

IVISIT TO IPSWICH HAVEN & SPIRIT YACHTS
FRIDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2018

On Thursday evening prior to the run up the Orwell to Ipswich, we lost Gamma's skipper somewhere down below on the lightship where he was searching for the welcome drinks for the following night! Beware the cupboard on the starboard side in the Captain's cabin! The door swings shut on its own and the inside handle doesn't do anything! We found the skipper and the drinks!

Friday morning dawned foggy and cool. One skipper informed me that as soon as he could see the other side of the Orwell he would slip his mooring. His wife said she would only leave when she could see the sun. However this info failed to be heard and off they set! With nav lights on, the 12 boat fleet motored down to Ipswich Haven. At lunchtime, the sun came out and Ariane generously hosted 'safe arrival' drinks and nibbles.

The highlight of the weekend was the visit to Spirit Yachts on Friday afternoon. Our 25 HPYC members were divided into two groups and given a fantastic tour round the boatyard. Inside the shed was the amazing 111ft sailing yacht, designed to be sailed short handed. The spec includes hydraulic winches, electric engines, much sophistication and no straight lines down below. The captain's cabin had several members drooling! Also in the shed was a 65ft sailing yacht, in an early build state. The platforms erected around the yachts at deck height made viewing the interiors very simple. We were then invited to board a 75ft motor yacht, in final stages of fit out. She has a barbeque area on the aft upper deck, together with large davits. The owner has a dedicated TV room with 50" set and all round seating! We were able to chat with the staff members and ask questions about the different skills they had. All this made for a fantastic experience.

Feeling impressed with Spirit Yachts, we headed off for Welcome drinks at the Ipswich Haven Yacht Club. A great chance for everyone to mix and mingle. The day was rounded off with a splendid meal at the Last Anchor.

Saturday saw half the fleet returning to Levington and I understand the remainder were in full cruising mode, ie a little socialising, a little snoozing and so on!

A great last trip of 2018.

Val & Jeremy Clark
Gamma