

Sunflower

Hilperton Marina £68,000

A 45ft 1905 4 berth converted Dutch Tjalk.

Sunflower, also known as De Freule, is a stunning boat with a long and fascinating history! Built in Sneek, northern Holland in 1905, commissioned as a small sailing cargo Tjalk, delivering fresh fish and vegetables to the inland seas and tidal lake communities around northern Holland.

She would have had an open hull, with the original Boatmans Cabin now the main bedroom at the front. Four men would have slept and worked on her, built then as the M.S Denning. The original ships bell is still on board, mounted in the wheelhouse. She would have had a 35ft sailing mast and traditional red sails. She is still steered by her restored teak sailing rudder, conveniently converted to hydraulic operation in the 70s.

During WW1 and WW2 her sailing rigging and mast fell into disrepair, and she passed between a few owners, the most interesting of which, used her as a vessel as part of Europe's only two floating circuses after the wars! She would have housed the tents, equipment or animals, being pulled by Tug in convoy as the circus moved between communities around Holland. She was motorised in the 70's and the cabin and wheelhouse constructed and panelled with Teak.

Before she was brought to England by the current owner, the previous owner, a retired Sea Tug Captain, was her custodian for 30 years after he had sought to obtain her from men who were using her to sell contraband in post-war Holland! He ended up going all in and won her as his prize in a gruelling game of cards! Then called De Freule meaning 'the Pretty Lady' or 'The Mistress', she spent 30 years on the central waterways of Amsterdam, before being sold once more and making

Overall length	45 feet
Beam	10 feet
Draft	3 feet 3 inches
Headroom	5 feet 6 inches
No. of berths	4
Style of stern	
BSS certificate expiry	--
Built	In 1905
Fitout	
Base	Steel
Hull	Steel
Cabin	Steel
Engine	Mercedes 100hp OM321.980
Gearbox	--

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her way through the waterways of Holland, Belgium and France, across the channel and into UK waters, up the Thames into London. Since then she has been through the London canal Network, the Thames and the length of the K&A canal.

Stepping aboard, you enter the inviting wheelhouse, wrapped in windows and panelled with rich, warm timber that immediately sets the tone for the boat's character. A cosy table and chair arrangement offers a welcoming spot for dining or relaxing and cleverly converts into a single berth when needed. The traditional helm, complete with its original wheel and captain's chair, adds to the authenticity, while a charming piano gives the space an unexpected and delightful touch.

Descending into the interior, the galley combines practicality with classic style, featuring a Belfast sink, a compact cooker and elegant marble worktops. From here, the boat opens into a beautifully comfortable saloon, where a sofa transforms into a double berth and a multi-fuel Boatman's stove brings both warmth and atmosphere. The bathroom continues the traditional feel, fitted with a full bath and shower over, a wash basin and a composting toilet, all in keeping with the boat's historic charm. At the far end lies the peaceful bedroom, complete with shelving, a cosy berth and a skylight that fills the space with natural light.

You don't see a boat with this much charm and heritage very often! To arrange a viewing, or for further information, please contact Hilperton Marina on 01225 765243.

Additional information

All Dutch Boat Paints
Sofa Bed In Cabin
Tools And Sundries

Scan the QR code to view online

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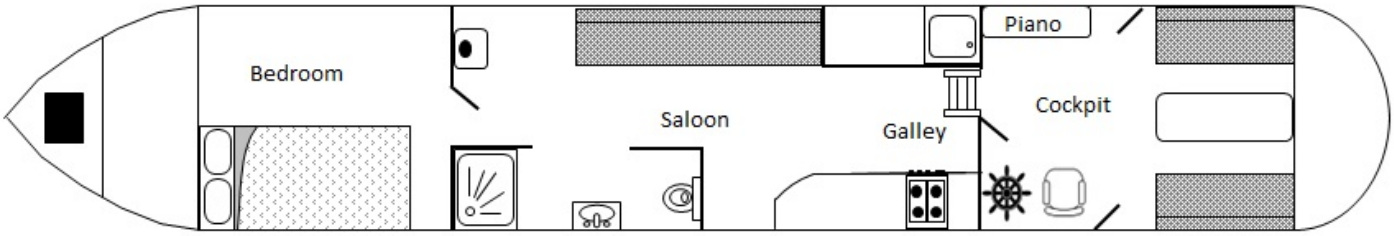

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General

General

Name	Sunflower
BW index number	522836
Safety certificate	YES
BSS certificate expiry	--
BSS certificate number	--
Built	In 1905
Location	Hilperton Marina
Price	£68,000

Berths

No. of Berths	4
Double beds	--
Double beds (temp)	1
Single beds	1
Single beds (temp)	1

Size

Overall length	45 feet
Overall beam	10 feet
Overall draft	3 feet 3 inches
Style of stern	

Structure

Manufacturer

Manufacturer	--
Hull ID No.	--
Build date	1905

Original steel thickness

Base	--
Hull	--
Cabin	--

Anodes

Fitted	YES
Date fitted	2020
Size	--
No. of anodes	4

Material

Base	Steel
Hull	Steel
Cabin side	Steel
Roof	Steel

Hull blacking

Last hull blacking	2025-08
Where	Semington Dock

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Running gear

Engine

Make	Mercedes 100hp
Model	OM321.980
Year	1972
Fuel	Diesel
Cooling	Water Cooled
Hours	--
Last serviced date	--
Last serviced by	--

Gearbox

Make	--
Model	--
Year	--
Reduction	--
Coupling	--
Shaft diameter	--
Propellor size	--

Capacities

Fuel	300
Water	400
Gas type	Propane

No. of gas cylinders	2
Gas cylinder size	--

Interior

Fitted

Fitted by	--
Date fitted	--

Materials used

Floor	Wooden
Hull sides	Wooden
Cabin sides	Wooden
Deckhead	Wooden
Bulkheads	--
Fittings	--

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Equipment

In the galley

Cooker type	Gas Hob And Oven
Cooker model	Dometic
Fridge type	--
Fridge model	--
Other	--

Heating

Type	Stove
Make	Boatmans
Model	--
Fuel	Multi Fuel
Other remarks	--

Hot water

Type	Combi Boiler
Make	--
Model	--
Fuel	Gas
Other remarks	--
Additional heating	--

In the bathroom

Bath	--
Shower	Yes
Hip bath	Yes
Basin	Yes
Toilet type	Composting
Toilet make	Natures Head
Toilet model	--
Toilet tank capacity	--
Toilet remarks	Compost Toilet With Solar Panel

Electrical systems

DC voltage	--
No. of batteries (start)	1
No. of batteries (domestic)	3
Split charging	--
Other	1 450w Solar Panel

240 volt electrical systems

Inverter make	--
Inverter rating	--
Generator make	--
Generator rating	--
Shoreline	NO
Other	--

Additional information

All Dutch Boat Paints Sofa Bed In Cabin Tools And Sundries

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