

COVENTRY CANAL



SOCIETY

SPRING 2012

Panther



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 11 March 2012 Society canal clearance; park and meet in Swan Lane cul-de-sac (CV2 4QT) off Swan Lane/Swancroft Road Junction next Red Lane (New) Bridge at 10.00 am and finish there at 4.00 pm. [details Brian Pope]
- 21 March 2012 Society Annual General Meeting, Stoke (Coventry) Club, 7 Stoke Green (CV3 1FP); 7.30 pm start; annual reports and election of Officers and Executive Committee members
- 25 March 2012 Moorers' meeting at Wyken Basin; 10.30 am start; open forum to discuss events, issues and plans with members of your Executive Committee
- 15 April 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]
- 21 & 22 April 2012 Workparty days at Wyken Basin; 9.00 am start and 4.00 pm finish each day [details Property Managers]
- 04 May 2012 Closing date for articles for summer edition of magazine [details Editor]
- 13 May 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]
- 09 & 10 June 2012 *Panther* attending Waterways Heritage Gala at Stoke Bruerne together with exhibition stand; volunteer crew needed to, from and at the gathering [details Tony Mann]
- 15 & 16 June 2012 Workparty days at Wyken Basin; 9.00 am start and 4.00 pm finish each day [details Property Managers]
- 23 & 24 June 2012 *Panther* attending Historic Narrowboat Rally, Braunston Marina, together with exhibition stand; volunteer crew needed to, from and at the rally [details Tony Mann]

EDITORIAL BY VIVIENNE

It's always a sign that Summer is on the way when the nights start to draw out, or as my Dad used to say "it stays early later"! With the promise of Summer around the corner, it's a refreshing change to start thinking about trips out on our boats once again, I hope we get a nice hot Summer.

I hear Panther has had a makeover all ready for the show season, well done to all the boys and girls who were involved I'm sure Panther is very appreciative.

I am hoping to get lots of pictures this year when Panther goes to various shows, and also pictures of various events at the basin – my aim is to start a scrapbook to keep in the Clubhouse for current and future generations of die hard boaters.

I'm hoping to get out and about a little bit this year, unfortunately 2011 was not a very good year for my family but I'm hoping to see a little light at the end of the tunnel, the one on Duchess would be especially nice!

All being well, I hope to see you all in the coming months at one function or another. I particularly enjoy the shows with Panther and also the Barbi Cruise, so beware when you least expect it you could get snapped.

**Finally don't forget that the boats go back in the water on
Saturday 17th March.**

Happy Easter and even Happier boating.

Vivienne



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2012

| | | | |
|---|------------------|---|--|
| Chair (Harbourmaster) | Steven Kingham | 88 Lentons Lane COVENTRY CV2 1NW | 07767 672460 024 7661 1299 |
| Vice-Chair | Robin Townshend | | 07825 223640 |
| Secretary | Tony Mann | 5 Forryan Close Cosby LEICESTER LE9 1TS | anthony.mann@btinternet.com 07733 145314 0116 2861998 |
| 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 (Joint Property Manager) | Billy Steer | | 07427 662857 |
| General Member 3 (co-opted) (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 |
| General Member 5 (Canoe Club Chair) | Nigel Wooltorton | 11 Brayford Avenue COVENTRY CV3 5BS | 024 7641 8796 nw@nwooltorton.plus.com |
| General Member 6 (co-opted) (Joint Property Manager) | Derek Nixon | Tay Dee Bulkington Road Wolvey HINCKLEY LE10 3LA | 01455 220639 |
| Magazine Editor (non Committee Member) | Vivienne Pitts | 18 Gimson Avenue Cosby LEICESTER LE9 1SS | vivienne.p@ppleicester.com (please also copy to my home email isobellringer@hotmail.co.uk) 07922 395007 0116 2865781 |

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 |

Made up to order:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| polo shirts with embroidered logo (navy; sizes S, M, L, XL and XXL) | £14.50 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.

Please contact Brian Pope who can show you samples, take your orders, receive payment and arrange for collection or delivery.

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*Front terrace overlooking the junction of the
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EOSTRA

We bought our boat, Eostra, ready named. We had no idea what the name meant or where it came from and an internet search led us to Eostra being the Germanic goddess of fertility and new beginnings. Not sure about the fertility bit after 25+ years of marriage but new beginnings seemed appropriate with the excitement of getting our own boat. The Oxford Companion to World Mythology told us that the goddess Eostra is perhaps the source for the term 'Easter' as she was said to have owned an egg-laying rabbit. We don't know how or why the original owners choose the name but thanks to our excellent signwriter it's quite a towpath talking point.



Martyn and Val Plant



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on our trip up the Shroppie,
the weather was good, water not choppy.
While the sun was out, boaters would shout,
Morning, how do, nice day,
(Yeah the sun does shine in May!)
It was a fair trip and Clare's food was good.
She knocks up grub as only she could,
with a bit of this and bit of that.
No wonder my six pack has turned to fat.
Cruising along we came to a castle.
It's in Beeston, to get up there there's no hassle!!
Just pull over, moor up you'll be close to a pub.
When you have been to the castle it's the pub for a sup,
Shady Oak is the name, good ale, fine wines, that's where we dined.
Dawn breaks, no time to dither,
Brekky down our necks then me on the tiller.
As we chugged into Chester, the walled city,
tourists waved, took photo's and took pity,
to see a fine looking chap on a boat with big pansies - so pretty!
We moored under the wall, a great spot to be
But be careful of an odd bottle being tossed down towards thee.
Lots of places to eat and plenty to see,
Yeah Chester's a great place to be.

**Here is a poem kindly submitted by
Clare and Del (n/b Cladel) and in true boater style,
they enjoyed a Pub or two on their travels.**



Brain Teasers

I'm always on the lookout for new and exciting ideas for the magazine, my latest idea is to bring a bit of fun and get you to exercise those grey cells. Lisa (the Graphic Designer for our mag) came up with a word search. To start with we are making it easy, but as time goes on we plan to make it more difficult – let's see how clever you are!

As an incentive I am offering a nice bottle of wine to the first person to answer all of the puzzles on this page correctly – but there is a catch, you have to submit your answers in writing to me personally at my home address – good old snail mail.

Any member can enter from 0 to 100 years of age, even your dog can enter, if Chiquo was legible I'm sure even he would have a go, he's quite bright I'm just thankful he hasn't learnt to swear! Anyway, good luck to you all and may the best boater win.

Vivienne

Word Search

Panther

Windlass

Lock

Coventry

Canals

Python

Viaduct

Wharf

Bollinger

Paddle

B P A N T H E R G T U I L Z W
O R C O N M P I W Q A K C H I
C A V H X U S T Y J D O F B N
A F S T G I A Z B P V W A X D
N Q P Y P A D D L E B B S P L
A B C P O S S P N B O H G X A
L Z O F T D B T L V L V M N S
S W A L C O R W O P L X P N S
Q X H E L Y E E C I I K L D M
V I K W A A S D K M G O S C Y
O G B L Y W H A R F E K L H A
V I A D U C T O G L R Y S G O

Please post to Vivienne Pitts, 18 Gimson Avenue, Cosby, Leicestershire LE9 1SS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The eighty members who have not already paid this year's annual Society subscription are reminded that it was due on 01 January. They will find a renewal form enclosed with this magazine. The appropriate subscription and completed form are to be returned to Brian Pope (moorers may pay their mooring fees at the same time). If you receive a renewal form but have paid your subscription since 15 February then please ignore it.

This reminder can be disregarded by Canoe Section (Mercia Canoe Club) members as your annual club fees due on the anniversary of joining the club include the Society subscription.

If you are a moorer and have not paid your annual mooring fees yet.

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)

Michael Coulter

Beth Potter

Wendy Russell-Smith

Interests

Local canal; Wyken moorer with cr Lady Jacqueline

Canoe Section member

Canoe Section member

It was with sadness that we have learned of the death in January of one of our long standing members, Derek Bews. Records show that Derek had been a member for at least 45 years and made a considerable contribution to many of the Society's activities over that period.



Reflections of a Moonbeam

During the long slow months of winter, I have been on culinary adventure courtesy of the Hairy Bikers. Not only did I get one, or even two cookery books, I got three!

I came to the conclusion that either I needed to brush up on my domestic Goddess skills or that Santa thought I had been very good over the past year – I prefer to think it's the latter version. Each night I would sit glued in front of the telly watching Si and Dave delivering all sorts of Christmas delights, and from then I was hooked.

Almost immediately upon reading my books, I took action and have since made Coq Au Vin, Boeuf Bourguignon, Beef casserole with honey and I had a go at making Colcannon. If this lot hasn't whet your appetite, try this recipe of mine, they are easy to make, only take 15 mins and taste great making them ideal to bake on the boat.

Cheese Scones

You will need:

6 oz self raising flour

1/2 tsp salt, ground black pepper and mustard powder

1 oz butter

3 oz strong grated cheese

1 egg

2 table spoons of milk

Mix in a bowl the flour and the seasonings

Rub in butter

Stir in cheese (reserving a little for the tops)

Gently mix in egg and milk

Roll out on floured board about 1 1/2 inch thick

Cut out as many rounds as you can get approx 8

Brush with egg and sprinkle with cheese then bake for 20 mins Voila!

Society Annual General Meeting

21 March 2012

7.30 pm start

Stoke (Coventry) Club, 7 Stoke Green (CV3 1FP)

BRAIN Teaser



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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.