

COVENTRY CANAL



SOCIETY

AUTUMN 2012

PANTHER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 01 & 02 September 2012 *Panther* attending Family Festival at Shackerstone; volunteer crew needed to, from and at the festival [details Tony Mann]
- 08 September 2012 At-Home Day, Wyken Basin for members & guests; stalls; games; barbeque; bar; refreshments; volunteers needed to help run the day [details Committee]
- 16 September 2012 Society canal clearance; key holders join at Wyken Basin at 9.00 am and others at Sutton Stop (CV6 6DF) at 10.00 am; finish 4.00 pm at Sutton Stop; return to Wyken Basin at 5.00 pm [details Brian Pope]
- 29 & 30 September 2012 *Panther* attending Village at War Weekend at Stoke Bruerne; volunteer crew needed to, from and at the event [details Tony Mann]
- 14 October 2012 Society canal clearance; key holders join at Wyken Basin at 9.00 am and others at Sutton Stop (CV6 6DF) at 10.00 am; finish 4.00 pm at Sutton Stop; return to Wyken Basin at 5.00 pm [details Brian Pope]
- 20 & 21 October 2012 Workparty days at Wyken Basin; 9.30 am start and 3.30 pm finish each day [details Property Managers]
- 02 November 2012 Closing date for articles for winter edition of magazine [details Editor]
- 04 November 2012 Moorers' meeting at Wyken Basin; 10.30 am start; open forum to discuss events, issues and plans with members of your Executive Committee
- 18 November 2012 Society canal clearance; key holders join at Wyken Basin at 9.00 am and others at Sutton Stop (CV6 6DF) at 10.00 am; finish 4.00 pm at Sutton Stop; return to Wyken Basin at 5.00 pm [details Brian Pope]
- 08 December 2012 Christmas Evening at Wyken Basin; games, entertainment, members' postbox, bring food to share, bar [details Executive Committee]

EDITORIAL BY VIVIENNE

I was very saddened to hear of the loss of Fred Jordan. Fred was one of the very first people who welcomed Tony, Duchess and me to the basin. Whenever Fred came along and we happened to be there he always had the time to come over for a chat and a cup of tea. I was very glad Tony and I went along to represent the Basin when it was Fred's 60th Birthday, we had a lovely time and we were made to feel very welcome. Fred was clearly delighted we went, and I will never forget the look on his face when we presented him with the picture of himself and Panther which was a present from all of his friends from the Coventry Canal Society.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Cheryl and all of Fred's lovely family.

*** ***** ***

Unfortunately, we have had yet another break in at the basin, sadly quite a few of the boats (including Duchess) have been damaged, broken into and had belongings stolen. I cannot stress enough how important it is to take any valuables home with you. I know it's very annoying to have to keep removing items from your boats, but unless you don't mind losing them, then this is what we must do.

Remove it or lose it!!!

On a lighter note, I hope you all like the pictures on the front of the magazines. The picture for the summer edition caught the eye of one of our key members, and I would just like to add sadly I wasn't enjoying myself on a sun soaked beach idly writing Panthers name in the sand with a stick – it was all computer generated. Oh well, I may as well dream on!

Finally, here's wishing you all some happy boating – and I hope the rumours are correct, that we are going to have an Indian summer in September



Vivienne

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2012/13

Chair (Harbourmaster)	Steven Kingham	88 Lentons Lane COVENTRY CV2 1NW	07767 672460 024 7661 1299
Vice-Chair	Robin Townshend		07825 223640
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Assistant Secretary (Licensing Agent)	Lynn Perkins	38 Wilsons Lane COVENTRY CV6 6AD	07801 968732
Treasurer (acting Membership Secretary)	Brian Pope	7 Frampton Walk COVENTRY CV2 2JE	brianpope.ccs@btinternet.com 024 7661 4463
Membership Secretary	Vacant		
General Member 1 (Joint Property Manager)	Phil Carter	48 Woodshires Road Longford COVENTRY CV6 6AA	07950 419234 024 7636 3280
General Member 2	Vacant		
General Member 3 (AWCC Rep and Archivist)	Bob Nash	135 Farren Road COVENTRY CV2 5EH	07815 162756 024 7626 8534
General Member 4 (Joint Property Manager)	Dave Perkins	38 Wilsons Lane COVENTRY CV6 6AD	07850 510758 024 7636 3378
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Society Brand Items for Sale

Show your pride in the Society and contribute to our funds by purchasing one of the following items carrying our brand:

Available from stock:

brass plaques commemorating our 50th anniversary in 2007	£5.00 each
pennants complete with toggle and loop	£10.00 each
ball point pens	£0.50 each

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polo shirts with embroidered logo (navy; sizes S, M, L, XL and XXL)	£11.00 each
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Also in stock British made 100% cotton tea towels in various designs at £3 each - just the thing for the new season for those that do the dishes.

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Fred Jordan

1950-2012

by Tony & Barbara

Fred Jordan was a member of the society upon whom we came to rely. He had a little fibreglass cruiser, but he had a big heart. Sadly his health took the worse possible turn a few years ago when he was diagnosed as having an inoperable brain tumour.



He was a kind gentle man but also a surprising one. He was the society's Harbourmaster for several years and instrumental in maintaining the interest on other members in the potential for angling in the basin. The small group of members who formed the angling section had matches on a regular basis when the fishing season was open. Fred was very generous with his time, advice and equipment, which was given to others freely and often.

The society was represented at his funeral by almost as many members as attended the AGM and we all learned something about the man that day. Not many of us knew that he was a cornet player in the Salvation Army. That he spotted Sheryl who was to become his wife at a very early age and waited for her to become old enough to be approached. It came out that he was a great family man, who was deeply loved by his children and grandchildren. He never seemed happier than when surrounded by his family, particularly towards the end of his life. Sheryl's and the family's loss was all the more painful because it was drawn out over such a long time.

Not one to push himself forward, he was, nevertheless, a man of keen principles and kindness. His sort are rare,, he was as was stated by many that we met on the day "A lovely man."



CANAL & RIVER TRUST

UPDATE



Canal &
River Trust



Dear Licensing Agent,

As you probably know, British Waterways ceased to exist in England and Wales on 2nd July 2012 and in its place Canal & River Trust was born. A supply of new Canal & River Trust stationary will be in the post to you over the next couple of weeks and I'd ask you please to destroy your remaining stock of the equivalent BW materials once received. We will still accept cheques made payable to British Waterways for the time being if they have been made out in error, but please try to ensure that from now on, they are payable to the Canal & River Trust.

We now have a completely new website – you can navigate straight to the boating and boat licensing pages at www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/boating. These have been completely re-written and we hope that you will find it easier to locate the information and forms that you need. There is still development work on the new site going on, and for the time being, you'll be taken back to waterscape for stoppages and waterway guides.

You'll see that on the '[applying for a licence](#)' page, we refer to the service provided by licensing agents, and publish this listing. Please email me if you have any corrections to make to this – because you're listed and don't want to be, not listed and do want to be, or any of the information is wrong.

When helping boaters with their licensing needs, we'd be grateful if you could print the documents you need from the website as this ensures that you are always using the most up to date version. But if you still prefer to hold a stock of printed items, please complete the attached order form – you can either post this to the Boat Licensing Team at the address below or, better still, email it to Boat_Licensing_Team@canalrivertrust.org.uk – it will get to the top of the work list quicker this way.

You might like to make a note of this shortcut - www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/licencedownloads where you'll find the following links:

Boaters Handbook

Long term licences

- Licence Terms and conditions
- Licence fees
- Licence application form
- Direct Debit mandate form
- Gold licence information pack
- Transfer of boat ownership/off water declaration
- Notification of home mooring location
- Application form for historic boat discount
- Advice to boat owners considering offering their boat for hire
- Guidance for boaters without a home mooring

Short term licences

- Short term licence information and application form (includes summary of licence conditions)
- Short term licence fees
- Boat Safety Scheme Certificate: Application for Exemption (short term licences only)

Finally – and importantly, if you are not already registered to receive Boaters Updates, our free monthly e-newsletter for boaters, do please take a few minutes to sign up at www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/register – just be sure to record 'boating' as one of your interests at step 3.

This is the main channel that we use to communicate topical matters affecting boaters, whether to do with the navigation itself or licensing and mooring updates.

- STOP PRESS -

**5½ Canal from Bishop Street Basin, Coventry
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*Front terrace overlooking the junction of the
Oxford & Coventry Canals*

THAMES & SEVERN CANAL

by Robert Nash

This canal was constructed to connect two of England's greatest rivers so Bristol could be connected to London. The canal was completed in 1789.

The waterway climbs 350 feet from the Severn Vale at Saul, passing through Stroud and the Cotswold Hills, via 56 locks and the 2.17 miles long Sapperton Tunnel.

The abandoned tunnel had been visited by the late Rhodes Thomas and members of the society several times in the 1960s and 70s. The groups had circumvented the length of the tunnel clambering over collapsed sections of this extensive tunnel. Nowadays the tunnel is gated to prevent anyone trying to explore the tunnel.

The summit level turns along the contours through open countryside and comes close to Cirencester when it begins a more gradual descent into the Thames Valley through flights of locks at Siddington and South Cerney.

Beyond Cerney Wick Lock is Latton Junction where the former North Wilts Canal wound its way round Cricklade to Swindon and joined the Wilts & Berks Canal either to Abingdon on the Thames or Semington on the Kennet & Avon Canal. It joins the Thames via a lock at Inglesham near Lechlade.

The advent of the railways led to the demise of the canal and it finally was abandoned in 1941.

Today the Cotswold canal trust has restored some of the canal around Stroud in partnership with Stroud district council, which is now in water. The lock at Inglesham is also under going restoration.

Also the trust is undertaking an innovative scheme to generate electricity from water flowing over Dudbridge locks near Stroud which will generate annual income for the trust.



FIGURE 1: Abandoned lock at Chalford



FIGURE 2: Western Portal of Sapperton tunnel at Daneway



FIGURE 3: Eastern Portal of Sapperton tunnel at Coates

Stretches of canal have been built over which will mean finding other paths for the canal.

I was fortunate to visit parts of the abandoned canal recently. This included walking a section near the small town of Chalford and both ends of the Sapperton tunnel.

The locks around Chalford were capable of taking boats up to 90 feet long. Chalford itself is just 4 miles east of Stroud in Gloucestershire. The small town was famous for its broadcloth and the canal provided an outlet for the material.

The canal at the eastern portal of Sapperton has been partly restored and until recently one could go into the tunnel on an electrically driven boat. However, these trips were halted when a bat colony was found in the tunnel.

The latest update from the Trustees of the Canal & River Trust has been published today and can be seen here:

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/july-update.

Topics include:

- The recent launch of the Trust;
- Meetings of the Council and Waterway Partnerships;
- Office moves;
- Executive Pay;
- Royal visits to the waterways;
- The Olympics.



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The new members named below are welcomed to the Society and we look forward to meeting you at social events, boater's gatherings, working parties or out and about on the waterways:

Name(s)

David Cornish

Joe Flores-Watson

Henry Gallagher

Kallif Garlicka

Albert (Bill) King

Christina King

Peter Laye

Kane Neal

Paul Padmore

Laurie Sheriden

Paul Skudder

Robert Skudder

Interests

Canoe Section member

Canoe Section member

Canoe Section member

Canoe Section member

Boating and canals in general

Boating and canals in general

Canoe Section member

Sadly we report the death of member Fred Jordan on 22 May after a long period of ill health. Fred joined the Society in 1996 becoming Harbourmaster at Wyken Basin in 1998. With his usual quiet efficiency and good humour he carried out this sometimes thankless role for the next four years. A keen angler he spent many hours at the Basin honing his skills to rejoin 'battle' with Barbara Collins at the Society's annual fishing competition.



FACTSHEET

the transfer of the waterways to the Canal & River Trust

On 2nd July 2012 the British Waterways Board (Transfer of Functions) Order 2012 came into force. It transferred the functions of the British Waterways Board in England and Wales to a new charity, the Canal & River Trust (CRT), and made consequential provision in Scotland. An associated Transfer Scheme transferred the rights, liabilities and assets of British Waterways to CRT.

The transfer from British Waterways to the CRT ensures the sustainability of our nation's inland waterways. The canals and rivers which were run by British Waterways in England and Wales are now held in a permanent endowment trust by CRT, who manage them on behalf of the nation as sole corporate trustee.

Moving the functions and assets of British Waterways in England and Wales to civil society through the creation of CRT further liberates the potential of the waterways to provide benefits for the public, as well as offering waterways users the opportunity to play a role in their governance and bring their passion and expertise to the waterways. It enables local communities to have a greater say in how their local canal or river is run. It enables the waterways to be placed on a more financially sustainable long term footing. The charity can access new commercial and private income streams (including legacies, donations, borrowing and other fund-raising activities), as well as providing greater opportunity to recruit volunteers to support heritage, environmental and amenity waterways assets.

Long-term sustainability - Government Funding for CRT

- The Government funding amounts to around £800m over the 15 year term of the agreement as well as a commercial property portfolio built up by British Waterways worth approximately £460m.
- The Government provided a one-off grant of £25m before the transfer to help with the Pensions deficit.
- Government has also agreed a capped 'last resort' Government guarantee of up to £125m in relation to the historic public sector pension liability.

Securing the waterways for the nation - The Waterways Infrastructure Trust

- By setting up a Trust for the infrastructure we have ensured that these heritage assets cannot ordinarily be sold and that pedestrian access to the towpath is secured by law.
- The Waterways Infrastructure Trust safeguards the core infrastructure of the waterways (canal, towpaths, locks and other parts of the waterways which are essential for their operation) in a permanent endowment on behalf of the nation.

Safeguarding the Commercial Property Portfolio - Appointment of a Protector

- A Protector will be appointed to ensure CRT uses the commercial property

portfolio for the purposes for which it is intended i.e. to provide income for the waterways and to provide a reserve for dealing with emergencies.

- The Protector will be independent and will monitor how CRT uses the commercial portfolio ensuring that CRT's investment strategy is in line with agreed investment principles.

Promoting Community Involvement and Localism

- CRT has 13 Waterways Partnerships across England and Wales, corresponding to organisational divisions and including a Museums Partnership. The Partnerships' chairs are ex-officio members of CRT's Council. They and the other members of the Partnerships can exercise real influence.
- Waterways Partnerships are required to put into place localism strategies which will commit the Partnerships to facilitating local engagement, working with a range of locally based partners.

Ensuring Transparency - Application of the Freedom of Information Act

- The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) applies to CRT, in respect of all those statutory functions that CRT inherited from British Waterways. This delimited application of the FOIA has the effect of excluding from the provisions of the Act those broader charitable functions carried out by CRT. It will also exclude bodies that merge with CRT, unless the FOIA already applies or is made to apply to them at the point of merger.
- As this will initially put CRT in a potentially disadvantageous position with regard to other statutory navigation authorities operating outside Government, the Government will, within two years, launch a procedure, under s.5 of the FOIA, to consider extending the provisions of the Act to other statutory navigation authorities, with the intention of creating a level playing field.

Coventry Canal Society
at home day
8th September
Fun for all the family
BBQ Stalls Cakes

AWCC

by Robert Nash

Two years I was arm twisted to be the society's AWCC (Association of Waterways & Cruising Clubs) representative to follow in the foot step of Tony Spicer.

Fortunately I have been able to attend meetings of the Midlands region and national AGMs over past two years. Back in May we hosted a Midlands region meeting.

Discussion at these meetings, in recent times, has centred on the new Canal & River Trust. AWCC is generally supportive of the new trust and has been involved in discussions over the setting up of the trust. AWCC's approach is set out clearly on their website.

Among the benefits of the society's membership of AWCC is that it is possible to find temporary mooring with fellow societies. Naturally these societies will need some notice before they can accommodate you. However, you will need a membership card. Lynn Perkins has a supply of these.

The AWCC newsletter (ALERT) can be found on their website.

AWCC publishes a hand book listing member societies and their locations. I have copies of this book, which will cost you just £2, on my boat.

Reference

AWCC website: www.awcc.org.



Olympic football fans arriving at Coventry matches by boat

Football fans in Coventry have found one of the cleanest, greenest ways of getting to the Olympics Games. Spectators are hopping aboard water taxis taking them to the City of Coventry Stadium along the Coventry Canal.

The Coventrian narrowboat, owned by city-based charity the Living Environment Trust, is making daily trips along Coventry Canal, dropping fans off in time for the game and ferrying them home again afterwards.

With a journey time of 40 minutes from Swan Lake Wharf in Upper Stoke and around 75 minutes from the city centre Canal Basin, passengers can eat and drink on their journey, avoiding traffic jams and parking hassle.

Raffy Tentindo, of the Living Environment Trust, based at the Alan Higgins Centre, said: "We started running water taxis for home games at the Ricoh a few years ago.

"It's slowly taken off, so we also put on water taxis for the Take That and Coldplay concerts."



This week, while the Ricoh Arena takes its new temporary title of the City of Coventry Stadium, the water taxi service is making the most of the Olympics.

The 25-metre long narrowboat carries 24 people seated or 39 standing and comes equipped with a kitchen and licensed bar. Raffy said: "When we first started out we had to do a lot of work to the engine room and the hull.

"But the water taxi scheme has been a gradual thing and we've built it up year-on-year. Sometimes the whole boat is booked for an event but usually we have people travelling in groups of up to 10 and we take them to the arena, having a drink and a dance on the way."

The Water taxi will be running to each of the Olympic football matches held at the arena over the next fortnight.

More information at www.covsf.com/let/about.html

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The object of the society shall be to promote and encourage, in all possible ways, the proper use and maintenance in good order of the Coventry canal and all connecting waterways.

The objective stated above was adopted by the Coventry Canal Society when it was formed in 1957. During the rebuilding programme after the WW II, the Coventry City Council put forward a plan that surrounded a modern traffic free centre with a ring road. This new road was to be built across the canal, which unlike the old medieval city centre and cathedral had survived the blitz. Local members of the I.W.A. including David Hutchins, who worked for the council and Bert Dunkley, a local canal enthusiast, started campaigning to save the canal.

The I.W.A. supported this campaign and at short notice switched its National Rally from Stourbridge, where dredging had already started, to the Coventry basin. The event attracted a large number of boats and thousands of visitors to the rally site. This interest in the canal was harnessed by the formation of the Coventry Canal Society with Bert Dunkley as its first chairman.

The fight to save the canal took two long years during which time it was under continual threat of being in-filled and built over. The Coventry Canal Society was very active in promoting the advantages to the city of a local canal. Eventually opinions changed and the future of the canal was secured. In 1958 the society rediscovered the Wyken arm, a disused and overgrown colliery canal just south of Hawkesbury junction on the North Oxford canal. Society members cleaned out and restored the arm as moorings for members' boats. The first ever canal restoration project by volunteers. Members of the society and others were concerned about the Hawkesbury engine house falling into decline and set up the Engine House trust. Later the Trust was incorporated into the Society and now the Pump House has been the subject of several planning applications for development – all of which have so far failed.

The Society supplied most of the boats on the first two protest cruises during the early days of the Stratford canal restoration project. They also provided labour for the Stourport canal restoration work and later went on to become involved in the planning for the re-development of the Coventry City basin in the late 80's and the redevelopment of the canal corridor and the art trail in the 90's.

Many members of the Society gave their time and hard work in the exploration, restoration and refurbishment of other canals throughout the country. The Society continues to carry out monthly rubbish clearances along the canal. In 1994, the society was presented with a "Queen Mother's Award" by the Tidy Britain Group at a special ceremony in London.

The Society boat Panther can be seen at many events throughout the Midlands, promoting both the Coventry Canal and the Coventry Canal Society. It also follows when attending shows like the Town and Country Festival, the society finds itself promoting the inland waterways of Britain in general.

If you would like to join us then please contact us either via our website or by writing to: Brian Pope, 7 Frampton Walk, Coventry CV2 2JE.