

YVSC FIRST SOUTHERN RIVERS CRUISE 2007

Saturday We started arriving at Ted's mooring late in the afternoon had our meals and then most went on Wenonah 2 for drinks, and entertainment provided by the Commodore but most left by 22:00 as we had to be up very early to cross Breydon water.

Sunday We awoke early to wind and rain got prepared then all motored down to the yacht station. The rain just got harder and harder but stopped as we went through the bridges. We all raised our masts after passing onto Breydon water and set out for a pleasant crossing with many not wanting to leave the open water and tacking up and down as the wind conditions where so good.

All then sailed down the river to St Olaves we pulled into the reeds and dropped our masts then motored through the bridge and headed for the mooring at Herringfleet, where we raised our masts and had brunch. We then carried on to our final destination that day. At Somerleyton, we moored up against strong tides and a wind of force five gusting seven at times. Many went for a walk around the village and a pint in the pub; others took the chance to have an afternoon nap. Tea and cake was then served on the staithe beside Vagabond.

Monday Ted and Teresa passed the mooring at Somerleyton early in the morning, as they were unable to cross Breydon water the night before because of the strong winds. We left mid morning and the plan was to head for the mooring at Oulton dyke but it was decided to have a change and go to Waveney & Oulton Broad Yacht Club instead.

Some sailed half way to Beccles the weather was showery but a big thunderstorm set in just as we were about to moor, Alan on Reedling assisted us with mooring just as there was a cloudburst he must have been outside for about 15 seconds and looked like he had soaked up about 15 gallons of rainwater. We then had lunch and waited for an improvement in the weather then sailed back to Oulton Broad.

Tuesday We left for Geldeston there was a storm on the voyage with rain, hail, cats, dogs etc, and had to pull into the reeds on more than one occasion as lightning flashed all around. We passed Paul & Rosemary at Beccles as they were waiting for the water levels to drop so they could get under the bridge.

Early evening a make shift shelter was erected on the riverbank and most people barbequed although, we went to the locks inn for our meal and refreshments which were very good. Some of the other members joined us later in the evening for a few beers.

Wednesday We made our way back to Waveney & Oulton Broad Yacht Club Paul & Rosemary were first to leave as they had to get under the bridge before the tide came up, many moored at Beccles swimming pool and had a walk round the town but we pushed on and stopped for lunch and a walk around the fishing lakes at Aldeby, recommended for those of you who have just passed them by.

We arrived at Waveney & Oulton Broad Yacht Club late in the afternoon and took advantage of the showers and freshened up.

Many went to the pub for their evening meal. Mezereon and a full compliment of crew arrived in the pouring rain and socialised for a couple of hours then headed back to their mooring.

We went to the clubhouse for drinks after the evenings racing it was the first time we had been here and what a superb view it was, it would have been even better if the sun was shining.

The hospitality shown was much appreciated and we are very lucky to have these facilities available to us.

Thursday We left Waveney & Oulton Broad Yacht Club to go to the moorings at Somerleyton the wind was strong and the tide was against us a good but hard sail was had, we even managed to sail through the open railway bridge.

Many walked up into the village and we dropped into the post office which proved to be a bit of a surprise as many African crafts were on sale, it had many provisions and served teas in an open air seated area at the back of the shop. The owners were very friendly and we would recommend that you don't just pass by.

We intended to have a drink in the pub on the way back but it was closed (so many sad faces) we then returned to the mooring, it had been decided to barbeque but the weather did not look to great so we made a makeshift cover using the pub sign as a support. True to form it rained yet again so the cover was used and it was very cosy beneath. Eventually we gave up and went for shelter and refreshment on Paul's yacht.

Friday The plan was to sail down to Breydon and back up the Yare to Reedham ferry but this was cancelled as the wind was gale force and potentially dangerous so it was decided to motor to Langley dyke instead. The dyke proved to be a haven from the wind and we had a lazy afternoon followed by a barbeque and our evening meals on the riverbank.

Saturday We sailed down passed Cantley to the mouth of the Chet then motored up to Loddon. Many were low on fuel and walked up the bypass to obtain some petrol, others went into town for provisions many ending up at the butchers who do a superb range of sausages and barbeque style meats.

In the evening we all assembled on the bank and cooked our goodies!

Sunday We left Loddon at 07:45 and made our way to Breydon water, passed through the yacht station just after 11:00 some stopped for a bite to eat others pressed on tacking up the Bure we made it back to Oby dyke at about 15:30 and were exhausted.

What a week thank goodness for waterproofs!

Mark, Sharron & Bella July 2007