

East Coast Cruise 9-16 July 2022

We set off, as usual from all points near Queenborough – 13 of us in total - some of us hooked up, some dropped anchor and others just set off early from base moorings.

The journey through to Bradwell was uneventful, all motoring and using Gennies. The Spitway did not prove too worrying as we had arrived in good time. The marker buoys could do with a refresh of paint. Bradwell gave us all our mooring instructions, and we all tied up safely. Sunday was a day of rest. It was too hot to walk any distance, so the pub and club house provided our entertainment.

Monday, we all set off on time and motor sailed to Heybridge Basin, reminiscing about listening to Radio Caroline as we passed Ross Revenge. It seemed to take an age for the Heybridge lock to, open, but with the deeper keeled boats going in first, we all managed to get in on two locks - 13 boats in all.



A week of glorious sunsets

The next couple of days were, hot. Beluga navigated the canal using a rib, to Tesco at Maldon with a long shopping list. The next day, some of us waited, in vain, for a non-existent bus, so walked the two miles along the tow path. Others managed to find a bus, while some had the use of a car or a bike. We had fun returning from Maldon, some using the school bus, and someone getting on the wrong bus back. We found Charisma in the lock and everyone had an opinion as to how to unravel the Genoa, although it was fixed by a kind soul who went up the mast. Thanks to Mystique's exceptional organisational skills, we had a delightful Pimms evening, and thoroughly enjoyed the renditions of Albert and Knocker lead by Paddy and Bill.



Pimms o'clock!

On Thursday, we again waited and waited for the lock to send us our way to Brightlingsea. Unfortunately, we lost Ninotchka, Cass and Sirius at Bradwell, but we all managed the waters through to Brightlingsea with water to spare, and again enjoyed brilliant sunshine. Unfortunately, Covid struck Ian, luckily he was able to sail back, although not feeling at all well. Fortunately Lucy was ok at the time.

The journey back seemed long and tedious with no chance of hoisting any sails (some of us are quite grateful for that) until we arrived back in the Medway. All, no doubt, pleased to be back 'home'.

A really enjoyable holiday accomplished!