



Holiday
OWNERS
Club

'Dishy Di' 4-Berth

By the members
for the members

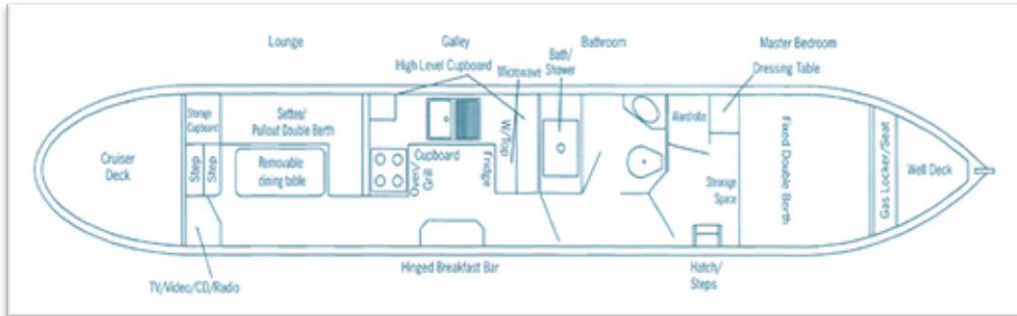
'Dishy Di' 4-Berth



Union

Marina, The Canal Basin, Leicester Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7UW

Wharf



Telephone: 01858 432 123 – e-mail: unionwharf@onetel.com

2 Doubles - Size 45ft

New Venue

Union Wharf Marina, redeveloped by British Waterways in 2005, is based on the Market Harborough arm of the Grand Union Canal. 6 miles from the Marina you arrive onto the Grand Union Canal where you can travel North towards Leicester or South through the Foxton Locks. Foxton has 2 'staircases' of locks, each with 5 locks to navigate. Market Harborough, which dates back to 1203, is an attractive market town whose centre is within walking distance of Union Wharf. There are historic coaching inns, a market and a fine selection of family owned shops. There is an antique fayre every Sunday in the Market Hall.

Places to visit

The Foxton Locks mentioned above are on the Leicester Line of the **Grand Union Canal** about 3 miles West of Market Harborough and named after Foxton, a nearby Village. They form the Northern Terminus of the 20-mile summit level that passes Husbands Bosworth, Crick, and ends with the Watford flight.

Staircase locks are used when a canal needs to climb a steep hill, and consist of groups of locks which open directly on to each other. Foxton Locks are the largest flight of such staircase locks on the English Canal System. The Grade 2 listed locks are a popular tourist attraction. A country park has been created at the top. At the bottom, where the Market Harborough Junction is, there are 2 pubs, a shop and other facilities. Go to: http://www.canalboatclub.com/un_routes.php



Grand Union Canal - Southward

After about 2 hours cruising you reach the Grand Union Canal and going South will negotiate the Foxton locks. At the top you will find the Foxton Museum and Gift Shop. www.foxtonlocks.com After getting up the locks you could stop at the Foxton Locks Inn having a pint or sampling a cream tea at the canal side café.

Cruise on towards the Watford Locks. There are no villages on the canal but some close by. This is a meandering quiet and attractive stretch. Look out over the Vale of Welland and to the nearby Laughton Hills. There are miles of unspoilt countryside here. You will then pass through the Husband Bosworth Tunnel, which was opened in 1813 and is 1166 yards long.

North Kilworth comes up to your right with the White Lion and the Swan Inn, where you can also moor overnight. The Wharf Inn is also on your doorstep as are the Welford and Sulby reservoirs, great for views of wildfowl.

2 Miles East of Welford is the sight of the Battle of Naseby in 1645. By 5 o'clock it was all over. Onwards to the Hemplow hills, where on the left, 2 miles to the East of Bridge 31 is Stanford Hall. This 17th Century Mansion boasts an experimental flying machine built in 1898, along with a Tea shop and craft centre.

Yelvertoft is next up. You can moor between Bridges 19 & 20. Here you will find a store for supplies, an off licence and butcher. The Knightly Arms will service the thirsty ones amongst you.

Before you pass through the Crick Tunnel, take time to visit the village of the same name. It has much to offer. It is the site of the largest annual boat show, in May. Edwards offers coffee and a large menu whilst Crick has some lovely pubs. The Tunnel is 1528 yds long with no tow-path. If you want to walk you can go over the top.

You will arrive at Watford Locks which will take you down from its summit of 412 feet. 4 of the locks have a 'staircase' with a 'one up one down' procedure. Moor up at Bridge No 6 for a wonderful meal at the Thai Garden right alongside the canal. Once through the Watford Locks carry on to Norton Junction. Here you meet the. Here you must decide to keep going South or turn right towards Braunston, which is recommended. If you carry on here you will go through lovely wooded country, then into a cutting which leads to the Braunston Tunnel, At Bridge 6 near you can stop and 1200 yds away is the 400 yr old pub the White Horse Inn.

Braunston Tunnel was opened in 1796 and is 2042 yds long. If you are travelling for a week it is about now when you should consider **returning home!**

Grand Union Canal – Northward

The route Northwards passes pretty towns and villages towards Leicester in a very rural setting. You come upon Saddington Tunnel, built 1797, which is 880 yards long. You can moor up here or carry on into the tunnel. Look out for the bats, which naturalists love. Once through the tunnel you come upon the village of Saddington with its award winning pub the Queens Head. The pub has superb views over the Saddington reservoir, and has a great menu. The reservoir is now a wildlife haven.

The Tunnel leads to Fleckney a small town about 10 minutes from Bridge 73. You will find a takeaway, stores, a bakery, chemist & off licence. Look for The Old Crown pub which serves food.

Klibworth locks are the first of 5 locks you will reach on this stretch. The Wistow Rural Centre is found near bridge 78 or 80, where you can moor up. There are tea rooms for refreshment. Check out www.wistow.com

After this you can stroll round the Wistan model village and garden centre. It is south along the footpath from Ivy Bridge no. 78. Not open on Tuesdays. It also has an excellent maze.

Are you happy just cruising? Well there is plenty of interest on the descent into Leicester. You follow roughly the N. Westerly course of the River Sence, up to Kilby Bridge, No. 87, where you start seeing signs of the outskirts of Leicester. The Navigation Inn is a good Real Ale pub here. Half a mile North of the Bridge is the Wigston Knitters Museum open every Sunday.

From Blaby you run along a cycleway which is a disused railway track. You will find the pretty village of Aylestone with a gas museum (www.gasmuseum.co.uk) situated in a Victorian Gatehouse. The Black Horse and Union Inn pubs are both near the Freestone Bridge No. 106.

Watch out for the massive Weir just above Freemans Meadow Lock, where the Canal and the River Soar meet. You will then enter Leicester along a pleasant cutting where you will find various buildings lining the canal and pass under some ornamental bridges. This is a lovely route into Leicester where you will find secure moorings at Castle Gardens to the right just past Bridge 2. Check out www.leicestermuseums.ac.uk if your interest is for period homes and gardens.

Places to see here are as follows:

- Abbey Pumping Station, built in 1891 for the lovers of Victorian Steam powered engines. You can moor here.
- Castle Gardens and Motte dates from 11th Century. Moorings available.
- Eco House which is an environmentally friendly show house. Tel: 0116 285 5489.
- National Space Centre, close to Belgrave Lock No. 44 www.spacecentre.co.uk
- You will find a cinema complex and many theatres
 - Haymarket www.lhtheatre.co.uk
 - Phoenix arts centre
 - Curve Theatre
- Try a visit to the Markets Market Place. A food hall selling Fish, Meat and Poultry from all over the world. A retail market with over 300 covered stands is open also. Tues – Sun. .

Museums

There are many Museums to visit and too numerous for me to go into in any detail. The guides from Collins or Michael Pearson will give you in depth Bridge-by-Bridge information on what is worth a visit and any other points of interest. These can be purchased at the Marina or on line if you wish to plan your trip in advance and they are money well spent. Some suggestions are the Jewry Wall Museum, New Walk Museum and the Royal Infirmary Museum. For more information go to www.Leicestermuseums.co.uk

If you want quiet moorings, cruise to Birstall & the lock by the White Horse. It is a good place for provisions.

After leaving Leicester you travel through gravel workings to Bridge 19 & the Hope & Anchor, where you have good moorings, or carry on towards Mountsorrel. This is a waterways gem, with extensive moorings and a Lockside pub the Waterside Inn by Lock 50. You will find a Pub called The Navigation at Barrow Mills Basin. It has a copper topped bar, made from Pennies and Halfpennies. By Barrow Deep Lock there is the Soar Bridge Inn and The Riverside. Beyond, there is a lovely wooded stretch to Pillings Flodd Lock.

Here the canal circles Loughborough to a T-Junction and the start of the Loughborough Navigation and the last 9 miles to the River Trent. You may want to visit the Bell Foundry Museum 8 miles from Bridge 36 www.taylorbells.co.uk or the Great Central Railway voted No 12 of the top 50 railway journeys in the world www.gcrailway.co.uk This should mark your turning place if you are on a one week trip.

Directions from the M1 J20 Leave the Junction 20 and take the A4303 sign-posted Market Harborough. Follow signs for the town centre. Turn left at the Mini Roundabout. Follow the one-way system and at the end at the T-Junction turn left. Leaving the town centre behind you, go through a chicane and continue up the hill passing the 'Police Station' on the left. Just before the 'Union Inn Hotel' (pub) turn left and follow the road around until you reach the car park. The Canaltime office is on the right hand side.

Charges for 2012 which are payable at Union Wharf Marina:

1. One car is free but a second car is charged at £3.50 a day.
2. A Maximum of **2 Dogs** are allowed and charged at £30 EACH
3. Utility Fee of £50
4. £100 Fuel Deposit. The boat is handed over ready fuelled. At the end of the trip the boat must be refuelled and any difference will be charged or refunded accordingly.
5. £50 Damage Waiver, optional but recommended.

Changeover day is FRIDAY

If you are inexperienced inform Barry so that a trainer is available on your arrival

Check-In: 15.00 hrs. From 13:30 if you are inexperienced. Ring ahead to Marina

Checkout: 09:30 hrs.

It is imperative that you return the boat promptly so that she can be made ready.

The speed limits must be adhered to as excesses can cause damage to the canal.

By The Members For The Members