

OUT TO LUNCH – Bursledon

More fine weather tempted us upriver still looking for waterside hostelries

We found the River Hamble just as crowded up here as further downstream; Swanwick Marina, sadly lacking the atmosphere of the old Moody's, faces the friendly confusion of Elephant and Deacon's boatyards on the West bank before bridges block progress for tall masts.



Berths on their outer pontoons are isolated, with a primitive punt on a continuous line to facilitate access to the shore.



Tucked away is the old Woolston chain link ferry now tastefully converted into a restaurant – you can guess the name. But prices could only be justified for a special occasion so our preferred choice was the well-known Jolly Sailor, not cheap either but boasting the attraction of free mooring on its own pontoon. Access is at red pile V26 and there was a depth of 3.0m at HW after pushing aside several dinghies.



Surely this must be a vision of paradise with a ramp from the bar to the boat!

Don't miss the Force 4 chandlery nearby, one of the South Coast's largest.



Verdict: Arrive early to grab a table at this popular venue

Tides on the day: HW Bursledon 1240 ht 4.5m

Very small pontoon

Ferry Restaurant tel 02380 402566

Jolly Sailor tel 02380 405557

Force 4 Chandlery tel 02380 402182