

Barge Training Weekend 10 - 12 June 2011

Sun shining straight into our eyes making steering the canal barge rather tricky. This was Friday night when 13 bargees left Bingley on our North East England barging adventure. Sailed until dusk, 9 30pm, stopping traffic at many road bridges and working up an appetite at the manual swing bridges while trying to avoid, hitting the banks and getting stuck. Then it was time for supper and trying to get some sleep.



The following morning we set off before the birds had got up hoping to go through many locks. Another beautiful day to travel further into the Dales spotting, herons, ducklings and many beautiful things. We arrived in Skipton at lunch time to be watched by all the tourists turning our huge boat in the basin. This was perfectly executed by one of the trainees. We pressed on to go up 8 locks and then turned around to come down them. We moored for the night just outside Gargrave.

The weather forecast for Sunday was correct. The rain did come and it came and came. Even the ducks stayed in. We took it in turns to get very wet. Sunday was an eventful day where we learned quite a lot by experience. One thing was to be aware of rope dangling from a huge dredger that had been cast adrift and realising that you cannot tow such a thing. We all shared many a laugh with new friends we met on the weekend.

Many thanks to everyone who took part and to the North East England Region Office for all their help in planning.

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