

OUT TO LUNCH - Langstone

A calm and sunny day to visit a local waterside hostelry rarely accessible by water.

For years commuting to work over **Langstone Bridge** meant driving past The Ship Inn but only by boat could we tackle the shallow approach along New Cut past Northney Marina. This was dredged to complete the last stretch of the Wey and Arun Canal, built to convey munitions from Woolwich Arsenal to Portsmouth dockyard in the last century.



The adjacent quay and slip can be busy with dinghies from the LEA sailing school, while twice a year there is a flurry of activity when cruisers from Langstone Sailing Club raise their masts after launching from the club compound, reversing the operation at the end of the season.

We came slowly alongside, disturbing young children trying to catch crabs off the quay; with only 1.7m of water even on a Spring tide there wouldn't be long enough for a leisurely repast. Those wishing to extend their stay should be prepared to dry out or book a short marina stay and walk over the bridge.



There's a choice of eateries here: only a few yards round the corner the Royal Oak sits on the foreshore, competing with The Ship for atmosphere, hospitality and quality of food – but not water access; several hulks rot in the mud as evidence of thriving trade long ago but the tide rarely reaches Langstone High Street

these days although there are flood boards in doorways 'just in case'. Both pubs offer interesting menus, while service can be markedly improved by reserving tables in advance, but even with this local knowledge we hesitate to choose between them and have to keep returning for more evidence to help decide . . .



Verdict: Limited access to deservedly popular venues.

Tides on the day: HW Chichester 1540 ht 4.5m

Brick quay runs N-S with, uneven bottom of shingle and stones

Ship Inn tel 02392 471719

Royal Oak tel 02392 483125