

## Marchwood rally report – 4/5<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Light winds on Sat pm, at least in the upper reaches of Southampton Water, so I guess the 'iron sail' was used by many to get to the destination with boats starting to arrive at 1530 or so. Smooth berthing operations thanks to Mike Ellis's (Marchwood's OOD) organisation and berthing instructions meant that we were soon all nicely tucked into our respective berths for the night.

The pontoon get together around 'Persuasion' was great and it was interesting to watch the pontoon gradually submerging under the combined weight of so many people standing in one small area. I guesstimated it was well in excess of 2 metric tons.

All was going swimmingly until a last minute double booking hiccup in the Marchwood restaurant meant that we had been usurped by another party and our carefully planned eating arrangements lay in pieces. Something had to be done or it was midnight at the Lost and Found. A makeshift plan B was put into operation; and with a little self-help, we found ourselves sitting down to eat 'alfresco' albeit later than expected, but the evening was balmy after a hot sunny day and it was cooler and fresher outside.

Sunday: Wind from the SSE but this time a decent sailing breeze meant a beat down Southampton Water for those hardy souls determined to sail all the way back to their home berths, for others, on with the iron sail again and maybe a chance of a sail with a freer wind along the eastern Solent. Happy days!

Bernard Fuller