

MAY 2017

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Liverpool Boat Show
- Channel Swim for Anne's Wish
- STTV's 100th Project
- Crick Special Promotion

Edited by Bernie McCrae, compiled by Chris and David Owen-Roberts, copy and imagery contributed by Ellie Brown, Nick Beech, John Bannister, SUMBA and Phil Massey.

Got a story that you would like to share? We are always on the look out for new stories. If you have tale to tell please contact Bernie McCrae on 01270 525040 or email bernie.m@aqueductmarina.co.uk

AQUEDUCT NEWS

Crick Boat Show 27th - 29th May 2017



**Whatever your boating needs - Crack it at Crick!
Arrange it at Aqueduct Marina!!**

All aboard the Aqueduct bus! Leaving our main car park at 8.30 am, Aqueduct Marina is offering complimentary travel (2 per boat) to our customers on Saturday 27th May, to Crick (tickets to the show not included). The return journey will depart from the show ground at 4.30pm. Email info@aqueductmarina.co.uk or see Julie in Reception 01270 525040 to book your seat on the bus.

Shopping lists at the ready: once in the showground you really are spoilt for choice. Ranged along the marina and quayside you will find almost 300 exhibitors offering one of the most comprehensive selection of boating "must haves" available at any inland waterway festival. From fenders, fuel lift pumps to boat clothing and fancy folderols, nearly every tried and tested/new-fangled and just plain old useful boating gadget you desire - will probably be available.

Show boating: with over 40 display boats available to view, this is your chance to develop your dream on the path towards boating Nirvana. For the first time this year Crick are introducing budget boats and (whisper it) GRP boats to view. However, it is the traditional, beautifully painted and appointed narrow/wide beam craft that are, for most, the main event. Whatever your boating vision, come and meet the skilled boat builders and craftsmen who can make that dream come true.

Which brings you to the Aqueduct Marina One Stop Shop and Knight's Narrowboat stand.



A brand new luxury 57ft Knight's Narrowboat "The Two Jays", which was commissioned and built at Aqueduct Marina, will be revealed at the show. You might want to book your viewing quickly - last year's boat was snapped up on the day. And – just saying – there is a chance to vote for your favourite show boat.

Uniquely in our locality, not only do Aqueduct Marina have a professionally accredited team whose skills and experience cover the full gamut of boating specialisms, we have a comprehensive range of facilities, specifically tailored to all your boating needs. Our technical and management team will be on hand each day to proffer advice on all aspects of boat brokerage, storage, managed or DIY maintenance, building, mooring and DIY or bespoke painting. We will be pleased to work with you to find the best solution to your boating issue – it is what we do!

PAINTING SPECIAL, LIMITED OFFER – JUST FOR THE CRICK SHOW

For bookings taken at the Crick Show or before.



Continued on page 5

MAGS PEACH



Welcome to Mags, see article on page 3.

NORTHERN BOAT SHOW



Picture of the Northern Boat Show at Liverpool (below), see article on page 4.



INTERIOR OF MILLIE ANNE



Millie Anne is for sale with Aqueduct Marina Brokerage

Easter Weekend

A busy Easter weekend at Aqueduct Marina was crowned by an exclusive "Saturday Night Galley" performance by the highly regarded band JLS.

Introduced to Aqueduct Marina by seasoned live music aficionado and moorer, Paul Smith nb. "QE2", JLS are Jim Kirkpatrick, Lester Hunt and Steve Haynes. These three musicians are successful in their own right but combined as JLS they completely won over an awed audience of moorers and pitchers with a superlative guitar and vocal set, comprised of blues, soft rock and gypsy jazz (more of that later).

From their "Clockin' On" opener (can anyone remember what this was?) they powered their way through many classic favourites: Rory Gallagher numbers, Squeeze -Take Me I'm Yours, Fleetwood Mac - Oh Well, Derek & The Dominoes, Layla, Crosby Stills & Nash - Love the One You're With, The Allman Brother's Band – Jessica (quite funny to watch the many blank stares when this number was introduced come to the dawning realisation of Oh! It's the theme from Top Gear") and many others, until they finished

with frankly stunning renditions of Hocus Pocus by Focus and Lynard & Skinner – Freebird.

The atmosphere in the Galley was tremendous with three accomplished musicians evoking memories of classic, cherished vinyl album collections from those heady days of our youth. There was much appreciative nodding and a even a little surreptitious air fingerpicking along to the set. Kudos to anyone who could keep up with the "fast fingers" of that Gypsy Jazz! Oh Yes! Gypsy Jazz hails from the style developed by the 1930's French guitarist Jean "Jango" Reinhardt.

We'd like to thank JLS and hope that our new friends will re-visit us for another "Saturday Night Galley" slot sometime soon. For those of you who missed JLS you can catch them on UTube under "JLS.aka".

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nScc97uV328

Don't forget to look out for tickets to "Blow Zone", our band for the legendary headline slot at this year's Boaters' Bash.

Ancient Scroll of the Great Engineer

According to the "Ancient Scroll of The Great Engineer", the first Immutable Law when working in a cramped engine room reads as follows:

- *Truly, it will be a hot afternoon and the bolts will not wish to move... (the second says that it is probably also a Friday afternoon and you are on holiday on Monday).*

Fortunately, Joe is a master exponent of The Order of The Spanner and is here demonstrating the advanced Downward Battery pose to two acolytes wishing to learn from his mysterious and ancient knowledge.



Joe in Downward Battery pose

Arrivals and Departures

We'd like to say a warm welcome to:

Shareboat Tranquillity
Andrew Collinson nb Fin & Tonic (successfully purchased through Aqueduct Marina Brokerage)
Ian Hirst nb Plesiosaurus
David and Jan Wylie nb Coire Bhreacain
Alex and Linda Tibbles nb Lauric

We'd like to say a fond farewell and best wishes for the future to:

Barry and Marian Andrews nb Maudette (for sale with Aqueduct Marina Brokerage)
Kenton Lock nb Brigand
Eric and Anne Grace nb Cabbyl Ushtey



best wishes

Yard Improvement Works

Look towards the rear of the shot blasting sheds and you'll notice the arrival of a crane. This comes with the advent of works to create a new shed behind the existing units. In addition, new roller shutters are to be fitted during May to the two open sheds to mitigate against dust, noise and further improve our painting and workshop capacity.

Although these works shouldn't impinge upon customer access through the yard, please be aware that there will be extra movement of plant and staff adjacent to the hard standings, bin sheds plus the access/egress to the long stay car parking.

I think you'll agree that the finished results of this hard work will greatly enhance the appearance and availability of the units.



WELCOME MAGS

We'd like to introduce Maggie (call me Mags) Peach whom we've been delighted to welcome to The Galley front of house team.

It was true serendipity when Maggie, her husband and 3 children came to stay for 3 weeks in the Caravan Park whilst waiting for completion on their new home in Crewe. Mag's past training, experience and skill in the hospitality industry coupled with her infectious good humour, quickly identified her as a natural fit for The Galley where she has been working since last August.

Hailing from Donegal, Mags met her electrical/mechanical engineer husband whilst deep sea fishing and in 2014 they relocated to Warwickshire. Happily they found Aqueduct Marina when her husband was offered a job at luxury car manufacturer Bentley. (Nope. We can't have a ride in the cars – we've asked.)

Mags was initially drawn to "the family atmosphere" at Aqueduct Marina and is continually impressed by the way "everybody goes out of their way to help you". Despite loving the friendliness of the moorers and campers alike, she did confess to a tiny twinge of homesickness during the last "Saturday Night at the Galley" social. This, when the band JLS, knocked out a couple of Rory Gallagher numbers, which reminded her of get-togethers back home.

For those who've yet to meet Mags in The Galley, she features as "Lady In The White Jumper" in our latest Aqueduct video, available on our website. www.aqueductmarina.co.uk/marina/aerial-cam/. Better still, join Holly, Mags, Marina and all The Galley team, they'll make you very welcome.

MEET OUR TEAM...

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Kate Chantler
Chef

Alison Booth
Chef

Marina Cross
The Galley Front of House

Maggie Peach
The Galley Front of House

Sadie, Maggie, Jennifer, Niamh, Jenny, Elizabeth, Ellie, Abi, Maisie

Marina Grounds

Woody—just Woody
Groundsman

Liverpool Boat Show

4 FAB REASONS: BEATLES, BEETLES, BOATS, CARAVANS AND US! (The 5th Beate!)

As part of the Mersey River Festival, Liverpool's Albert Dock is hosting the 3rd Northern Boat Show on 23rd -25th June.

Now in its 3rd year, this rapidly expanding and exciting show aims to showcase premier boats and boat services. Aqueduct Marina and Caravan Park will have a stand and would like to invite you to join us for what looks likely to be a vibrant and informative weekend.

Aqueduct Marina will be exhibiting at the Marine Exhibition located at the Salthouse & Canning Dock Quayside. Free to access. With a diverse range of exhibitors (pop up loo anyone?) there is plenty to interest anyone from any level of caravanning and boating experience.

Also free to access in the Salthouse Docks are the motor yachts, dinghies, ribs and sports boats exhibition. You can also check out demonstrations of flyboarding.

In the Albert Dock itself are the Luxury Cruising Yachts. Whilst there is a fee of £8 to pay on the door (unfortunately no push/wheelchairs on the pontoons) Aqueduct Marina customers are able to claim free entry for Friday 23rd – 25th June. Simply visit this (handy 87 digit) website <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/northern-boat-show-2017-tickets-31923979482?dicount=ex> before 23rd May. For those of you wishing to join us on Sunday after attending the marina social and sale events on Saturday, Aqueduct Marina is offering a limited number of return train tickets (2 per boat) plus a ticket to the show on Sunday 25th. Please see above for website booking and let Julie know if you intend to attend by train.

When you've had your fill of trying to catch a glimpse of the "haves and have yachts" there is still plenty to do. Obviously no trip to the Albert Dock is complete without a look at The Cavern to see where The Beatles made their name and Cilla checked in a "lorra-lorra" coats.

The Mersey Maritime Museum (10.00 am – 5.00 pm) has two special exhibitions:

"Seized. Border and Customs Uncovered"

"Lusitania. Life, Loss and Legacy"

You could also scare the bejeesus out of our esteemed

boat painters by telling them you'd like your new paint job to resemble the "Everybody Razzle Dazzle" Mersey ferry – designed by St. Pepper album designer Peter Blake.

For those of an artistic inclination The Tate Liverpool Gallery is curating exhibitions by Tracey Emin and William Blake. An odd juxtaposition of artistic bedfellows – unmade or otherwise. A plethora of shops, cafés, restaurants and bars are part of the Albert Dock complex. Those with the appropriate chromosomal alignment might wish to succumb to the lure of central Liverpool and SHOPPING. If you want to make a weekend of it and take in a show, The Empire Theatre is showing the comedian Count Arthur Strong on the 23rd and on the 24th "The Carpenter's Story". Over at The Echo Arena, Russell Brand plies his own particular brand of humour.

When we asked Robert Parton for his thoughts on the show he replied "How tickled I am, how tickled, to be taking the Aqueduct team to the Liverpool show.... " When we calmed him down enough to take the duster off him, and explained we wanted his candid impression - NOT his Ken Dodd impression of the show, he replied that he is looking forward to working with Aqueduct staff, Ambassadors and Aintree Beetle partners at the Liverpool show as well as relaxing by eating his own bodyweight in BBQ/Paella at the marina "pitch-up and picnic" on Saturday night.

Should be a FAB weekend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2017

See our up-to-date diary online anytime via this link: <http://www.aqueductmarina.co.uk/news>

Aqueduct Marina Events

27th May	Wine and Canapés at Crick Boat Show
24th June	Bric-a-Boat and Bric-a-Caravan Jumble Sales (10.00 am - 4.00 pm, auction at 2.00 pm)
24th June	Paella and Bingo Night
22nd/23rd July	Boaters' Bash and Open Day
26th August	Dance Evening
23rd September	Film Evening

To book marina events please contact us on 01270 525040, email cafe@aqueductmarina.co.uk or online www.aqueductmarina.co.uk

14th May

27th - 29th May

23rd - 25th June

27th July

7th – 10th August

11th - 13th August

1st - 3rd September

9th September

10th September

13th October

21st October

External Events

Reaseheath Family Festival

Crick Boat Show (Aqueduct Marina will have a stand)

Liverpool Boat Show, Albert Dock (Aqueduct Marina will have a stand)

Nantwich Show (Aqueduct Marina will have a stand)

Anne's Wish Kayak Expedition along the Llangollen Canal

River Weaver Festival, Winsford

Nantwich Food Festival

Muscular Dystrophy 'Tough Mudder' at Cholmondeley Castle (Aqueduct Marina will be taking part)

Anne's Wish Great North Run, Newcastle

C&RT NW&B Annual Showcase, Northwich Memorial Court

Anne's Wish Fundraising Gig Night Claxton Hotel, Redcar, North Yorks



Aqueduct Marina in Bloom Competition

'Calling all gardeners! With a theme of "Flaming Orange" our competition will be Judged Sunday 23rd July (Open Day)'.

The orange theme aims to support Anne's Wish & Muscular Dystrophy, our chosen charity for 2017, by dressing the marina in their fund raising colours.

Our judges, Andrea Parton and the (utterly un-bribable) Marina Groundsman, Woody, will be judging the best display on a boat or by a caravan. Please note it does not have to be a full on "Chelsea Garden". A single well planted pot will qualify and entrants of all ages are welcome. The judging criteria will be a display that shows creativity, care and fun and enhances the cheerful ambience for other moorers. The display may be florals or edibles and MUST be within the curtilage of the craft and available to view from 9.00 am on Open Day. Nothing on the jetties please. Please ensure any pots are unable to blow off the roof (it might also help if you can still see to cruise).

Rob Eddon will be presenting a further "Anne's Award" rosette to the boat that he feels adds that little bit of

extra special orange joy to the Marina.

In addition we would like to recognise everyone's lovely displays and Woody's continuing commitment to the grounds by trying to procure a nomination for CRT's own "Boats in Bloom" competition, which they launched in April, under the "Special awards" category "Best Towpath Business in Bloom".

To nominate Aqueduct Marina and Caravan Park for consideration for the "Best Towpath Business in Bloom" award vote on line at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/boatsinbloom>. You will need the following info:

- A photo of your nomination
- The Marina address
- A brief description of why you are making the nomination (come on, let's do it for Woody!)

For further information check out the CRT website or email boatsinbloom@canal&rivertrust.org.uk

Show off your planting on our Facebook site and good luck!

Crick Boat Show Continued

Matching the painter of your choice with a time slot and location convenient to yourself can be a logistical and sometimes costly headache – especially if you have to take time to bring your craft some distance. No problem. Book at the Crick Boat Show and receive 3 MONTHS FREE STORAGE AT AQUEDUCT MARINA* for boats being fully painted/repainted with us. This gives you a three month window to have your painting done without tying you to a tight timetable.

To further relieve any anxiety about arriving on time we can also arrange collection of your boat if you aren't in the local area.

There's limited space for this offer so please ask a member of staff for details today!

But boating isn't just about painting and polishing, it's about the friends you make while you're swabbing and scrubbing your dream boat. To this end, come to the

"Moorers' Social" and meet fellow or prospective moorers. Discover more about upcoming social events at Aqueduct Marina. **3.00 pm on Saturday 27th May in the Aqueduct Marina Marquee at Crick.** The Galley team have some tasty treats with which to tempt you and of course no Aqueduct Marina Social would be complete without the odd glass of wine.

And if that's tickled your taste buds: the artisan craft/food marquee and the bar/music tents are a must visit too. Have a look at the historic boats or take a free ½ hour boat trip along The Grand Union. Youngsters aged 16 and under can enter the showground free and there are fairground rides and waterways related events to entertain them.

So have you booked your ticket yet? TICKETS: day or weekend tickets are available on line now from www.crickboatshow.com before midnight on 21st May.

SWANS - IS SHE OR ISN'T SHE?

In true celebrity paparazzi "baby bump" watching style, Aqueduct Marina boaters have been speculating about our swans. Specifically, whether the pen will, or won't have cygnets this year.

Currently the answer is no, we don't think so. It appears that while we have the same female (green ring CV70) she is accompanied this year by a different male. Unfortunately our regular cob, Charlie (notchy beak) hasn't been spotted since the oil leak a few months ago. Many of you will remember Charlie as being a fantastic dad who even adopted orphaned cygnets from another clutch one year. He also had better manners than the pen (due to the way she holds her wings back in a "penned" fashion. Sweetly often so the cygnets can ride on her back) when begging at side hatches or picnic tables.

There are two theories about the new cob (from the old German term "knopf" relating to the nubble on his beak). He might be a new young fella that has coupled up with our female. In which case "go girl!" However, as he is, as yet, un-ringed, he might also be the last surviving cygnet from the 2016 clutch - who wasn't chased away, as is usual, by the absent Charlie and is still with mum. Opinions are divided about this because he seems like a hefty chap for a yearling. Hopefully when "Swan Watch" come down to ring him they will be able to give us their informed opinion.

The pair have been investigating the old nest over the past fortnight but have shown no signs of actually dragging the reeds and twigs around - (continued on page 8)

Channel Swim for Anne's Wish



The team I am swimming the channel with consists of 6 members varying in different ages backgrounds and interests. We meet regularly to discuss training, technique, team names and for the two charity nights we have had so far. We have gone for the name Sea Snails.

We started training around this time last year doing short sessions in the sea off South Tyneside beach (beside the Sand Dancer Pub which has brought about some interesting looks, especially when the venue is used for a wedding reception and I went wandering into the sea in just my trucks on a rainy July evening after work) aiming to do around 15 - 20 minutes to get use to the temperature of the water and open water swimming. My first time in the sea is wonderfully captured on the image (left) when I was hit by a giant wave, losing my swim cap and goggles!



The temperature between last April and this April has been around the same, varying from 7 - 9 degrees, which funnily enough is the perfect temperature needed to kick start you on an early Sunday morning at 8.00 am! We have kept up a strict schedule and ensured we were there each Sunday morning at 8.00 am and either a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon after work regardless of rain, sun or chilly winds!! Around June and July we lose the wet suits and just go in with swimming costumes for between 45 minutes and an hour. The water around this time of the year was about 14 - 16 degrees and was barely felt after a few minutes of swimming. Interestingly I discovered when the water gets to this temperature jelly fish are out in swarms and close to the surface. It was at this point I received my first jelly fish sting across the inside of my right thigh! I also discovered that peeing on a jelly fish sting does not make it stop stinging and actually makes it worse! (Who would have thought the TV show Friends was not factually accurate!) As the year



went on and the sea got colder we stopped training in the sea and ramped up the training in the pool focusing more on technique and cardio, which has been the main focus up until the end of April 2017 when we have once again taken to the sea, following a similar, but more intensive, training regime. Personally I am training about 4 - 5 days a week at the pool doing around 1 to 20 hours of swimming and looking to get to the beach 1 or 2 times a week to get in the sea to get used to the water temperature again.

Between the end of swimming in the sea and before we went back out we have held 2 charity nights. We hired out a social club and held a horse race night in which people bet on horses (which were also sold prior to the race night for £5 and meant winning horses on each race card won £10 back and a bottle of champagne). Alan also got a coat from Barbour which was raffled off as a prize along with a few other items to help raise some additional money. I believe the race night has brought in around £700 for both of the charities (the money from the second race night last weekend hasn't all been collected and counted but I believe it will be about £700 - £800).

In July we have had an assessment to ensure we can manage 2 hours of swimming in the sea before committing ourselves to the wide open waters of the English Channel. It has been a great conversational topic and I hopefully have a lot of people interested which will help raise further money for Anne's Wish. I have yet to set up a Just Giving page but it is on my list of things to do!

The swim date is: 14 - 18 August (as we are listed as the first of 3 groups that will swim that week we get the choice of which day we start depending on the weather and conditions etc).

Phil Massey

Brokerage Update



The year has been busy so far with boats quickly moving on after arriving for brokerage. If you're thinking of selling your narrowboat why not join the owners of; Bob On, Fin & Tonic, Susi, Brankie, Memphis Belle, Dunno, Leprechaun, Flat Bottom Girl, Robmarie, Sobriety, Paragon, Tilly-Ho-Jo and Hakuna Matata by contacting Aqueduct Marina Brokerage?

Ruby - 2006 58ft Trad £68,995.00

Built in December 2006 by Reeves and Kate Boats, Ruby is a 58ft Trad-style narrowboat originally provided to the owners as a bespoke order. The interior has ash panelling and hardwood trim throughout. Conventionally laid out with a fore living area, galley, mid-bedroom, bathroom and aft cabin, Ruby sleeps up to 6 people (4 adults and 2 children). Equipped with a Victron Combi (inverter/charger), 3.5Kw Travel Power generator, Bosch compact washing machine, Tecma pump-out WC and Beta Marine 43Hp engine. External paintwork was repainted in 2013 by Stowe Hill. <http://www.aqueductmarina.co.uk/second-hand-boats/ruby/>



Millie Anne - 2005 62ft Trad £54,995.00

Millie Anne is a 62ft Trad with a wide hatch. Constructed by Nick Thorpe Boatbuilders and fitted out by the owner to a good standard the interior cabin is predominantly light ash panelling with a hardwood trim. Equipped with living aboard in mind the boat has both a 2.5Kw combi inverter and a 3.5Kw Travel Power generator. LED lights throughout, Hoover washing machine/dryer, Jabsco pump-out WC, fridge and separate freezer, Webasto diesel central heating and a Kabola Diesel stove. <http://www.aqueductmarina.co.uk/second-hand-boats/millie-anne/>

If you are interested in any of the boats we have for sale or would like to enquire about our services contact Nick Beech our Brokerage manager on 01270 525 046 or via brokerage@aqueductmarina.co.uk

Pictures: top left, Ruby; Middle left, Ruby inside, Bottom left, Millie Anne



CHURCH MINSHULL
AQUEDUCT BROKERAGE
AQUEDUCT MARINA

THE adventure begins
SEE US AT THE CRICK BOAT SHOW

FREE VALUATION*
FREE BOAT COLLECTION*

sell your boat with us

BRING YOUR BOAT NOW & RECEIVE A FREE B.S.S INSPECTION
Offer expires 31st June 2017

Contact our sales team now 01270 525 040
info@aqueductmarina.co.uk www.aqueductmarina.co.uk

*Terms and Conditions apply



CHURCH MINSHULL
AQUEDUCT
CHANDLERY

THE adventure begins
SEE US AT THE CRICK BOAT SHOW

PAINT IT BLACK
DIY BLACKING KITS AVAILABLE



10% OFF BLACKING KITS WHEN BUYING TWO TINS OF PREMIUM PAINT

Contact our sales team now 01270 525 040
info@aqueductmarina.co.uk www.aqueductmarina.co.uk

SWANS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

indicative of nesting.

Nevertheless please give them a polite wide berth, keep dogs on a lead and small children at a safe distance and we might, still, have cygnets to report.

Any ideas for naming this new coupling? Please, please not "Swanny Mc Swan Face"! Share them on our Facebook Page!



KAYAKING EQUIPMENT

Calling all Aqueduct friends!

We are currently on the lookout for some kayaking equipment to support Anne's Wish, our Charity of the Year, Kayaking Event in August (7th – 10th). Equipment needed includes:

- 14 x Buoyancy Aids (12 for adults and 2 for ages up to 12)
- 14 x Headlights for tunnels
- 14 x Helmets
- 14 x Hi-Vis Vests
- 2 x Two Seater Kayaks
- 14 x Whistles

If you know of anyone or would be happy to loan some kayaking gear to us please contact Rob Eddon

rob.eddon78@gmail.com. All items greatly received for a great cause.



SUMBA - Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch Adopters

Please email sumbacanal@gmail.com if you would like to help on any of our work parties.

Work Party – Saturday 8th April

Sunshine! After last month's wash out, a gorgeous morning saw 19 volunteers meet at Cholmondeston Lock. Joined once again by the redoubtable S.C.S.C. (SUMBA Canine Support Corps – Spike, Daisy & Lola) the work party split into two teams.

The main party, headed by Dave Foulkes and Andy Baddeley, completed the painting of Cholmondeston Lock, together with mooring posts, picnic tables, BBQs and totem posts. This heavily trafficked lock now looks very smart, although one of our number almost fell into the trap of stepping back to admire their fine painting handiwork. Never a great idea on a lock balance beam. Fortunately one of our "safety spotters" was aware of the situation and a ducking was avoided. During the painting, SUMBA lock keepers assisted several boats through the busy lock, so we think it is safe to say the cruising season is well and truly under way. Indeed our second customer of the day was nb Maudette carrying Aqueduct Marina's Ambassadors of the Year, Mr & Mrs Andrews. Always nice to start the day with friendly faces and a chat.

Team 2 Headed off to Barbridge Junction. In between marshalling grateful boats at the blind junction, 2

benches, totem posts, a fence and a culvert fence were smartened up.

Geoff Harris kept his eye on proceedings at both locations and then nipped to Minshull lock to grass seed the area churned up by recent works. In the absence of a bucket with which to water the seeds, he deployed the "handy plastic bag with holes in". Patent pending.

Many positive comments from passing boaters meant that we felt we'd earned our lunch. (The S.C.S.C. were sure they'd earned theirs!) and this is where our Work Party write up veers ever so slightly from the norm.... One feature of recent work parties has been the fondness of a particular member for pilchard sandwiches. Much derision ensued but several of the SUMBA team mounted a spirited defence of the humble pilchard, with one even supplying a recipe.

So here is the SUMBA recipe for PILCHARD CURRY (Wait! Come back!) Nutritious, delicious and easy on the pocket – apparently: Try it out and let us know: 2 hard boiled eggs, 1 tin of pilchards (obviously), 1 carrot, a handful of cauliflower florets, 1 small tin of coconut milk, 7 small jersey potatoes, curry powder to taste. Serve with your favourite rice. Fortified by your curry maybe you'd like help at a future SUMBA work party? The next one is: Saturday 20th May at Wardle Lock – repainting of lock, fences and totems prior to the Middlewich F.A.B. (Folk & Boat) Festival.

One Hundred Up! STTV's 100th Project was at Roundthorn Bridge, 26th – 28th April

Before we arrived it was a fairly bleak scene (top picture, right). Over the three days about twenty volunteers got busy! They built a fence, a bridge, towpath, car park, sited two picnic benches and mooring rings were installed (pictures centre right, lower right and below right). It's surprising what can be achieved in three days!

It wasn't all hard work as the happy

gang of volunteers and CRT staff enjoyed a cup of tea and a piece of our 100th Project Celebration cake (below left)!

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