

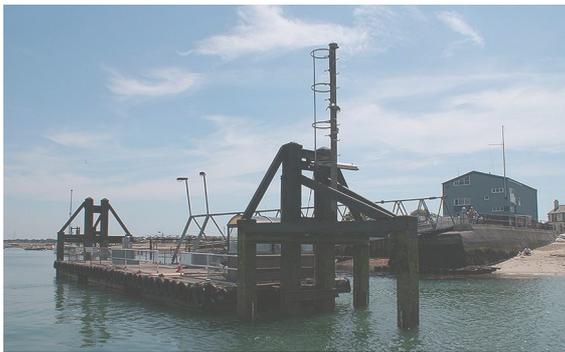
OUT TO LUNCH –West Hayling

A calm spring day tempted us to leave Chichester Harbour and explore next door

With no shallow Bar in the main channel the entrance to Langstone Harbour should pose no worries but we were surprised at the amount of activity as jetskis and speedboats competed for launching space on the Hayling slipway. To add to the congestion we had to take evasive action as an outbound dredger carved a path through the circus.



The visitors mooring buoys promised by the Harbour Board were not yet in place but there is an alternative tucked behind the ferry-cum-fuelling pontoon and we managed to secure alongside in a depth of 4.0 metres and get ashore.



Berthing fees are £6 for a short stay but the Harbour Office was closed and we disappeared into the nearby hostelry.

The Ferry Boat Inn offers a range of pub grub for all tastes in a friendly atmosphere, but the waiting time for food was a salutary reminder that when the sun comes out, so do the crowds. We settled for a quick pint and returning to the boat prepared to slip. But the ebb had started to run and the strong current demanded careful strategy and considerable engine power to get clear without being swept into the low footbridge.



To get away from crowds and noise we wandered up the Langstone Channel as recommended by Tightwad, dropping the hook off South Binness and enjoying an afternoon siesta. Ahead the traffic crossing the bridge onto Hayling Island caught the eye; could that be a short cut home? Maybe we could have a look next time . . .

Verdict: A popular waterside venue best visited midweek

Tides on the day: HW Portsmouth 1120 ht 4.7m

Working pontoon with strong tides

Harbourmaster tel 02392 463419

Ferry Boat Inn tel 02392 463459