

OUT TO LUNCH – Emsworth

Sunny weather prompted another search for local pub grub despite a wintry breeze

Edging our way through swarms of dinghies racing from Hayling island S C we headed North, still with an eye astern as speeding International Moths overtook us, high on hydrofoils and adrenaline. Through the moorings, past the deep-water visitors' pontoon a long way from land, after Fisherman's Beacon the channel becomes less obvious and careful watch on the echosounder was necessary. Near



Echo beacon we were pleased to find 3 metres of water at a walk-ashore landing with free stay permitted for two hours, surely long enough for a quick pie and pint?

But curiosity prompted us to explore further, weaving round the markers leading to Emsworth Quay to moor alongside with 1.7 metres at HW and a handy ladder.

Spurning the hospitality of the Sailing Club housed in Slipper Mill we strolled up South Street to the nearest pub, the Blue Bell Inn with a cosy atmosphere and copious menu.



But SWMBO preferred the small bistro opposite, Fat Olives: a very different presentation here in the modern style of small portions on large plates, but attentive service and quality food justifying a little extravagance to suit the occasion.

Verdict: A worthwhile birthday treat!

Tides on the day: HW Chichester 1300 ht 4.7m

Sheltered stone quay with a hard bottom sloping away from wall.

Blue Bell Inn tel 01243 373394

Fat Olives tel 01243 377914

