



Bluejuice Blog

Launch day arrives after winter refit

7th April 2008 - Boating World

5:17 pm

I got back to find the boys not working hard but munching on cheese sandwiches and swilling cups of tea. After some gentle ribbing, they convinced me that they had in fact been pulling out all the stops to ensure Bluejuice was ready to slip back into the briny on the tide early the next morning. Her hull antifouled, anodes and skin fittings checked, sails bent on, engine serviced - the check list was almost complete. The yard wanted to get the boat onto the launching trailer that evening, so we could have antifouled the bare patches where she'd been shored up, but the lure of a warm pub proved too much!

8th April 2008 - Back to Mayflower

7:03 am

It was a cold and crispy morning, frosty but bright, it took 2 mugs of tea to get going. While Ed painted the last bits of the hull, Simon and I organised mooring lines and fenders on deck. The tractor coughed and then roared into life. Ed pulled the ladder away from the boat and then stood by like a nervous parent as the brilliant yard guys directed Bluejuice down the icy slip and into the water. We pulled her away from the trailer and onto the pontoon. The engine started up at the first touch, it was all going so well! The tide had turned however, and was ebbing at quite a rate. Ed went to put the engine in gear as we prepared to slip, only to find the morse control to be seized in neutral! There always has to be a hitch! A little WD40 and some gentle persuasion, and we were able to head off to Plymouth. Ed turned from nervous parent to ecstatic child! After all the problems and setbacks, achieving launch date was cause for celebration. Bluejuice was back where she belonged, her bow slicing through the water. Finally we could all relax and enjoy the ride through the glorious countryside. We watched otters play on the river bank in the pale morning sun, talked of future adventures and celebrated with strong coffee.

