

BROADSHEET

Magazine of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Society



Whittington Horse Bridge

Photo by Ian Cowdale



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Free to Members*

Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Society 2018-19

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BROADSHEET

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Editorial

In complete contrast to last year, waterproofs and warm gear didn't make an appearance during our Spring Cruise to Wolverley, more so tee-shirts and shorts were the order of the day. Nor to our knowledge did the restriction at the Wolverley slippage cause major inconvenience to us, although the hire boats from Stourport and Worcester did 'back up' in the vicinity, trying to get though before closure or ready for opening the next morning. In practice this appeared to be more like 8.30 than 9.00am probably due to the generosity of those on the ground who recognised the bank holiday pressures.

Thanks must go to Derek and Mary Overton who again managed to find an excellent venue for the meal on the Sunday. The next event on the list is the Summer Gathering at the Bratch over the Spring Bank Holiday, celebrating our 60th year as a Society. Further details can be found in this issue. If you cannot attend the Summer Gathering by boat, please still come along and see us all and take advantage of the convenient setting the Bratch affords.

As for removal of the Wolverley restriction.....well I would be pleased to be proved wrong, but I suspect it is going to be quite a while yet. I have lost count of the number of years since the last minor slippage in the same vicinity that still hasn't been cleared. Even the green tarpaulin covering the unstable bank is now deteriorating. Again CRT (BW previously) will have to work with other authorities to achieve the desired outcome.

Not wishing our time away but included in this issue is the announcement of our Autumn Cruise destination is the Boundary Stone near Caunsall. Yes, it is 20 years since we decided to mark the Staffordshire-Worcestershire boundary as the Societies' way of celebrating the Millennium.....And yes, I still remember the many discussions, studying of maps and site visits by Members to actually decide where the canal crossed over the counties.

This leads on nicely to our Cruising Award scheme, details of which can be found in this issue and how to earn points to achieve the award. Monitoring membership renewals is normally high of you Committee's priority list this time of year. At the moment renewals are coming in steadily, at a level comparable with last year, which is encouraging but if you haven't renewed take this as a reminder. We are totally reliant on our membership for our existence, to organise meetings, entertainment, events and achieve projects.

You will find quite a bit of news in this issue, but notable is the news that opening restrictions have been placed on the Wolverhampton locks because of water shortages to the Wolverhampton level attributable to the failure of two of the three

Bradley pumps. Of course the Wolverhampton Level is a large part of the BCN and falling levels will soon cause problems throughout, particularly on the Wyrley and Essington which is shallow enough at the best of times. Fortunately there is an alternative to the Staffs and Worcs via the Stourbridge canal which is fed from the New Main Line level.

As the year moves on, our AGM is becoming closer and the official notice appears in this issue. As I wrote this time last year, we would openly welcome new members on to the Committee. Make the most of the opportunity; it is another year before the next one.

Thank you

Ian Cowdale

New Member

I would like to welcome a new member to the Society.

GLYN DOBBS (son of Maxwell & Rhian) of CRADLEY HEATH.

Thank you,

Colin Beard. Membership Secretary

Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Society 2019 AGM Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Society will be held on Monday 10 June 2019 at 7.45pm at Bradmore Community Centre, Wolverhampton.

Members wishing to put resolutions to the meeting must send them to the Secretary, Mrs. Ann Pollard, in writing 14 days before the AGM. Such resolutions should be supported by the signature of the proposer and seconder, both who must be members of the Society.

Members are also invited to nominate Officers and Committee Members to attend subsequent Society Committee meetings. They must be proposed and seconded. The person so nominated must state in writing their willingness to stand for that post, to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

The full meeting Agenda will be published in the June 2019 edition of Broad-sheet together with the Minutes of the 2018 AGM. Please be present at the meeting if you possibly can. If not please ask that your apologies are recorded, thus showing your continued interest in the affairs of the Society.

Thank you

Ann Pollard

In April your Committee Discussed:

Secretary

- Letter to CRT , re communications, copy to Broadsheet
- Follow up on progress re: purchase of a new speaker system for Bradmore.

Meetings

- No further progress on upcoming meetings. If no-one is responding for May meeting, Chris volunteered to cover with a presentation on Railways.
- AGM second half presentation CD 'All our Yesterdays'

Treasurer

- End of year documentation ready for audit (Tina Westwood). Overall a small deficit 2019 - £6934, 2018 - £6884
- April Bradmore meeting: - Raffle £24, Refreshments £14. CD commented that the raffle and particularly refreshments were again down in proportion to the number of attendees present.
- Expenses:
 - o £192 to local (Stewponey) CRT for paint from recent Ralf Wood legacy as planned
 - o Broadsheet - 2 months £464.
 - o Discussed - encouraging more to take up electronic Broadsheet to save on postage costs.
- Expenses Since 1st April 2019
 - o Summer Gathering plaques 1x large plaque plus entry plaques £70.00
 - o Broadsheet stamps 10x months prior to increase in postage - £30 saving
- Letter written to Ralf Wood's daughter re legacy spend on Severn Valley viaduct repair fund.

Membership

2019 Renewals on par with this time last year.

Advertising

CC to commence renewing Broadsheet advertising for forthcoming 12 months. Invoices ready to be distributed.

Cruising Organiser

- Spring Cruise – Wolverley, with a meal at the Lock Inn. Mary and Derek have organised it and will accept phone bookings for the meal. 18 have so far confirmed for the meal.
 - o Summer Gathering (60th Anniversary year). Bratch as the Venue, 25-26 May.
 - o Plaques for wall & individuals organised by CC

- Unveil plaque on Saturday at 3.00pm followed by refreshments at approx 3.30pm
- Autumn Cruise – to Boundary stone for its 20th year.
 - Rob Cox has already refurbished it. Local CRT volunteer team will look at re-setting the brick base and possibly replace missing bench.
 - Date – first Saturday in October.

Conservator

- 55a Platts Crescent Wordsley – application for extension but cannot be seen from the Stourbridge Arm
- Kinner – Speculative application to improve access down Stourmill Lane (towards Hyde Lock between Towpath and River) CRT should pick up on this
- Wyre Forest - outbuilding by Bird in hand Pub, permission requested to dismantle and improve (residential?) Should not affect the canal.
- Wyre Forest – Holly Lane, same as above

Broadsheet

- AGM correct the date in Broadsheet to 10/6 not 11/6
- Spring Cruise report
- Railway Society Poster at the Bonded Warehouse
- New members from CB
- Summer Gathering Information
- Autumn Cruise notice

Society Autumn Cruise 2019

This year's Autumn Cruise meets at the Boundary Stone near Caunsall on Saturday 5th October. Believe it or not it is 20 years since we installed the marker on the Staffs - Worcs boundary and we thought it appropriate to acknowledge it its 20th year.

If any of you have recently looked at it, you will have seen that Rob Cox has refreshed the plaque and structure and plans are in place for CRT to repair the base and possible replace the missing bench.

More details will be forthcoming.



The Society's 60th Anniversary Summer Gathering at The Bratch

The Bratch is the venue for our Summer Gathering on
Saturday & Sunday 25th & 26th May 2019



As the Society's 50th anniversary Summer Gathering was held at the Bratch, we thought it would be appropriate to return for our 60th. It will be held over the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend, May 25th – 26th 2019.

We are planning to unveil a plaque by the Toll- house on Saturday afternoon at 3.00pm followed by refreshments immediately afterwards. Of course you can always bring along something that would contribute to the refreshments.

This event is open to both boaters & visitors by car, or on foot. Come and enjoy good company for a pleasant afternoon. If you are thinking of coming could you please ring Mary or Derek and let us know, as it will help us with our catering arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you.

Boater's entry £10.00 which includes a commemorative plaque and free refreshments.

Mary & Derek Overton

Tel: 01746 718571

2019 Society Cruising Award

Please find below the award rules for the cruising year 2019. If you wish to enter your log for the Society award it must be presented to Ann Pollard, our Cruising Awards Officer, not later than 31st January 2020. There is a fee of £4 which must be paid to Ann Pollard with the submission and, if you want your logbook returned by post, then please submit a suitable wrapping complete with postage, with the logbook.

AWARD QUALIFICATIONS

In the calendar year commencing 1st January 2019, to have completed any three of the qualifying gatherings and/or cruises, one of which must be a Society event (A - C) and to have earned a minimum of 800 points.

- The member claiming the award must be aboard for all the qualifying points.
- Minimum standard lock points required = 300

QUALIFYING GATHERINGS

- A. To have officially entered the Society's Summer Gathering and stayed for a minimum of 24 hours.
- B. To have attended the Society's Spring Gathering.
- C. To have attended the Society's Autumn Gathering

QUALIFYING CRUISES

- To have navigated the entire Stourbridge Canal, in either direction. Note: This includes the Stourbridge Arm, the navigable section of the Fens Branch to Brockmoor Junction and the Stourbridge Extension Canal.
- To have navigated a minimum of 30 different miles of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal.

STANDARD POINTS

On specified BCN waters listed below:-

Wyrley & Essington (Horsley Fields to Ogley)

Walsall (Birchalls to Pudding Green)

Daw End / Rushall (Catshill to Rushall)

Anglesey (Chasewater to Ogley)

Tame Valley (Tame Valley to Salford)

Wednesbury Oak Loop (Workshops to Deepfields)

Digbeth Branch (Aston to Bordsley)

- Two points for every mile travelled.
- Two points for every lock passed through.

On all other waterways:

- One point for every mile travelled.
- One points for every lock passed through.

BONUS POINTS

(NB. Bonus points are not doubled)

- All standard points earned in the periods 1st January to 31st March and 1st October to 31st December are doubled.
- 15 bonus points to Titford Pools.
- 10 bonus points for each passage of the 'Wolverhampton 21' flight of locks.
- 15 bonus points for navigation on the River Weaver.
- 10 bonus points for navigating to the end of any dead end canal. Note: This bonus can be applied once only for each dead end

PROOF

All logs must contain proof of reaching the recorded destinations. Examples would be dated signatures, photographs, identifiable receipts of purchases, confirmation by another member etc.

Thank you

Ann Pollard

Spring Cruise at Wolverley

A good meal was enjoyed by 18 members at the "Lock Inn"
Boats attending were

Canton.	Compromise.
Olga May.	Sunbeam2
.Jemima.	Putnal Field.

Warm sunny weather added top the success of our event for the weekend

Mary & Derek Overton



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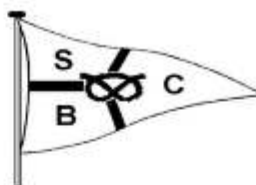
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Notices

Canal & River Trust Navigation Restrictions

Lock flights to be closed overnight - Wolverhampton, Rushall, Walsall, Factory, Brades, Spon Lane & Smethwick

18th April 2019 at 16:00 until further notice

Type: Navigation Restriction

Description: We are currently experiencing problems with our sources of water supply into the Wolverhampton Level. Currently only one of the 3 pumps at Bradley groundwater pumping station is available to feed the Wolverhampton Level which is 47 miles in length. Our engineers and operational staff are working on a solution to replace one of the pumps as soon as we can. We are also working closely with Staffordshire County Council as owners of Chasewater Reservoir and Natural England to secure a feed into the canal.

In the meantime the level in the pound has been slowly falling but is still navigable. As a precaution we will be restricting navigation to daytime hours only by locking up all the lock flights overnight that lead off the level starting Thursday the 18th of April. Opening hours will be 8.30am to last boat 4.00pm each day. We hope that closing overnight will give the operational pump at Bradley more time to recover the pound overnight. In addition, locking up overnight is a precautionary measure to prevent inappropriate use of lock paddles.

Section of Canal above Wolverley Locks

1st March 2019 at 14:00 until further notice

Type: Navigation Restriction

Reason: Vegetation (Embankment Slippage)

Notice updates: 03/04/2019

For the most part the cutting has remained stable so we are increasing the opening hours to run from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm each day. Boats will pass through unsupervised, but staff will periodically check the cutting to ensure it remains stable and safe to navigate. Could we ask boats to kindly slow right down to tickover speed through the slipped section.

Water Supply on the Wolverhampton Level

May 2nd 2019

As I am sure most of you have heard there are problems with the Bradley Pumps and Chasewater is not in use so the locks off the Wolverhampton Level are closed from 4pm until 8.30am each night. I have received a few concerns about the water level on the Wyrley & Essington & Old Main Line for the events taking place this month.

The following is a reply from Ian Derby to help you understand the situation. I am sure they will be doing their best!

Regards

Brenda Ward

BCNS

"We're working away in the background to make sure both the 17th and the challenge events at the end of the month take place without any major problems.

We are still working with Staffs Council and Natural England regarding Chase-water Reservoir and we are still working towards a temporary pump solution at Bradley. Although both solutions are still work in progress we have a backup plan that involves putting in two back pumps at Brasshouse (Smethwick area) and pumping off the Birmingham level, which in turn involves increasing the feed from Rotten Park Reservoir. Hitting Rotten Park this hard this early in the season is not an ideal, but hopefully we can make amends later on by doing things the other way around.

The bottom line - I'm still telling people not to panic at this point and if for whatever reason something happens beyond our control we will give as much notice as we can. We are monitoring things very closely.

Regards

Ian Darby

Customer Operations Manager

West Midlands Waterway

Tel – 07710 175 198

mailto:ian.darby@canalrivertrust.org.uk

250th Anniversary Birmingham Canal Celebration

November 2nd & 3rd 2019

November 2019 will see the 250th anniversary of the canal reaching Birmingham. This was an important event in the making of the city as an industrial centre.

To commemorate this landmark event the BCN Society is organising a cruise into Birmingham on Saturday 2nd November starting from Windmill End at 8am with the intention of arriving in the centre of Birmingham at midday.

Boats can join in at intermediate points or if they are coming from other directions such as the Birmingham and Fazeley or Worcester and Birmingham Canal pass through the city centre then wait on the Wolverhampton side of St Vincent Street bridge for the main convoy of boats.

After the midday celebration at Old Turn boats can parade around to Cambrian Wharf or through Gas St Basin winding by the Mailbox.

C&RT have promised to reserve moorings along the Oozells Street loop and on the main line. However it would help if boats breast up to allow everyone to moor together.

In the evening entertainment has been organised in the Crescent Theatre, tickets for this are needed and the boat entry will include this providing access to the studio theatre and bar. As numbers are limited to the capacity of the theatre early entry is recommended.

On the Sunday we will disperse with boats cruising along the Icknield Port and Winson Green loops, the original line of the canal.

- Contact: Martin O'Keeffe
- Email: chairman@bcnsociety.com

Brenda Ward
The BCN Society,

Crick Boat Show Extends to Four Days

Boating Business - 30 Apr 2019

A new trade and preview day has been introduced to Crick Boat **To celebrate the 20th Crick Boat Show, organisers have introduced a new trade and preview day to precede the usual three-day event.**

The trade day – open to 1000 visitors - will take place on Friday May 24 with tickets only available by booking in advance. Preview day ticket holders will have access to a booking system for viewing boats and also access to the VIP marquee and will be given a 20th show tote gift bag.

All boats, all quayside and boating-related companies in the show village and most of the Waterways World Boating Marquee will be open on the extra day. The food and craft marquee and the remainder of the Waterways World Boating Marquee will open from Saturday May 25.

For pre-registered trade visitors, the show will be open from 10am – 6pm. The trade day is being held in association with LeeSan that has more than 25 years' experience in the sanitation business.

The show has grown significantly over the last 20 years with 2018 being the busiest yet with more than 27,000 visitors. It takes place at Crick Marina, Northamptonshire, from May 24 to May 27.

Another Successful Canal Restoration Conference

IWA News - 05 April 2019

Saturday, 30 March, saw over 40 different restoration societies and 116 individuals come together in Wolverhampton for the seventh annual Canal Restoration Conference jointly hosted by IWA and Canal & River Trust.

This year's conference was entitled '*Relining Your Pockets*' and focused primarily on how to source and secure funding for a restoration project. One of the keynote speakers was Liz Shaw from the National Lottery Heritage Fund who gave a very interesting presentation on new funding frameworks and how restoration societies could bid for grants of between £3,000 and £5 million.

At the event, Waterway Recovery Group chairman, Mike Palmer, launched the IWA's latest report, which aims to provide restoration societies with case studies that show the wide-reaching benefits that a canal restoration can bring to a local area. The *Waterways in Progress* report highlights the fact that a canal restoration doesn't need to be completed in order to have a positive impact both economically and socially, it starts to give back to the community right from day one. Attendees at the conference were among the

first to see the *Waterways in Progress* video, which is introduced by IWA Vice President, David Suchet. The video can be used by all restoration societies to support the *Waterways in Progress* report and standalone case studies.

Steve Higham, Head of Service, Partner & Outcomes Development at the Canal & River Trust spoke about the positive mental health and wellbeing benefits of volunteering and being involved in canal restoration. The Trust has done a great deal of research into the value of being close to waterways as well as the motivation behind volunteering. Steve played a moving video about a young man called Bernard whose life has been turned around thanks to his volunteering role with the Trust.

In addition to the keynote speakers, there were six breakout sessions which looked at many of the different areas around securing funding and running a successful restoration project. Topics included the importance of community engagement including how to use the media to raise awareness of your projects; how to build relationships with funders; what funders are looking for in a grant application; how to add value to your grant by running archive projects; and how to set up your organisation correctly in order to maximise grant potential. Presenters had a wealth of experience which was readily shared and active discussion took place between attendees.

The day ended with a Funding Q&A session, where restoration societies were able to receive specific advice from the funding experts for their individual projects. Feedback has been extremely positive and both IWA and Canal & River Trust are looking forward to next year.

If you were unable to attend the conference but would like to receive a copy of the presentations, please contact Jenny Morris, IWA Restoration Hub Coordinator: jenny.morris@waterways.org.uk.

IWA Launches *Waterways in Progress* report

IWA News - 10 April 2019

Celebrating the small milestones of a much larger restoration project is the message behind a new report launched by IWA's Restoration Hub. This *Waterways in Progress* report is the brainchild of Waterway Recovery Group Chairman, Mike Palmer and comprises 12 strong case studies, which show the benefits that restorations can bring to the local community throughout the life of a project, even when it is many years from completion.

The aim of the *Waterways in Progress* report is to give restoration groups the tools and information they need to confidently approach their local authority

and other funders in order to get their proposed project off the ground. It is supported by a video which is fronted by IWA Vice President, David Suchet.

Set out in four broad categories, the case studies cover many of the different benefits that come from having an active restoration in your area. These headings are Channelling Regeneration, where the case studies chosen look at the impact a restoration can have on the local economy; Promoting Personal Development & Wellbeing, celebrating the new skills and job opportunities offered by a restoration as well as the health benefits of using a restored towpath; Creating Community Spaces shows how a canal restoration can bring a local community together and build a sense of local pride; Enhancing Heritage & Habitats looks at the environmental benefits of a restoration project.

As Mike Palmer says, *“Previously, we have looked at the benefits gained once a waterway is fully restored, but the advantages arrive much sooner than that and can be seen almost from day one. One mile of restored towpath can encourage people to get out and about; a new canalside café can become a meeting place for local people and an as-yet unconnected stretch of water can become a bustling new business and residential development with a significant boost to the local economy.”*

“Waterways in Progress is a living document. We want restoration groups to tell us their stories so we can add to the number of case studies we have available. The more evidence that we have that proves the overwhelming benefits of a canal restoration, the better. These case studies can then be used to support new projects and persuade funders that these are the schemes to back.”

For more information, to watch the video or to read the report in full, please visit: www.waterways.org.uk/waterwaysinprogress.

Relief as sinking boat in Walsall Town Wharf found empty

Express and Star - Apr 23, 2019

Police officers dived into Walsall Town Wharf after reports a person was trapped on a sinking boat. Bottom of For But thankfully there was no one on board and the team managed to keep the small vessel afloat. The alarm was raised after people spotted the boat, moored up near to the New Art Gallery, sinking into the canal basin.

Walsall operations support unit posted on Twitter: “We were deployed to concerns that a person was potentially trapped on a boat as it sank in Walsall. “Putting water search skills and method of entry into practice revealed this was not the case.” The specialist search team, which operates in water as well as confined spaces, teamed up with Walsall Police.

A number of cars have ended up in the water at the same spot in the past. A six-month-old BMW in Walsall recently went into the water after the driver mistook a blanket of algae for grass.

£1 Narrowboat Transformed into Primary School Classroom

The Chronicle - April 12, 2019

Students at Millfield Primary School in Catshill Road, Brownhills, can board the boat for lessons in art, science, history and business. The narrowboat is moored behind the school on a stretch of canal.



It was found after staff at the school got in touch with Lichfield and Hatherton Canal Trust, which told them about a boat which required renovation in Birmingham. It was being kept at the the Aston Transport Museum.

The narrowboat was sold to the school for £1 – including transport to Norton Canes Boatyard, where renovations took place.

Shire Oak School and Awards for All gave funding to help renovate the boat, which was brought up to scratch over five years and is moored outside the school on a pontoon, towed there by Laurence Hogg from the Trust.

The school's headteacher Shaun Brazier said: "We've been using it probably now for a couple of years and work on it has been gradual – so over the last year we've made it into a classroom. I think the children love going on the boat because it's something different. It's quite a stimulus to take the kids there where there's swans and other wildlife. It was just in conversation with people with the canal trust who mentioned it.

Stourbridge Railway Society

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SAT/SUN. 18th/19th MAY 2019

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The Bonded Warehouse is a Grade II Listed Building, therefore wheelchair access is restricted to the Basement exhibition area only.

The Society reserves the right to refuse admission.

RCR Puts Spotlight of Bilge Pumps

Boating Business - 26 Apr 2019

Following a spate of call-outs where River Canal Rescue has encountered inadequate or incorrectly positioned bilge pumps, the assistance firm is reminding boaters that two are better than one to keep a vessel safe.

RCR is concerned that, as the installation of bilge pumps is not a mandatory legislative requirement, they are not given the priority they deserve.

"A maintenance pump manages low levels of water ingress consistently," explained operations director, Jay Forman. "It should be positioned where water ingress is common, such as near the stern gland or directly under deck boards."

"In contrast, an emergency pump acts as an early-warning system, reducing the impact of a potentially disastrous event. It should be able to pump considerably more water than its maintenance counterpart and as it plays an early warning role and responds without prompting, must be automatic."

The pump should be positioned in an area most at risk of serious ingress and two to three inches higher than the maintenance pump or where water would not be expected to reach, added Jay.

By making the outlet point as visible as possible, water pumped overboard will catch the eye and alert users if there is an issue.

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Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please return to
Mr Colin Beard, Membership Secretary
14 White Harte Park
Kinver
Staffs
DY7 6HN



YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION (1st April-31st March)

Please tick appropriate option

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single Membership | £13.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Combined (eg husband & Wife) Membership | £13.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Junior (up to 18 years of age) and those in full time education | £1.00 |

- New members joining 1st April to 31st August pay the full rate
- New members joining between 1st September & 31st January pay half the above fees.
- New members joining between 1st February & 31st March pay the full rate for up to 14 months membership.

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☐ I am a UK tax payer. I would like the Society to treat all membership subscriptions and donations I make as Gift Aid Donations until I notify you otherwise.

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| Boat Name | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Work | |

Registered Charity No 243702

Diary Dates Bradmore Meetings

A series of talks and presentations, usually waterways orientated but with occasional eclectic contributions on a variety of other subjects - open to the public free of charge.

Meetings held at the Bradmore Community Centre, Birches Barn Road, Wolverhampton starting at 7:45pm,

Monday 13th May

TBC

Monday 10th June

Annual General Meeting

followed by Chris Dyche "All Our Yesterdays"

Events

Sat 25th & Sun 26th May

Summer Gathering at Bratch

Saturday October 5th

Autumn Cruise to the Boundary Stone

Electronic Broadsheet

We are now making all future copies of Broadsheet and loose inserts available electronically. This would be by "opting-in" for those members who choose to receive Broadsheet electronically.

There is no intention of discontinuing the sending out of "hard copies" of Broadsheet to other members.

Please contact Steve Gray with your name and e-mail address if you wish to "opt-in" to receive Broadsheet electronically in future.

Email wharfinger@blueyonder.co.uk

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