

Easter Cruise

IWA/MLWC boaters brave the elements!

Mike Daines.

One of the best attended joint IWA Peterborough branch and MLWC cruises was enjoyed by all who took part despite some inclement weather over the Easter weekend.

A total of fourteen boats formed convoy on a route around the Middle Levels meeting at Three Holes and then onto stop overs at Stonea, Ramsey Forty Foot and Benwick.

One of the principle objectives on the Saturday was to gain entry into the Forty Foot Horseway Lock channel, to moor up stern to stern alongside the bank that has been cleared by the recent joint work parties.

However, unfortunately the chronic lack of water on the Middle Levels over the winter period combined with gale force winds immediately stopped the attempt in it's tracks with the narrow boats being blown against the bank and only Jeff Walters in his cruiser '*Cindy*' successfully reaching Horseway Lock.

As ever there were some mechanical mishaps for a couple of unfortunate skippers one involving diesel injectors that effectively marooned Stan Rust's '*NB Okey Dokey*', outside the Golden Lion, not all bad, some might say and a broken off exhaust on Trevor Quince's '*NB Little Owl*'.

Nevertheless true to the traditions of boaters camaraderie mechanical wizards Roger Davies '*NB Krissy*' and Alexander Chambers, '*NB Hillpenny*', managed with impeccable improvisation to fix the problem with the aid of two soft drink cans and some scrounged Jubilee clips.

The second cruise objective of checking out the 'new' moorings at Ramsey also had to be abandoned due again to lack of water and allegedly the strong winds blowing down the Forty Foot and effectively syphoning the water out of High Lode!

Sunday witnessed the remaining boats moored at Benwick for a well received buffet in The Five Alls and then a very wild night as storm Katie battered her way across the UK. It wasn't until around 2PM on Monday that conditions improved enough for everyone to start making their way home after all agreeing that it had been a most eventful and highly enjoyable few days.

ends....

PICTURE CAPTIONS:



The joint Easter cruise gets under way on the Sixteen Foot.



So many boats in view on the Sixteen Foot, a sight rarely seen these days and worth taking a photo from the bridge!



Mark Robertson on 'NB Willow' flying the flag!



More like a mountaineering expedition than a cruise! Geoff Cowler hauls himself up the bank to the Golden Lion for a well earned pint.