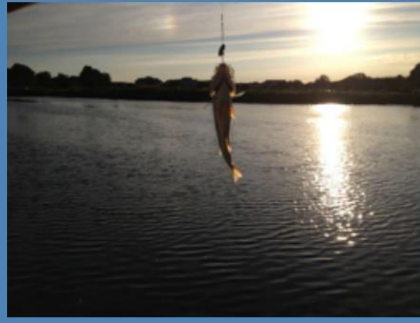
Another sunny, hot day so we invited our seasoned maritime neighbours, Ernest and Jane, along for a leisurely cruise along the Thames for some cold beverages and a bite to eat.

We went up through Shepperton lock and on to the grassy mooring on the right hand side just after the small island. We had a very nice relaxing lunch, watching a nearby fisherman who was not having much luck. That did, however encourage me to buy a rod for future trips.

After lunch we went back through the lock - always made a bit easier with the help of an extra pair of hands.

Then it was back down around Desborough island and on to Walton Marina. I think Jane found it an altogether more comfortable and relaxing voyage than her previous sailing experience.

2013-7-26 (Graham, Fee)

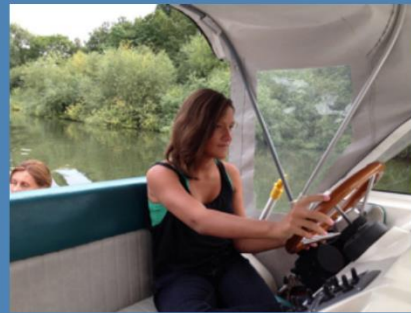


Our first overnight stay began with a swift exit from work on Friday afternoon. We headed upstream, through Shepperton Lock and moored up on the left bank at Cherstsey Meads which is just short of Chertsey Lock. We had dinner on the boat and did a bit of fishing - nothing spectacular but very relaxing.

After a good night's sleep we had breakfast on board before setting off at a leisurely pace downstream.

It was a lovely day so we decided to go on down to The Weir pub for Saturday lunch. After that we went back to Walton Marina to complete the trip.

2013-8-22 (Graham, Fee, Mike, Martina, Nicole)



The first of our visitors from overseas came out for a trip on Oyster Bay one summers day.

Whilst Mike and Martina were happy to partake of a glass of beer or wine, Nicole made herself at home in the driving seat and confidently steered us around Desborough Island.

What a great way to catch up with some old friends - well not old really - what I mean is people we've known a long time but haven't seen for a while !

2013-8-26 (Graham, Fee)



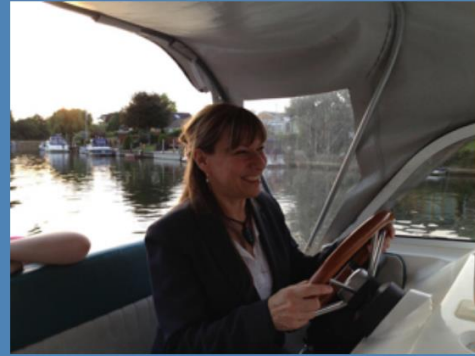
It was Bank Holiday Monday and the sun was shining so we decided to go and try to find Jobie's house by the river. We headed upstream, through Shepperton Lock and then stopped for lunch just after Chertsey Lock. After lunch we set off towards Penton Hook. Just before the lock, on the left bank where the channel to Penton Hook Marina starts, we spotted a house which matched the description we had been given. The house was being completely rebuilt and there was a dayboat moored outside. The name of the boat was "Jobalee" so we were pretty sure.

A photo followed by a quick text confirmed. Next year we shall invade as pirates.

We went back to Walton Marina to complete another nice sunny day-trip.

2013-8-28

(Graham, Fee, Jane, Barbara)



Our lovely friends Jane and Barbara were long overdue a trip on the boat so we finally took the opportunity one Wednesday after work.

We did a trip around Desborough and D'Oyly Carte Islands which usually takes just over an hour at a leisurely pace.

Of course, for Jane and Barbara, it was Champagne all the way - and why not ?

Nonetheless, they both took a turn at the helm and did very well.

Must go out again in 2014, maybe on a hot weekend we can do cocktails and canapes !

We were fortunate enough to have many trips during what turned out to be a hot summer before the infamous rains and floods set in during November 2013 and went through into early 2014 with the worst flooding in the UK for 100 years

