



## 2016 - A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR SATURN

Harry Arnold writes:

The Shropshire Union Fly-boat Restoration Society (SUFBRs) reports a successful year in the 2016 operation of the educational and campaigning programme of its unique historical fly-boat **Saturn**.



In addition to welcoming the public aboard, particularly families, at main events on north west waterways, notable specific education events were organised at Trefor, Middlewich, Lymm and Grappenhall.

For 2017 **Saturn** is already booked to attend the National Waterways Museum's Easter Gathering at Ellesmere Port (14-17 April), where SUFBRs also traditionally hosts its AGM, and the Middlewich Folk & Boat Festival (16-18 June). Lymm Historic Transport Day (25 June), with Aqueduct Marina's Open day (23 July), Audlem Festival of Transport (30 July), followed by the Whitchurch Boat Rally (2-3 September).

Dates for other events and school educational visits are at the planning stage - at such regular venues as the Anderton Boat Lift - and we would welcome enquiries from event organisers and schools about venues that may fit in with our outline programme.

One of the major events considered for 2017 has been a Fly-Run from Whitchurch to Manchester. Preliminary planning has revealed great interest from community and business sectors and we have decided to aim to stage the run during May 2018. This will allow sufficient time to explore and plan a far more enhanced event that affords many positive outcomes for **Saturn** and our supporters, with opportunities for the promotion of education, community engagement and waterways heritage, and offering funding possibilities from public, voluntary and private sectors.

**Saturn** has now been operating for 12 years and we have a planned long-term programme for her maintenance in exemplary condition. She is currently at Alvecote where Adrian Polglase of AP Boatbuilding is undertaking this winter's work at a cost of £9,500.

Funding is raised by the society's activities and generous donations from individuals, organisations and the boat industry. If you wish to donate, volunteer, join SUFBRs, or suggest an event we might attend, please contact us via our website: [www.saturnflyboat.org.uk](http://www.saturnflyboat.org.uk) It will also update you on our 2017 programme of events.

SUFBRs chair, Sue Cawson, said "We have had a successful year in 2016 and the society would like to thank all members, friends and organisations - particularly the Canal & River Trust - who have worked so hard to make it so. We are looking forward to an even better 2017 and would appreciate help from anyone who can support our work with **Saturn**".