# BROADSHEET

Magazine of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Society



St Marys and All Saints' Church, Kidderminster

Photo by Ian Cowdale



Volume 61 Number 674 February 2020

Price £1
Free to Members

# **Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Society 2019-20**

**President:**: **Steven Gray** (wharfinger@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Vice Presidents:** Ann Pollard, Jean Dobbs, Peter Freakley, Dere Overton, Geoffrey Whittaker JP, Robert Cox, Liz Osborn, Carol Aldridge and C Dyche.

#### Secretary

Ann Pollard 01384 376585 8 Firmstone Street, Wollaston, Stourbridge DY8 4NT sunbeam2@btinternet.com

#### **Membership Secretary**

Colin Beard 01384 918774 14 White Harte Park Kinver,Staffs, DY7 6HN email kinverpooky@gmail.com

#### **Broadsheet Editor**

lan Cowdale 01902 820197 31 Church Hill, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 5PD lan\_cowdale@hotmail.co.uk

Work Parties
Vacant
Society Sales
Vacant

#### **Treasurer**

Christopher Dyche 01384 375582 65f Platts Crescent, Amblecote, Stourbridge. DY8 4YY christopherdyche@hotmail.com

#### Conservator

Fred Cooke.
Orchard House.
Old Lane, Wightwick,
Wolverhampton. WV6 8DQ
Tele 01902 761441. Mob 07711 392442
freddiecooke@aooglemail.com

Colin Cartwright 34 Swinford Way Swindon Dudley DY3 4NE

Cruising Officer Vacant

## **Non-Committee Posts**

#### Raffles

Peter & Ann Cuthbert 01902 753733 55 Green Lane, Aldersley, Wolverhampton WV6 9HX

> Length Scheme Derek Overton 01746 718571

**Website**Bari Pollard
www.pchelperathome.co.uk

Cruising Awards
Ann Pollard 01384 376585
sunbeam2@btinternet.com

**Education & Resources** Carol Aldridge

# **Committee Meetings**

Committee meetings held at the Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge starting at 7:30, usually second Wednesday of the month—open to committee members only.

# **BROADSHEET**

Editor: Ian Cowdale 01902 820197 Ian\_cowdale@hotmail.co.uk

**DTP:** Steven Gray 01384 827745 wharfinger@blueyonder.co.uk

Advertising: Colin Cartwright 01384 292881

**Printing: Rotary Printers Ltd**, Stourport. On Severn. 01299 823839 studio@rotaryprinters.co.uk **Copy deadline:** 20th of the month preceding issue

The contents of this magazine are printed as a matter of information for members of the SWCS but may not necessarily be the official policy, or opinions of the Committee. No item may be used without the prior consent of the editor, except for comment by other Society magazines

# **C**ONTENTS

Page		
5	Editorial.	
6	Spring Cruise to Coven	
7	Civil Works at Falling Sands Viaduct Bomb disposal teams tackle 'grenade' found in canal	
8	Montgomery Politicians support growth deal to restore canal	
9	Play your part in the second Golden Age of Canals	
11	Engineering company delivers boost for canal trust	
14	New Birmingham Canal housing development plan approved	
15	Bringing to life women's contribution to canal history	
16	Police officer who rescued woman from canal given two awards Repairs at Whittington Lock	
17	River Canal Rescue to Cease Diesel Engine Courses Charities secure exemption from new layer of Anti-Money- Laundering regulation	
18	Repairs at Rocky and Greensforge Locks	
19	Repairs at Wolverley Court Locks	
20	Repairs to Historic Hurleston Locks	
21	'Trust Aware' stickers for those who need for support	

# **Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Society**

Registered Charity number 243702

www.swcanalsociety.co.uk





BOAT CANOPIES, BOAT, CAR & CARAVAN TRIMMING HOUSEHOLD UPHOLSTERY - MOTOR CYCLE SEATS

Ashwood Marina, Greensforge, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 0AQ Telephone: 01384 279527



Licensing through Ruth will help the Stourbridge Navigation Trust and also further the aims of the Society Tele 01384 375582

# ALL BOATS NEED A LICENCE

Renew yours with:

Ruth Dyche

65F Platts Crescent

**Amblecote** 

Stourbridge

West Midlands

DY8 4YY

# WHY NOT GIVE HER A CALL!

# Ashwood Marina



#### The Team At Ashwood Marina Offers a Comprehensive Package of Facilities and Services to **Complement Our Beautiful Moorings:**

#### Want to Sell Your Boat?

Due to a successful sales period, we are now looking to replenish our stock of Narrowboats and Cruisers. We offer a caring service and competitive brokerage fees fuse; to the largest such as hull refurbishment,

#### New Boat Sales

We work with you to build the boat of your dreams for a highly affordable price. Sailaways also available www.perrydalenarrowboats.co.uk

#### **Used Boat Sales:**

Wide range of narrowboats and cruisers covering all requirements and budgets. For new and used details go to www.ashwoodcanalboatsales.co.uk

Visit www.ashwoodmarina.co.uk for more info or call 01384 295535

#### Service & Repairs:

Taking on the smallest of jobs, such as changing a stretching, engine overhauls, painting and sign writing etc.

#### Re-Fits and Re-Sprays

Ranging from changing a door, to fitting a bathroom, to full fit out and re-spray.

#### Craning & Docking:

A monthly service, giving ample time for engine and blacking works to be completed.

Mooring & docking facilities available for DIY blacking and fit out work.

Call Steve on 07767 698495

Ashwood Marina is located on the Staffs & Worcester Canal between Rocky and Greensforge Locks



Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford. DY6 0AQ. Tel: 01384 295535





# www.rotaryprinters.co.uk

MITTON STREET STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN DY13 9AA

01299 823839

COPYWRITING · BROCHURES · BANNERS · BRANDING · ADVERTS · LEAFLETS · PADS BUSINESS CARDS · LETTERHEADS · FOLDERS · BUSINESS STARTER PACKS · EMAIL FOOTERS NEWSLETTERS · INVITATIONS · WEBSITES · WEDDING STATIONERY · POSTERS · LOGOS



Follow us on:



Home Cooked, Freshly Prepared Bar Meals With Real Chips.



**THE CROSS KEYS** - Filance Lane, Penkridge ST19 5HJ Tele: 01785-712826 + 07810080668

# **Martin Brookes**

## FOR ALL YOUR MARINE WORK

On the Stourbridge Canal, between Stourton and Wordsley Junctions

Coach Painting - Boat Building - Fitting Out - Compliance Work New Installation - Engine Servicing - Repairs - Welding Hull Blacking - Breakdown Call Out Service

Diesel Tank cleaning and fuel filtering with minimum need for drilling or cutting or emptying tank Mobile or at Wharf Service

**Bookings for Wharf Cranage NOW available** 

All Work Personally Undertaken
Waterways Craft Guild Accredited
Free no obligation quotation
07802 444370 or mb.tramp@btinternet.com

## **Editorial**

As you may have gathered from this month's cover picture and few more you will find inside, I have recently been for a walk down the Staffs and Worcs, ostensibly to have a look at the works centred mainly on lock gate replacement and repair. Progress appears to be good at the moment, no doubt helped by the reasonable weather we have had since Christmas although it is inevitable that the pressure will be on to achieve all the planned works before the cruising season commences.

Not many gates were in place last week but the old ones have been removed and various repairs were being effected to the lock chamber, At Wolverley Court Lock I recalled that the lock gates are unique in that they carry the original style Staffs and Worcs top gate paddle gear, which on other locks has been replaced by the BCN pattern. It will be good to see the gear mounted on a new gate, so retaining the Canal's unique heritage.

Whilst walking down the canal I also couldn't help but notice how much work has gone into the cutting back of the overhanging offside and towpath side growth on this stretch which should make a major visual and navigation difference to the canal once everything is back in leaf.

A date for you diary is Easter Sunday, 12th April 2020 and the day of our Spring Cruise meal, which this year is held the Anchor Inn at Coven. At least I have always though it was Coven, though looking up the address for publishing in Broadsheet, it says Brewood Road, Cross Green, Brewood..... You learn something every day!

As I mentioned above, the weather has been quite mild this year, (so far) which, looking back at photographs I took 10 years ago, compares very differently to the frozen Staffs and Worcs landscape and canal of winter 2010. As a matter of additional interest, winter 2010 was the time we heard that Chasewater reservoir had to be drained to undertake essential dam safety works. By March 2010, the water was at a sufficiently low level that the fish could be removed. The reservoir reached its full capacity of nearly five billion litres in April 2013.

I have mentioned before that the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals restoration project which is long established, and has already achieved a massive amount but every year appears to be faced with yet another new challenge, many of which would not have been envisaged when the project began. So it is good to hear that a local company recently generously donated building material for the work being carried out by the Restoration Trust at its Fosseway Heath site. This arrived at an important time as a new railway bridge was installed over Christmas to allow access for the new Lichfield Southern Bypass and clears the way for the canal enabling works to progress. More details on this project can be found inside. As an update, The **David Suchet Tunnel Vision Appeal** for the original £1,000,000 has nearly reached £500,000 with continuing promotion to support further funding for what is expected to be a higher cost.

Ian Cowdale

# **Spring Cruise Notice Easter Weekend**

# Meal at the Anchor at Coven Easter Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

This year's Spring Cruise has been arranged for us to meet at Coven. An evening meal has been booked at the adjacent Anchor Pub for 5.00p.m and is open to any Society member whether attending by boat or car etc.

If you would like to attend the meal would you please ring Mary or Derek Overton on 01746 718 571.

Details of the Menu & cost will be printed in the March copy of Broadsheet.



THE ANCHOR INN

Address - Brewood Road, Cross Green, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV10 7PW

The original **Anchor Inn** dates back to the late 1700's. The first known landlord was a John Durham recorded as such in 1834.

With its rustic beams, exposed wooden floorboards and soft lighting, The Anchor looks every bit the 19th century country inn.... from the inside at least. So it is another surprise to find that the building actually dates from the 1960s, after the original one was destroyed by fire.

Parking is easy enough, with a large level car park and wheelchair access



# Civil Works Commence at Falling Sands Viaduct

Work is now underway in earnest to restore the Falling Sands Viaduct, which crosses the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal below Kidderminster.

Over the years, this 142 year old structure has suffered serious water ingress, which has caused serious cracking and erosion. But now, thanks to around £400,000 of donations from individuals and organisations, a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £925,000 has been unlocked, which has enabled immediate repairs and restoration work to be undertaken.

On the last two days of 2019, Severn Valley Railway paid staff and volunteers started lifting the track off the viaduct in order to facilitate an immediate start by the appointed contractors, Walsh Construction. Between now and the end of March, they will repair the drainage and install new membrane before returning the Ballast and Track in time for resumption of train services at Easter. While this work is going on, SVR staff and volunteers plan to lay almost one mile of new track in the adjacent area.

Phase 2 of the project will begin this summer, once the structure has fully dried out. This will involve using ropes to access the brickwork, for vegetation removal, repointing, and repairs. None of this will affect the canal or tow path.

In order to mark the full restoration of the viaduct, the Severn Valley Railway is planning to hold a public event on site in May 2021, centred on the Canal around the Viaduct. Our Society has been invited to be a part of this event; so this location may well be the venue for our 2021 Spring Gathering, possibly augmented by wider publicity in the Waterways media.

Chris Dyche

# Bomb disposal teams tackle 'grenade' found in canal

Express and Star - 27 Dec 2019

A device believed to be a grenade was found in a canal forcing police to close off a road.

North Western Road, with its entrance opposite Smethwick Rolfe Street Railway station.

The object was discovered in a stretch of canal near to North Western Road, in Smethwick, which is close to Rolfe Street railway station, at 1.30pm today.

The army's bomb disposal unit was called to de-activate the device. Bus services were disrupted as North Western Road was closed off by police.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "North Western Road in Smethwick has been closed after a suspected grenade was discovered in a nearby canal just before 1.30pm this afternoon. "The bomb disposal unit have assessed the device and it will now be safely de-activated."



# Montgomeryshire Politicians Support growth deal bid to Restore Canal

Shropshire Star - 31 Jan 2020

The local Welsh Assembly Member (AM) and MP for Montgomeryshire have once again supported a bid by the Montgomery Canal Partnership for the canal restoration to be included in the projects supported by the Mid Wales Growth Deal. The UK Government has pledged an initial £55 million for the Growth Deal and it is hoped the Welsh Government will match that amount. The pair discussed the canal restoration at a positive meeting in Welshpool with Montgomery Canal Partnership chair John Dodwell and Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust chair Michael Limbrey.

Mr George pledged to arrange an event and debate at the Senedd to make fellow AMs aware of the importance of the canal restoration to tourism and the economy of Montgomeryshire. He said: "Tourism is such an important part of the Mid Wales economy and it's crucial to realise the ambition of restoring the Montgomery Canal. I shall continue to champion the restoration."

Mr Williams also vowed to arrange a meeting with Welsh Secretary Simon Hart and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales David Davies in London and to sponsor a Westminster debate about the canal restoration. "I was delighted to mention the Montgomery Canal in my maiden speech in the House as a top priority for me as MP," he said. "I am coming late to the battle, as so much hard work has been done, but I am determined to ensure that the canal reaches Newtown."

It is estimated that restoring the canal to Newtown would generate an annual visitor spend of £5 million, create 128 full-time jobs and be a catalyst for the regeneration of the Upper Severn Valley corridor. The estimated cost of the remaining restoration work in Shropshire is £15m using contractors or £5m using volunteers.

In Wales, the restoration to Welshpool would cost £24m with contractors or between £8-10m with volunteers. More than half of canal's 35 miles have been restored and this year marks the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Prince of Wales section outside Welshpool.

Mr Dodwell said it was hoped to complete the restoration to the town within 10 years before moving on the fourth phase from Garthmyl to Newtown. He added: "The series of positive meetings we have held with elected representatives and partner organisations this week has given fresh impetus to the campaign to restore the Montgomery Canal."

# Play your part in the second Golden Age of canals

Canal and River Trust News article created on 17 January 2020

Community spirit is alive and well on the nation's canals with record numbers of people volunteering.



Volunteers picking plastics and litter from the canal bed

To meet the growing demand from people to spend time helping to care for our waterways across England and Wales, we are expanding the number and range of volunteering roles that we offer: everything from the iconic lock keeper to teaching children about water safety; from inspiring youngsters to take up fishing to supporting our wide range of professional teams.

Richard Parry, chief executive at Canal & River Trust, said: "As we enter a new year, and a new decade, we are delighted that so many people want to support the Canal & River Trust and make a difference to their local community.

## Helping local communities

"On the waterways, community spirit is very much alive and well, with our canals and river navigations at the heart of such a diverse variety of villages, towns and cities across England & Wales. And, with so many ways to get involved, 2020 can be a year when more people take positive action for their local canal, for their community, and — because we know that volunteering and spending time outdoors, by water, is good for wellbeing — for themselves."

In 2019 we saw record numbers of people volunteer 671,000 hours of their time to the waterways. There was a 27% increase in the number of volunteer lock keepers across the network, to 1,130, and the first volunteer to record a staggering 10,000 hours of volunteering time since the charity's formation in 2012.

# Feel happier and healthier

Richard continues: "With more boats on the nation's canals than at the height of the Industrial Revolution, and research showing that spending time by water helps people feel happier and healthier, it's a great time to discover Britain's waterways.

"Far from being industrial relics or unloved backwaters, the dedicated efforts of thousands of volunteers have made canals the heart of the communities they run through. And with a remarkable 50% of the population living within five miles of a canal or river navigation, they are perfectly placed to provide free, accessible, natural environments where everyone can come to unwind and to embrace a happier and healthier lifestyle."

In 2020 Canal & River Trust is building on the popularity of waterways volunteering by creating an even wider range of volunteer roles. Opportunities include:

## Volunteer lock keepers and towpath rangers

Volunteer lock keepers and towpath rangers offer a friendly welcome to visitors and boaters and help people get to know their local canal. The Trust is offering more flexibility in terms of time commitment and scope of these ever-popular and iconic roles, with some positions still available in a few spots across the country.

#### Education volunteers

Volunteers work with schools to teach pupils about water safety and anything and everything canal-related, inspiring the next generation of waterway-lovers. They can also take part in running activities on the towpath, at canal festivals, and local fairs.

### Let's activity volunteers

Volunteers for the Trust's Let's Fish programme help host hundreds of free learn-to-fish events for all the family. The Trust is building its Let's activity programme and there will be further opportunities, for example walk leaders, throughout the year.

## National Waterway Museums and attractions

The Trust's three museums as well as iconic attractions such as the World Heritage Site at Pontcysyllte Aqueduct or Standedge Tunnel - the longest, highest and deepest canal tunnel – all offer volunteer opportunities.

## Towpath Taskforce

Towpath Taskforces are flexible opportunities for volunteers to come along whenever they're free, whether that's once a month or more regularly. Tasks can include lock-painting, hedge-planting, weeding gardens, litter-clearance from land and water, repairing towpaths and more – depending on what's most needed in that area.

Richard concludes: "The arteries of Britain's Industrial Revolution, the waterways were once in danger of being forgotten about when the demand for waterborne freight declined. We owe a debt to the hard-working volunteers who helped to save them. It's heartening to see this passion for the waterways continue, as a new generation of volunteers continues to give us its support. Our passionate volunteers have helped our charity to achieve so much and, with the waterways busier than ever before, we are enjoying a second Golden Canal Age, their benefit to people everywhere now firmly established."

(10)

# **Engineering Company Delivers Boost for Canal Trust**

LHRT - 20 Ian 2020

Lichfield's canal restoration volunteers can make progress on an important part of the project after a local company generously donated two lorry loads of building material.

**Chasetown Civil Engineering** delivered bricks and concrete blocks for the work being carried out by Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust at its Fosseway Heath site.

The valuable donation will allow the Trust's volunteers and South Staffs College students, who are receiving on-site work experience supervised by their tutors, to extend the curved wall taking the canal from the Fosseway Heath basin via a sharp turn into the Falkland Road section, and to add to the towpath wall below Lock 18.

The Trust's engineering director Peter Buck expressed his gratitude to Chasetown Civil Engineering, saying: "Our thanks to our generous friends and volunteers who help the Trust in so many ways to create the Heritage Towpath Trail on the Lichfield Canal for the community."

The Falkland Road length leads to a roundabout on Birmingham Road under which a culvert was constructed by the Trust in 2006/7 and temporarily buried, and then to a proposed tunnel under the Cross-City railway line.

A railway bridge was installed here over Christmas to allow for the extension of the Lichfield Southern Bypass, but it was not possible to install the canal tunnel at the same time, as had been hoped, because the railway bridge work took up all the land available.

However, the Trust received some good news when Network Rail confirmed that the work on the tunnel will not need a closure of the railway services, but just a go-slow while working.

Enabling work for the tunnel is planned to start after the land used for the bypass work becomes available, but despite the temporary reprieve, the urgency is still there.

The tunnel will have to be completed before the new St John's housing development is completed, so the Trust's fundraising campaign, Tunnel Vision, must continue. More than £500,000 of the £1million target has been raised, but the full costs have not been finalised. Anyone who wishes to donate should visit the Trust's Tunnel Vision webpage.

# **Visit Your local Chandlery**

For a wide range of marine, caravan & leisure equipment.



Parkgate Lock, Teddesley Road Penkridge, Staffs, ST19 5RH T 01785 712437







Open 6 days a week Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm



- Expert technical advice
- Friendly welcome, ample car parking & easy mooring
- Top brand names all under one roof
- Monthly special offers throughout the store
- Save 15% with our Bonus Club Card. (conditions apply)

# 5% Discount

Available for all Members



\* only available on production of a valid Staffs & Worcestershire Canal Society membership card (no further discounts apply)

## A Warm Welcome Awaits You At Our Stores...

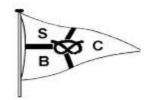
London Road, Braunston, Northants, NN11 7HB.
Parkgate Lock, Teddesley Road, Penkridge, Staffs, ST19 5RH.
The Wharf, Preston Brook, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 4BA.
Mercia Marina, Findern Lane, Willington, Derbyshire, DE65 6DW.



T 01788 891401 T 01785 712437 T 01928 751800 T 01283 701445

# STAFFORD BOAT CLUB





DO YOU NEED TO PAINT YOUR BOAT OUT OF THE WATER OR IN A HEATED WET DOCK?

WANT TO HIRE A ROOM FOR A SEMINAR WITH MULTIMEDIA PROJECTOR OR TO CELEBRATE THAT SPECIAL OCCASION?

NEED COAL, DIESEL BUG TREATMENT, LOO BLUE, SACRIFICIAL ANNODES, RED DIESEL, PUMP OUT, PLASTIC CARD PRINTING, GARMENT PRINTING, BANNER MAKING AND MUCH MUCH MORE?

Why not give us a ring or visit our website for more information and prices.

# www.staffordboatclub.co.uk

Telephone 01785 660725

Fax 01785 662222

Stafford Boat Club, Maplewood, Wildwood, Stafford. ST17 4SG

# New Birmingham Canal Housing Development Plans Approved

Business Leader - January 30, 2020

Plans to build more than 750 new homes on a derelict site on Birmingham's Main Line Canal have been approved by Birmingham City Council. Joint venture partners Galliard Homes and Apsley House Capital's proposed scheme at Soho Loop was given the green light by planning chiefs at today's planning committee meeting.

The decision paves the way for the £165m urban regeneration scheme, which will comprise 102 two and three-bedroom townhouses and 650 one and two-bedroom apartments, more than 10,000 sq ft of commercial space, new public realm, parks and gardens, and shared amenity spaces. New pedestrian, cycle and vehicle routes will also be created to enable public access through the site, with a new canal bridge connecting the area with the existing towpath to provide a direct route into the city centre. A public waterfront space will make the most of the scheme's canal-side location.

Called Soho Wharf, the scheme has been designed and master-planned by Claridge Architects, which worked with the joint venture partnership on its Timber Yard development in Southside.

Stephen Conway, Executive Chairman of Galliard Homes, said: "Our vision for Soho Wharf is to deliver a residential-led, mixed-use scheme that will be truly transformative for Birmingham. We are pleased the council shares our vision for the site.

"The approved scheme forms part of the Greater Icknield Masterplan, the largest brownfield housing-led redevelopment framework within Birmingham and is therefore strategically important for the long-term regeneration of the area, which is already undergoing major change.

"Soho Wharf is the next big development opportunity and with planning now in place we're excited to be bringing the project forward and helping the council achieve its ambition of creating more homes and attractive places to live for the people of Birmingham."

The development is located on an 11.7-acre site on Dudley Road, opposite Birmingham City Hospital, bound by Spring Hill and Western Road, and the Main Line Canal. Birmingham city centre is a 15-minute walk away, with Brindleyplace just ten minutes.

# Bringing to life women's contribution to canal history

Creative thinkers and writers are being urged to attend two workshops to help a vital piece of Black Country history come to life. With the help of a band of dedicated volunteers, Alarum Productions have been busy collecting together audio and written material ready for creative interpretation in February. Now they are looking for actors and writers who would like to draw inspiration from the late 1940s to 1970s, when Britain's canals lay neglected or derelict, and people fought to bring them back into use.

Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and aided by volunteers, Directors Kate Saffin and Heather Wastie have unearthed documents and made oral history recordings with women now in their seventies and eighties who have a wealth of stories waiting to be shared. This important project, called 'I Dig Canals', will



add to the existing accounts by men, and will celebrate women's contribution to campaigning and restoration, particularly in the Black Country.

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February, non-professional actors are invited to attend an all-day session in association with the Oldbury Repertory Players at Barlow Theatre, 3 Spring Walk, Oldbury B69 4SP.

On Thursday 13th February, 10am-1pm there will be a poetry and prose workshop on a (stationary) narrow boat moored near the historic Dudley Tunnel. Writers and actors attending will be invited to perform their work at the final project celebration on Saturday 4th April and some of the work created will be included in a book.

Anyone interested in attending should email Project Manager, Nadia Stone on idigcanals@alarumtheatre.co.uk.

#### CELEBRATION EVENTS

Saturday 4th April 6-8pm including book launch - free to attend. Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust, 501 Birmingham New Road, Dudley, DY1 4SB

Easter Weekend 2020 (details to be announced) - including official hand-over of archive recordings. National Waterways Museum, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 4FW. Come and hear some of the stories gathered over months of documentary research and oral history interviews. Writers and actors who have attended one of our workshops will share their own interpretations, bringing to life this crucial period of canal history from the women's perspective. If you have a story to tell, do contact us!

# Police Officer who Rescued Woman from Canal given Two Awards

Express and Star Jan 22, 2020

A police officer who jumped into a canal to rescue a woman has now been given two awards. Pc Carl Walters jumped into the canal in Bentley Bridge just after 7am on the morning of November 30, 2018.

Pc Walters knew the suicidal woman was armed with razor blades but he jumped in after her, swam to her and dragged her to the safety of the bank where she was pulled out to the safety of dry land by other police at the scene.

PC Carl Walters was called to Bentley Bridge after a woman fell into the water. She was taken to hospital with hypothermia, but thankfully survived. The woman had phoned police saying she was going to kill herself and that she was heading for the canal and had razor blades and cocaine with her.

Pc Walters had previously been awarded a Royal Humane Society Testimonial on Parchment for saving her life.

West Midlands Police tweeted saying: "A police officer who jumped into a freezing canal to rescue a woman who'd fallen in has been given two awards. Subsequently "She was taken to hospital with hypothermia, but thankfully survived."

# Repairs at Whittinton Lock



Gate replacement and general repairs Photograph by Ian Cowdale

# **River Canal Rescue Cease Diesel Engine Courses**

RCR - 27 Jan 2020

River Canal Rescue has announced it will no longer be running its boat engine & maintenance and electrics courses after January. Anyone booked onto its courses were moved onto the final weekend course which ran on 25/26 January.

RCR is currently restructuring its business - moving its Key Diesels engine rebuilding division from Burton-on-Trent to its headquarters in Stafford. Managing director, Stephanie Horton, explains: "Although our courses are well attended, the space and resources used to run them can be put to better use, and with so many other business now offering this provision, we feel at the moment, we need to concentrate on more profitable elements of the business.

"We will still be running our bespoke courses for commercial business partners and for customers/clubs that still want us to provide training on site, but will no longer be offering courses at RCR HQ on a monthly basis."

# Charities secure Exemption from new layer of Anti-Money-Laundering regulation

Civil Society News - 28 Jan 2020

Charities will not have to sign up to a register of trusts which is being created as part of the government's new anti-money laundering regulations.

When the government first consulted on the changes last year it had been thought that charities would fall within the scope of the Fifth Money Laundering Directive (5MLD), which could have forced all charitable trusts, irrespective of size, to need to register with the government's new trust registration service (TRS).

This would have placed additional administrative burdens on charitable trusts, particularly smaller ones. But after lobbying from sector bodies including the Charity Tax Group (CTG), the government has decided that charities will be exempt from registering. A technical consultation launched this month, which said: "Charitable trusts are not in scope to register because the risk of these kinds of trusts being used for money laundering or terrorist financing activity is low".

John Hemming, chair of CTG, said: "This is a great outcome for charities and vindicates the responses made by CTG and other sector bodies to the original consultation that charities were low risk and should be excluded from registering with the Trust Registration Service.

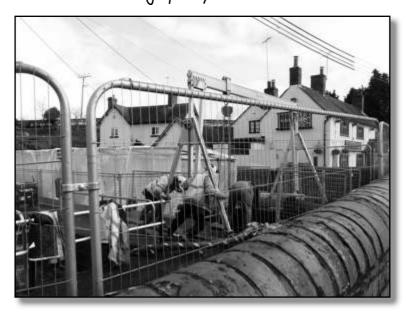
"This is a great example of common sense prevailing particularly as the rules would otherwise have applied regardless of whether or not the trust has incurred a UK tax consequence.

"We are aware that very small charitable trusts, including those that are excepted from registration with the charity regulators, could have been caught, which would have been unduly onerous given their limited resources."

# Repairs at Rocky and Greensforge Locks



Gate replacement, ladder and brickwork repairs Photographs by Ian Cowdale



# Repairs at Wolverley Court Lock



Cutting out the brickwork



Fabric Dam and Scaffolding Photographs by Ian Cowdale

# **Repairs to historic Hurleston Locks**

We're undertaking major repairs to Lock 4 on the historic Hurleston Lock Flight on the Llangollen Canal in Cheshire. The walls of the 223-year-old Grade II Listed lock have gradually shifted over time making it increasingly difficult for narrowboats to pass through.

Instead of being long and straight (as locks need to be - I've not seen a single bendy boat!) the lock has slowly bowed due to movement in the ground around it.

The work to repair and straighten the lock is costing over £1 million and has involved an archaeological survey before the lock wall on the towpath side was carefully dismantled as part of the painstaking repairs. A new hidden concrete retaining wall will help stabilise the ground and prevent any further movement before a mixture of original stonework and new brickwork is put back in place. The work is expected to be completed by this coming March.

Rob Jowitt, one of project managers, said: "The Llangollen Canal is one of Britain's most iconic waterways. It's hugely popular, used by thousands of boat-

ers, walkers, cyclists and runners each year and a great place to get away from it all.

"Hurleston Locks is a really busy point on the canal system as it connects the Llangollen Canal and the Shropshire Union Ca-



The video can be found at:- <a href="https://youtu.be/OQIs0TCl2c0">https://youtu.be/OQIs0TCl2c0</a>

nal so the work we're doing to repair the lock wall is really important as it will allow boats to cruise back on to this beautiful waterway once again."

Hurleston Lock Flight was opened in 1805 and was built by famous canal engineers John Fletcher and Thomas Telford. The locks form a link between the former Chester Canal, known today as the Shropshire Union Canal, and the Ellesmere Canal, known today as the Llangollen Canal. The four locks raise the water level 10.4 metres above the Cheshire Plain.

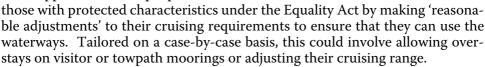
C&RT boaters update 31/1/20

# 'Trust Aware' stickers for those who need support

The Trust is to begin providing 'Trust Aware' permits to boaters who have been granted an adjustment to their cruising requirements under the Equality Act 2010.

This follows feedback at a series of meetings held with disabled boaters over the past year.

We support disabled people and



The permits, which were suggested by the boaters themselves, are intended to let other people know that the Trust is aware of the situation and that there is permission to overstay or move in a limited range.

They will be provided automatically to every boater who has an adjustment and boaters can choose whether they want to display them. It is not a requirement of the Trust.

There are currently around 240 boaters with approved adjustments, and around a further 140 in the process of being arranged. Before the advent of the Equality Act 2010 we informally supported boaters with additional needs. Having formalised the process, there was an initial spike in agreed adjustments as those boaters' adjustments were transferred. Since then application numbers have levelled off and they're reviewed every couple of weeks by our team.

Matthew Symonds, national boating manager at the Trust, said: "We are committed to supporting all boaters and it is important to understand the needs of all, including disabled boaters who may find some of elements of boating a bit more challenging.

"In our recent meetings with disabled boaters we've heard that a sign to let other boaters know that we are aware of a boat's situation would be helpful. We recognise that this is a personal choice and some boaters would prefer not to display anything. Following discussions, we are pleased to offer an optional 'Trust Aware' permit for those boaters who wish to put them in their windows." The permits will be the size of a licence disc but will be printed on yellow paper to clearly distinguish between the two.

#### Want to know more?

https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/boating/do-you-know-a-vulnerable-boater/disabled-boaters-information

# **Membership Renewal**

Just a reminder about Membership Subscriptions:

Membership renewals have come in well this year so far, but there are still some outstanding. Renewals were due on 1st April 2019. Our membership subscription again remains unchanged, as follows:-

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP £13.00

COMBINED MEMBERSHIP £13.50

(e.g. Husband & Wife)

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP £1.00

(up to 18yrs of age)

& those in full time education

Remittance in the post should be addressed to: 14 White Harte Park, Kinver, South Staffs, DY7 6HN. or passed to a Committee member at Bradmore

Thank you

Colin Beard

Membership Secretary



DAVEPERKS.signsandsymbols@hotmail.co.uk

# **PHIL JONES**



# HATHERTON MARINA, HATHERTON JUNCTION, STAFFS & WORCS

DRY DOCK, CRANEAGE, GRIT BLASTING, PRESSURE WASHING

HULL BLACKING, STERNGEAR, ANODES, ETC.

STEELWORK ALTERATIONS, LENGTHENING, OVERPLATING.

NARROWBOAT BROKERAGE & SALES

BOAT SAFETY EXAMINATIONS & REMEDIAL WORK

VINTAGE AND MODERN ENGINE SALES, REPAIR AND INSTALLATION

Tel/Fax: (01785) 715988 Mobile: 07831 153028

# The BONDED WAREHOUSE



Canal Street
Stourbridge DY8 4LU
Rooms For Hire To
Suit All Occasions
Visitors Welcome
Tele 01384 395216

Email: Stourbridge-trust@btconnect.com

**Stourbridge Navigation Trust** 

# Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Society MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

Please tick appropriate option



## YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION (1st April-31st March)

	Single Membership	£13.00	
	Combined (eg husband & Wife) Membership	£13.50	
	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.		
Full Name			
Address			
Post CodeTelephone			
Email			
☐ I wish to receive Broadsheet by post			
☐ I wish to receive Broadsheet electronically			
GIFT AID DECLARATION  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.  Note: You must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the amount we reclaim on your			
subscriptions & donations. Remember to notify us if you no longer pay tax or wish to cancel this declaration			
WATERWAYS INTERESTS. Please Indicate			
	Angling Canoeing Other (ple	ease specify)	
	Boating Industrial Archaeology Walking		
Boat Name	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 10th February Edwin Fasham - Boats of different sizes

Monday 9th March
Glyn and Rosemary Philips - subject TBA

Monday 13th April No Monthly Meeting

# Events Spring Cruise 2020 10th -13th April

To the Anchor at Coven

## **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

Note:- Your email address will only be used by SWCS and will not be passed on to any third party.

