

Residential narrowboat for sale on permanent mooring in central Oxford:

What. 'Bill the Lizard', a 65' (19.8 metres) 1992 Tayberg (Goole) narrowboat, comprising something almost unique in central Oxford: a detached (and detachable!) home! Layout is: 3-metre living area with adjacent kitchen; study-cum-children's bunk room/guest room; large (by boat standards!) bathroom (1.55 metres); bedroom with fixed 1.2 metre-wide bed; engine room; traditional stern; and unusually large (2 metre) front deck, with removable cover, for winter storage/summer socialising. Internal headroom 1.95 metres.

Boat safety valid until January 2023 (must be renewed every four years); very satisfactory out-of-water hull survey done in April 2018; hull assessed by experienced boatbuilder in 2012 as 'exceptionally good condition' and 'particularly well-maintained'.

240v electric power supply (metred pre-payment); solid-fuel stove (heating two radiators); new gas cooker; Paloma gas water heater; washing machine; landline telephone (for good internet connection); portable toilet (disposal at locked community facility); 1.5 litre British Motor Corporation diesel engine (fully serviced – 'best BMC seen on canal' – May 2020).



Where. 'Bill the Lizard' is one of a community of 16 boats on an original (built 1789) arm of the Oxford Canal which all have mooring rights in perpetuity (reflected in the asking price). City centre location, but with open views of water, trees, and sky, backing onto Worcester College; prime position with particularly wide bank (with mature, attractive, colourful garden) next to historic Isis Lock (which gives easy access to the Thames and to turn around, when desired); very short walk to Oxford Railway Station and Bus Station and the city centre. Postal deliveries (OX1 2TA) as for any household. Smokeless coal and gas (and diesel) available all year round from 'Dusty', a friendly commercial delivery boat.



(▲ Mooring is the second one, behind the shrubs. March 2020)

Who. 'Bill the Lizard' has had only one resident owner, and has provided the inspirational base in which some seven Oxford-themed local history books and guides have been researched and written.



Why. All things must pass! 'Bill the Lizard' has been a reliable, comfortable, and special home for nearly 30 years, and I feel very lucky to have experienced the pleasure, companionship, freedom, and convenience of this location (location, location!). But the time feels right to entrust this reliable servant to someone new. The roof and decks were professionally painted in 2018 but the sides would definitely benefit from exterior painting – the last was in 2008 – although this does have the advantage of allowing the purchaser a new colour scheme of their own choice.

When. Only after you have seriously considered that:

a) The asking price of **£95,000** reflects the market value of boats on Hythe Bridge Arm, based on recent sales, the guaranteed right to the mooring, and the superior aspects of Bill's particular position.

b) Mooring fees this year are **£5,375** per annum, payable to Canal & River Trust (a registered charity), and have been paid to the end of 2020. This covers water rates, and the maintenance of the sewage disposal point, of the power and phone bollards, and of the vicinity in general. Other bills – electric and telephone – are the owner's concern.

c) Licence this year (payable to Canal & River Trust) is **£1,040**.

d) **Council Tax Band A** (refundable for every 24 hours that the boat is away from the mooring). Refuse disposal is at a locked communal location en route to the city centre.

Depending on the national situation relating to outside activities I would hope that vacant possession might be possible by **the end of June**.

How. Contact me, Mark Davies, on mark.oxhist@gmail.com for more information or to discuss how to view (outside only, of course, for the time being!).

11 June 2020

Isis Lock by Valerie Petts ►

