ONE YEAR ON Celebrating her new purchase with Andrew from Brayzel Narrowboats

The Crick Boat Show offers an ideal shop window for prospective boat-owners. Amelia Hamson caught up with one buver from last year's event

just a few months earlier, she was couldn't halt "the inevitable rusting ready to soak up a weekend's worth that munched away at the hull". The of boat-buving knowhow. "I thought boat was taken out of the water in Crick offered the best opportunity to February 2016 for a survey but it was see lots of boats and boat-builders in not good news – the work required on one place and to get a lead on a good the hull was estimated at £6,000. "I replacement. I'd been looking in the was heartbroken but decided it wasn't local area but wasn't sure whether I worth the investment required. I had wanted a new or secondhand craft," to sell it as a project boat."

Lisa had purchased her first boat, 'SHOWSTOPPER' Freyja, 16 years ago while she was a However, within just a few hours to buy in the newspaper and, as I had acquired some equity, it seemed like the perfect alternative to student accommodation. I lived on it full-time

With no previous boating experience,

isa Clevely visited the she spent the next few years learning Crick Boat Show for the about living onboard a floating home first time last year. Having - and all the maintenance it requires begun searching for a - the hard way. Despite all the love replacement narrowboat and attention Lisa gave to Freyia, she

student living in Bath. "It was a 45ft of browsing the craft on display at narrowboat, built in the 1970s, that I Crick, Lisa was to become a boatmainly used as a holiday and weekend owner once more. She spotted Brayzel boat. My dad saw it listed under flats Narrowboats' Wysiwyg. "It was a huge mirror. I also liked the mix of showstopper – I knew I had to have it." But she had to get in quick because the boat was drawing a lot of interest.

It was Wysiwyg's excellent while studying - the bohemian lifestyle craftsmanship and perfect size that paperwork were in place and Lisa which was, luckily, still stood out for Lisa. "It was very nicely secured the boat with a deposit. It available. "I live about 20 fitted out with oak furnishings and the was transported down to Bristol minutes away from Bristol, so



Lisa thanks Brenda from Zebra Finance

bathroom was decorated with a good quality sparkling shower wall and portholes, larger windows and a hatch

A meeting with Zebra Finance confirmed that the funds and in Bristol Marina,





additional fee. She renamed the boat Freyja II and designed her own

logo for the sign-writing. "It's a tree of life, which reflects eternal life. In sentimental terms, it means the spirit of my former boat lives on."

CHANGING

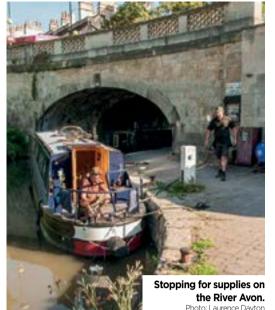
into the same berth that Lisa

Marina only six weeks later, so Lisa having city centre moorings means didn't have long to wait. Brayzel we can stay onboard at weekends Narrowboats had already fitted the after going to the theatre or out for galley, bathroom and utilities for drinks. My boyfriend, Matt Cooper, the show, but agreed a few extras is a continuous cruiser, so I get to for Lisa, including a wood burning experience that lifestyle too. Over stove and built-in wardrobes, for an the summer we both took our boats

Lisa and Matt cruised the K&A

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Lisa enjoyed a summer o onto the Kennet & Avon Canal and cruising aboard *Frevia II*.

"I'd travel a bit in the old boat, especially up to Bath, but it was increasingly unreliable and often broke down. To date, Freyja II has gone as far as Hilperton, just past Bradford-on-Avon, on the K&A further than I'd ever taken Frevia. It's lovely to be able to do more cruising now I've got a new boat with a much better engine."

cruised alongside each other.

It's now been eight months since Lisa took delivery of Freya II. A summer of cruising and a winter of weekending has given her plenty of the same time. It's very different from its paces and thoroughly test out all learning curve." the onboard systems. There's not onboard."

LEARNING CURVE

The only challenge, bar finding a new sofa to fit the saloon, was learning how to use all its modern equipment. "The diesel heating system settings have taken some getting used to and I now have an inverter so that I can Crick with an eye to buy this year? watch TV and keep the fridge going at

opportunity to put the boat through my '70s boat and has been a bit of a Brayzel Narrowboats have

one thing she would would change. continued to support Lisa, providing "It's definitely improved my life. This technical assistance via telephone and boat has a much better design, extra email from their Preston office. "I've storage and more efficient heating been in contact with the boat-builders a few times and they've been really helpful. I've even sent videos showing the equipment so they can give me specific advice on what buttons to press or what the different lights mean."

Having gone through the whole process herself, what's the best advice boats and boat-builders as you can – Lisa can offer to people attending "Shop around. Go and see as many

it's so much better being able to see the craftsmanship for yourself rather than relying on brochures and only seeing the specs on paper.

"Finance companies also offer mini consultations, which are worth doing. I went with Zebra Finance and everything has been really straightforward and secure. They ensured that all the relevant paperwork was in place too."

Lisa, her partner Matt and her parents plan to visit Crick again this year. "We really enjoyed the experience last year and made some good friends there. We thought, as well, there might be some new gadgets and services on show that

The boat's oak interior was a top selling point for Lisa.

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