

OUT TO LUNCH – Burnes Yard

Wandering down memory lane leads to a derelict boatyard and a local pub

I once was in love with an ocean racer designed by John Illingworth. After winning the Fastnet she ended up in Salcombe and was mine – chartered for two months every year. MAICA was built by Burnes of Bosham of mahogany on oak frames and I wanted to find the home of this legend which spawned a class of sister-ships from Construction Navale de Normandie.



Chichester is best avoided on a summer weekend, but despite wind gusting F6 we set off for Bosham, stopping and starting while around us dinghies capsized, club RIBs dashed to their rescue, and nervous yotties downed sails and motored home.

Turning round a buoy appropriately labelled ‘Burnes’ we headed in towards the shore where all that could be seen of the old shipyard were rusting corrugated sheds. One entrepreneur had bought part of the site and built a very desirable waterside residence, but the slipway remains and a few posts indicate the old jetty, so with fender boards rigged we approached to find 1.5m alongside at an hour before HW.



Once ashore we edged our way past wire barriers into a lane leading to civilisation. Past the Millstream Hotel, which was out of our league, we eventually



found the Berkeley Arms. Although lacking the atmosphere of its competitors, this hostelry offers a pretty garden and a fair choice of pub grub.

It needs a big tide for a long stay so we had to be content with a quick half before returning to the boat and venturing into the racing circus which obstructed our passage - fortunately no damage received but certainly an increase in pulse rate!

Verdict: an out of the way hostelry and a challenge to find from the sea

Tides on the day: HW Chichester 1410 ht 4.5m

Neglected wooden staging next to concrete slipway, exposed to the West
Berkeley Arms tel 01243 573167