



I see Northgate Middle Lock still leaks as well as ever!

Photo: Vivienne Barber

John Yates takes sensible precautions to prevent flooding the cabin of **Buckden** - not to mention himself!

The Port – Easter 2018

Visiting boats were:

Alcor
Aquarius
Badger
Beatty
Buckden
Clematis & Ilford
Effingham
Elizabeth
Empress
Enterprise
Gainsborough
Greenlaw
Halsall
Holland
Kenilworth
Lynx
Lyra
Mountbatten & Jellicoe
No 65

Mike Harrison writes

The breach on the Middlewich Branch of the SU caused many boaters to change their plans at the last minute. Many of those from the T&M and Bridgewater made it via the Manchester Ship Canal. This included **Elizabeth** which was one of the boats left aground in the length between Wardle Lock and the breach. CRT came to the rescue by installing a fabric dam east of the breach and refilling this length by pumping from the Trent & Mersey below Wardle Lock. So about half the visiting boats arrived via the Anderton lift and River Weaver to join the MSC at Marsh Lock.

The others came via the SU and had the traditional stop in Chester Basin for the Thursday night. The new development at Tower Wharf was not as overpowering as I had feared.

At the Port, the top basin had been cleared of the sinking wooden boats which have now been moved to the Rossmore Park Industrial site where they will be stored. (See page 8). This extra space resulted in a more impressive line up than in recent years. Meanwhile some 14 boats arrived via the MSC, some remaining tied in the lower basin. This gave a total of 34 visiting narrow boats.

At the traditional Good Friday meeting in the Rolt Centre David Lowe gave an excellent talk on modern freight carrying by water, with some interesting slides and surprising facts and figures on tonnage carried. David is passionate about this subject and is always on the lookout for possible new waterborne freight.

Saturday activities included a well attended auction of painted

Plover
Rudd
S&L Tug No 2
Saturn
Stamford
Swallow
Swan
The King
The North
Thea
Warbler
Whitby
Willow

ware in aid of Saturn, conducted in his inimitable style by Tony Lewery in the Rolt Centre. Prices were good especially for a handbowl and can painted by the late Ron Hough.

The afternoon saw a party in the toll house to celebrate the fact that the Grundy family had enjoyed the ownership of **Beatty** for 50 years to this day. This was well attended and much cake was consumed!! (See page 38) It is also a significant year for Glyn and Ro Phillips who have had **Aquarius** for 50 years this year. And we are also reminded of our member Trevor Maggs who achieved 50 years of ownership of **Corona** shortly before he died.

Saturday night in the Rolt Centre included folk music and much chat, then the highlight of Sunday was the visit to Rossmore Park where the boats from the museum have been taken for storage either in the very large shed or in the adjoining yard. Sunday evening concluded with the home grown talents and Ray Butler a very able MC

Marsh Lock full: **Kenilworth, Alcor, Rudd, Willow, Beatty, Thea, The King, Stamford, Elizabeth, Kennet, Severn** with **Plover** and **Warbler** arriving



Photo: Bob Jervis

The Club stand was at the top of the stairs in the Island Warehouse during the weekend, and not found by many of the boaters.

Boats began to disperse on Monday which was VERY wet and the return convoy gathered in the lower basin ready for the run up the MSC on the Tuesday morning.

The Saturn Auction

The six items auctioned on behalf of **Saturn** raised £1,310. The can and dipper fetched £670 an £230 respectively.

Pictured left to right:

Tony Lewery, the auctioneer

Hidden behind the can, Sue Yates the glamorous assistant auctioneer

Innes Catto the owner of **Gort** and the new owner of the can and dipper by Ron Hough.



Photo: Waterway Images