June 30/06/2023

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June has been mostly about our week long DofE Expedition on the Kennet & Avon Canal. The group was split into two boats, 'Diana' and 'Rebecca', but we travelled together. On the Monday we arrived and sorted ourselves out aboard the two 72ft Broad Beam Barges we hired from Bruce's Boats at Great Bedwyn. The boats were fully adapted for all our needs and even had lifts if we needed them! On Tuesday we set off on our expedition, travelling from Great Bedwyn to Hungerford where we moored for the night. The journey took all day as we needed to navigate 9 locks and 2 Swing Bridges... so it was all hands on deck! In the morning we travelled through another lock further into Hungerford in order to turn the boat at a large turning circle and head back to Great Bedwyn. Wednesday saw us manage 11 locks and 2 Swing Bridges on our journey as we walked along the tow path back to our original mooring. Our Thursday voyage was slightly off plan, due to a lock being broken on our original route up to Crofton, but we didn't let it dampen our spirits as we enjoyed a 4 lock round trip for lunch at Foxfield. In total the group navigated 28 locks and 4 Swing Bridges throughout their amazing adventure. The weather was fantastic and we got to see some outstanding natural sights... herons flying ahead of the boats, red kites diving and catching fish from the canal, deer and other wildlife in the fields, and a million beautiful dragonflies darting here and there over the water. We kept ourselves busy inside the boats, preparing breakfast, lunch and dinner each day for the whole crew, adapting to sleeping in quite cramped conditions on bunk beds, and conserving water in the tanks while still managing to keep clean! A FABULOUS WEEK 😥





Here are a few of the signs we have been using this month...



Canal







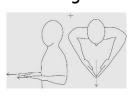


Bridge





Barge





Captain

