

OUT TO LUNCH - Beaulieu

It's just over a mile from Cowes to Beaulieu Bar, a little further to this bar!

It must be the peace and tranquillity that attract boaters to such a delightful spot, certainly not the quality of the food ashore judging by reports, so we didn't stop on the midstream pontoons at Bucklers Hard but kept going upriver. Moorings finally



end after several wooded bends and more of the local speciality - long catwalks joining private pontoons to green lawns where mini-mansions peek out between the trees – and the last curve opens up to reveal the limit of navigation and the walls of Beaulieu



Palace, the home of Lord Montagu.

On the left the recently refurbished Whimbrells Quay is a rallying point for shallow-draft yachts (barbecues can be booked through



the Estate Office) but personally I prefer the wall opposite where the bottom is hard and we found 1.5m at the top of the tide; neither have anywhere to make fast so mooring stakes and mallet are essential.

In the village the half-timbered

Montagu Arms offers a quality and pricey welcome, and with bangers 'n mash at £10.50 you might just settle for a quick half and decide to dine on board.



But the nearby attractions of Motor Museum, Abbey and Palace, not to mention the friendly ponies, might justify the adventure for many of us with families to entertain.

Verdict: It's expensive - this inn has Michelin stars!

Tides on the day:

HW Bucklers Hard 1240 3.5m

Sheltered quays or a pleasant walk from Bucklers Hard

Beaulieu Enterprises tel 01590 612345

Monty's Inn tel 01590 612354