

OUT TO LUNCH – Prinsted

On a fine day we took the challenge of finding Chichester Harbour's best kept secret.

Heading towards Itchenor we found ourselves playing push 'n shove with a bunch of RS 300's racing with blatant disregard for Col Regs, overtaking when asymmetrics filled, falling back when they collapsed. Perhaps Sunday was not a good day for this!

Turning into Thorney Channel past the Army Sailing Club – no welcome there - we threaded our way through the moorings until markers ended in a confusion of red and green posts without charted clarification. Fortunately we were able to follow a local boat who pointed to an empty space amongst the crowded berths of **Thornham Marina**, a drying boatyard with access restricted to a couple of hours either side of HW; we found 1.8 metres on the outside pontoon.



I had been quoted £5 for a short stay but the office was closed so we made our way through scores of DIY boat-owners scraping, sanding and antifouling in the Spring sunshine. Tucked away in the far corner is **Boaters bar/diner** offering a range of snacks and ales; today it was packed, not with yotties but hairy cyclists enjoying the bargain Sunday roast.



Not risking a long wait for food we settled for a quick G&T before heading back to the boat where the level had already dropped nearly half a metre. Time to leave and enjoy a much more peaceful return to base since racing had finished for the day.

Verdict: Not easy to find but a worthwhile exercise.

Tides on the day: HW Chichester 1135 ht 5.1m

Pontoons drying onto soft mud

Thornham Marina tel 01243 375335

Boaters Bar tel 01243 377465