

**Captain Slog**  
**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

Thanks to Frank and Denise for handing over in A1 condition.

Very comprehensive handover from Alan Richards and then off into an afternoon of clear bright skies and slowly decreasing temperatures.

Just made it through Calcutt Locks in daylight then down to Napton Junction with just enough light to moor.

Firework display in the direction of Napton Hill and very friendly, hungry swan. The threat of a frosty night with the stove at full strength. A very memorable and cosy first night.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

Absolutely no sign of frost so fully qualified to work for the Met Office.

A lazy day – cast off around 10:30, ambled up to Braunston, through two locks and then moored below The Admiral Nelson for the rest of the day.

Walked up to Braunston village, down the main street(a strange mixture of architectural styles) and then back along the canal. Fish and chips at The Admiral Nelson as rightly recommended by Nicholsons.

It is thirty years since I last passed through Braunston in the very hot summer of '76 – no great change except lots more boats and the buildings at Lock 1 much tidier.

More fireworks tonight and heavy mist on the surface of the canal under a bright moon.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

Sister and brother-in-law joined us but their late arrival meant they were immediately set to work – the aim to reach Norton Junction, tuen and be back at Lock 3 before dark.

Braunston tunnel uneventful with only one boat passing and thanfully not near the S bend.

The fog having cleared it turned into a perfect blue-skied autumn day.

We eventually returned to The Admiral Nelson at 17:00 and therefore worked the last two locks in the dark and heavy mist – a spectacular sight as the boat emerged from the bridge hole below the pub, front light burning into the fog. A cratch and centre light would have been even more photogenic.

## **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

A slow day under grey skies. Two locks,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile and then water refill at the Toll House, Braunston – then lunch – an exhausting lifestyle.

Meandered back to Napton Junction and then up to Bridge 113/ Lock 1 on the Oxford. Lock 1 closed and The Folly Inn struggling for trade – virtually dragged in for a drink at only 5pm.

Still no rain.

## **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

Return Napton to Stockton Top Lock (the locals must love that scrap yard on the side of Napton Hill. 180 degree turn without once touching the side – what a joy bow thrusters are.

Water filled at Calcutt. Gas bottle still not empty – bought more coal at Calcutt to compensate.

Thoroughly cleaned outside + brasses – squeaky clean IMHO. NO problems to report (except fridge catch which I assume is an ongoing irritation).

Cheque left for diesel and pump-out + cheque for Barbara Payne valet.

A very successful and enjoyable introduction to Beeston Castle. Hope you have a great week Geoff and Mary.

PS – we never got anywhere with the satellite but no great loss.

Everything switched off and locked.