



# AQUEDUCT NEWS



## BEYOND THE BREACH

The Middlewich Branch opens in time for Christmas

## BLASTING OUR WAY INTO THE NEW YEAR

A behind the scenes look

## THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE FOR YOU

Aqueduct joins forces with Percy Doughty

## AQUEDUCT 2019

Events to look forward to



## WELCOME

The Festive Season is upon us which means it's time to relax, put your log burners on and enjoy Christmas with family, friends and loved ones alike. In this special issue of the Aqueduct news we would like to take the opportunity to wish our customers a Happy Christmas and celebrate the re-opening of the Middlewich breach. We also are looking forward to the coming year.

### BEYOND THE BREACH

It seems Santa has read our letters and placed us on his nice list as our Christmas wish of a fully functioning canal has been realised. As of Friday 21st December we are very pleased to announce the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal is functional once more. According to a report on the C&RT website "More than 4,000 tonnes of stones have been needed to rebuild the canal embankment so that it can be refilled with water and can once again be enjoyed by boaters, walkers, runners and the local community.

The work cost nearly £3 million and was funded by the trust as well as players of People's Postcode Lottery. Generous donations from the local community also raised over £30,000 for the emergency appeal.

Contractors, Kier and CPC Civils, on behalf of the Trust, have rebuilt the 12m high embankment prior to constructing new concrete canal walls, a PVC lining membrane and concrete protection slab as well as reinstating the towpath in preparation for the re-opening."

We are sure that we can all agree this is the ideal present this Christmas and we wish you happy cruising in 2019.

### INLAND MARINA OF THE YEAR

It's the time of year again to vote for your Inland Marina of the Year. We are very proud to have won this prestigious award following your generous support for the last two years and hope we get your vote once more in 2019.

Please vote for us in the which marina of the year 2019 by visiting

[www.which-marina.com/marina-awards](http://www.which-marina.com/marina-awards) Closing date Monday 31st December

### CHRISTMAS HOURS

Christmas Eve 8.00am - Midday

Christmas Day Closed

Boxing Day Closed

Thursday 27th December 10.00am - 3.00pm

Friday 28th December 10.00am - 3.00pm

Saturday 29th December 10.00am - 3.00pm

Sunday 30th December 10.00am - 3.00pm

Monday 31st December 8.00am - Midday  
(Back open at 8.30pm for our [New Years Bash](#))

Tuesday 1st January Closed

Wednesday 2nd January 8.00am - 5.00pm



## PICTURESQUE AND PHOTOGENIC

The Middlewich Branch - the ultimate cruising route - is now fully open

**T**he breathtaking Middlewich Branch surrounded by farmland takes its place as one of the canal networks most picturesque stretches.

The space is well looked after by a number of volunteers who have spent more than 7,400 hours across 136 meet ups to maintain it and was awarded in 2017 for its beauty as part of Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag award.

Rising from Middlewich to Barbridge through four locks, the 10-mile route provides superb views across the Weaver Valley and offers fantastic connections between the Shropshire Union and Trent and Mersey canal.

Passing through woodland, the canal follows a delightful countryside route through Church Minshull, with much of the structure taking its original form.

Opening in 1846, the system provided an essential pass for locomotive haulage boats, using a narrow-gauge engine from Crewe railway works, until 1948 where it was passed into the jurisdiction of the British Waterways Board.

Entirely rural, this stretch more than matches any canal, linking the Four Counties cruising ring across the rolling Cheshire Plains, the Trent & Mersey Canal, the Staffordshire & Worcester Canal and the Shropshire Union Canal.

The Middlewich Branch is now fully open.

## THE BREAKFASTS ARE ON US

As we look ahead in 2019 we want to hear from our moorers, to ensure that we continue to offer the products, facilities and services that you require to get the most from your valuable leisure time.

**T**o facilitate this, we will be holding a series of informal breakfast gatherings throughout January, hosted by our Marina and Operations Director Philip Langley. These gatherings will be a chance to meet with Phil and fellow moorers to discuss boating on the inland waterways and what your needs/wants are in 2019 and beyond. All moorers are invited to these gatherings and will receive a complimentary breakfast and

refreshments on the day. Spaces will be limited so we kindly request that moorers book in advance and indicate which session they can attend; Monday 14th Jan at 9am till 11am, Tuesday 15th Jan at 9am till 11am and Wednesday 16th Jan at 9am till 11am. To book in email [info@aqueductmarina.co.uk](mailto:info@aqueductmarina.co.uk). Call 01270 525040 or visit reception and speak to a member of our team.

**P**aul, our master Grit Blaster, gets into the festive spirit recently acquiring the new role of Father Christmas in our blasting workshops.

With the exception of the white beard (although we have tried to convince him) we take a look at how he achieves this in the blasting workshops and the process which makes the magic happen:

### INITIAL STEAMCLEAN

The boat is first carefully moved onto our holding area using our hydraulic trailer and pressure washed removing all contaminants.

### FITTINGS

After drying all fittings are taken off including fairleads, mushroom vents and navigation lights providing a clear surface in which to blast, protecting the boat and providing you peace of mind that no damage will occur.

### MASKING

Next the boat is manually prepared with all vents, door openings and deck boards masked ensuring the boat is completely sealed and no dust can enter.

### BLASTING

The boat is then grit blasted, providing a perfect base for paint to be applied ensuring a quality finish that will last.

### TESTING

Once grit blasted the surface area is then tested utilising a specialist gauge providing a surface assessment of the blasted steel, ensuring the correct blast profile for paint application.

### PAINTING

Utilising an airless spray system the high build 2 pac epoxy primer is applied onto the grit blasted steel.



## BLASTING INTO THE NEW YEAR

A behind the scenes look at the workmanship behind the painting creations



*Before*



*After*



*Handpainted by Aqueduct Marina*



*Testing*



*Finished boat after painting*

**W**e are delighted to announce that we are now suppliers of Percy Doughty stoves.

Designed specifically for those wanting to heat smaller spaces, these 'real fire' compact heating systems can provide a constant heat source and reduce condensation.

Installed with double insulated flue systems we offer a range of stoves to suit your needs.

Commenting on the new partnership, Chandlery Supervisor, Dave McAlister said, "I'm delighted that the Aqueduct Chandlery has teamed up with Percy Doughty to bring their fantastic range of stoves and accessories to the inland waterways.

Their brand and quality of products provides people with the comfort and homely feel needed for boating. For boat owners and builders, we can now offer a new, competitive and exciting range of stoves for both modern and traditional looks".

Stoves can be ordered online or in store with next day collection available.

To view our range please visit [www.aqueductmarina.co.uk/shop](http://www.aqueductmarina.co.uk/shop)



## THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE FOR YOU

Aqueduct joins forces with Percy Doughty to make your fire not only crackle but ignite.

## AQUEDUCT 2019

Events to look forwards at

2019 is set to be a fantastic year of things to come with our exceptional line up of Aqueduct events including:

**JANUARY** 14th, 15th, 16th

Moorers Breakfast. A chance to meet with Phil and fellow moorers to discuss boating.

**FEBRUARY** 16th

Aqueduct Anniversary Celebrations. We celebrate ten years with you (invitation only).

**MAY** 24th - 27th

Crick Boat Show Waterways World Marquee and Show Village.

**JULY** 13th

Aqueduct Boating Event one day only event 10.00am till late. Entertainment from PurePresley Elvis Tribute.

To keep up-to-date with our latest social events please visit [www.aqueductmarina.co.uk/marina-events](http://www.aqueductmarina.co.uk/marina-events)

