

# *Les & Carole Foster Azuri*

In the three years they have owned their Moonraker 30, Les and Carole Foster have cruised extensively on the River Trent and out to sea from their base at Farndon Harbour, near Newark.

In between times, Les has completed some major modifications to the boat, most notably the replacement of the original hardtop (below) with a proper Wheelshelter (below right). This is a handsome affair which he made himself in GRP, first building a plug, then a mould, then the object itself. And he managed to do so without increasing Azuri's air draught by more than an inch; she can still get under the Glory Hole in Lincoln, on the way to Boston for access to The Wash.



Built in 1969, Azuri is still powered by her original 50Hp Perkins 4.108s. When pushing the boat along at river speeds, or up to 7-8 knots in open water, they have proved to be very economical. On a circular cruise to Boston then along the Lincolnshire coast and back into the Trent from the Humber, a total distance of some 170 miles; they consumed about 50gal of diesel.

The worst conditions the Fosters have endured in the boat to date. Were on the way home from Wells, on the Norfolk coast, after being stuck there on a mooring, unable to get ashore, during three days of gales."The wind had decreased but the seas were still bad," Les recalls, "Azuri handled the seas quite well; she does roll a bit but we never felt unsafe."

