

By The Wey

Issue no 101: January 2024



The Magazine of Byfleet Boat Club

Editorial

Mike Chamberlain (*Paper Moon*)



Hello,
Jeanette is celebrating the fact that we have nearly finished eating last year's potato crop. She was happy to have them but because they were so small due to the dry weather, she finds them impossible to peel. Our seasons are becoming so unpredictable that it is hard to make plans for gardening and equally hard to plan our boating. Now we are hearing of large numbers of sunken boats clogging up Thames weirs, and even our relatively manageable River Wey has generated some anxious times for the staff. The picture of Thames Lock under water, with a small boat somewhere beneath is a sobering reminder of the need to check our craft regularly.

Let's hope 2024 will see some opportunities to get out and about safely. Hopes are high for our trip to Little Venice in May (we missed out last year). We are looking forward to travelling with our fellow club members. Perhaps some will join the Campaign Cruise on the return trip? (*page 4*)



Thames Lock under water January 9th (VW)

In this issue we have news of another gathering in August, organised by the AWCC at Pitstone, a stone's throw from Paper Moon's old moorings prior to our move to the Wey. I am sorely tempted!

Lots of news from our neighbouring waterways but nothing from NT this time.

As a reminder that life moves on, we say goodbye to Gordon (*page 9*) and give a big THANK YOU to Steve M and 'What if' for many years of musical fun. The group are finding it difficult to continue since members have moved house. Good Luck guys!

Finally, thanks to Val Wardlaw my roving reporter for giving me ideas for this issue.

Mike Chamberlain (Editor)

Cover: The last gig ever (?) for Steve Martindale's Band 'What If' at the BBC Christmas party. (C.Clarke M'Lady)

Bits and pieces

More Jigsaw Fame

Val sent me a picture of yet another jigsaw featuring *Paper Moon*, this time at the Cavalcade in 2013. I duly purchased the jigsaw online and spent Christmas and the subsequent two weeks putting it together.

The boat on the right is *Barley Twist*. (MC)



The end of 60:40 fuelling? ATYC (Association of Thames Yacht Clubs) sent out this briefing about HVO fuel supplies:

A Waterways working group promoting the use of sustainably produced Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) to Government as a green alternative for recreational boats with diesel engines met with the DfT in November. The complexities of the support mechanisms for sustainable biofuels have previously meant that distributors were reluctant to supply the recreational boating market.

Current excise regulations apply to fuel for propulsion alone. The key issue for inland boaters is that it is often used for both propulsion and heating. The DfT now agree that HVO suppliers do not need to follow existing regulations.

This will open up supply to inland recreational boaters as they will not have to establish what proportions of the fuel will be used for domestic and propulsion purposes.

AWCC: May Day Bank Holiday Weekend of Action

AWCC is promoting this campaign. Since its launch in June 2023 FBW has created an impressive coalition of over 100 member organisations representing hundreds of thousands of users and supporters of inland waterways. A public petition has attracted close to 50,000 signatures. Three well-reported Campaign Cruises in Birmingham, Gloucester and past the Palace of Westminster on the Thames have substantially raised awareness of the challenges facing our canals and rivers and the need for action.

The plans for 2024 include an important **weekend of action** over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend (4 to 6 May 2024) to highlight the impact of insufficient funding for Britain's 5,000 miles of inland waterways. Events across all inland navigation authority areas will coincide with IWA's annual Canalway Cavalcade at Little Venice, which this year will be



FUND BRITAIN'S WATERWAYS

themed on 'Fund Britain's Waterways'. Boaters attending Cavalcade are invited to join a **Campaign Cruise past the Houses of Parliament** on Wednesday 8th May. Parliamentarians will be encouraged to view the event and express their support for the continued maintenance of the waterways to enable them to keep on delivering economic, health, environmental and well-being benefits.

AWCC hope for both local and national media attention building up to the Westminster Cruise and are looking for local groups to organise events during the weekend to spread the word that waterways need to be properly funded. Events can be as simple as a few boats gathered together at a "public" location where flyers can be handed out and people be encouraged to sign a petition or get more involved.

AWCC events

**Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs
are to hold their
60th Anniversary Boat Gathering
2nd – 4th August 2024**



Kindly hosted by

Dunstable & District Boat Club.

**Cook's Wharf, Pitstone on the Grand Union Canal, followed
by a Cruise organised by St Pancras Cruising Club**

- ♦ *Moorings for 75 boats*
- ♦ *Car visitors welcome on Saturday 3rd August.*

***Visit the AWCC website* for booking forms or see Club
noticeboards***

****<https://awcc.org.uk/members/events>.***



Cooke's Wharf, Pitstone

Basingstoke Canal Society News

Volunteers needed:

The canal is underfunded so a call has gone out for volunteer helpers in the following roles:

Marketing Co-ordinator

Someone with marketing or organisational skills to help coordinate our various social media initiatives.

Project Management

People to join our Project Team to help lead the planning and implementation of our various projects. Current projects include our new electric boat at Woking along with making electric points available to boats.

Admin Support for Membership Team

Someone with excel and admin skills to help our membership secretary manage subscriptions and support our members.

Fundraisers

We are looking for people to join the fundraising team to help increase the monies received from donations and legacies.

We already have ideas on what we want to do, we just need some people to help us do it.

Building and Coordinating Links with Local Businesses

If you have a corporate or local business background and would like to join the team to help expand our links with the business community, then please contact us.

IT and Website Support

People to join our IT infrastructure and website team helping to keep the IT infrastructure (Google G-suite) updated and secure and support edits and updates. Ideally applicants would have some experience in Website management along with IT system security and knowledge of Google.

The volunteering page on our website provides details of these and other opportunities to help.

<https://basingstoke-canal.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/>

The Wey & Arun Canal Trust open first 2 lift bridges in Surrey

A major restoration achievement was celebrated on Saturday 28th October when the Wey & Arun Canal Trust officially opened its first two lift bridges in Birtley, near Bramley in Surrey. This completes the restoration of a 700 metre section of Canal and construction of two lift bridges which means that the causeways that blocked the route of the canal have been removed. At the official opening by Mary Creswell, Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey attended by over 150 members and guests she paid tribute to the tremendous amount of work carried out by volunteers on the project and said "What a great achievement and an asset for Surrey". The two bridges are the biggest piece of the Canal Trust's Birtley current restoration programme. In 2018 the canal was severely overgrown, inaccessible to the public and blocked by two causeways. The first task was to open a circular walk taking the path along the new section of canal, and back down the Downs Link path. This new walking route has been enormously appreciated by local residents and highlighted the benefit of a restored canal.

The distance between the two bridges is about 600m. The two bridges have the same dimensions. They are 3.0m wide with a clear span of 4.5m. The steel decks weigh 3.5 tonnes with 1.5 tonnes of lifting frames and 4 tonnes of concrete counterweights. Chairman Sally Schupke comments that this project is big for the Canal Trust and big for Surrey and really demonstrates the achievements of our volunteers and what can be done and really benefits the community. The Canal Trust is keen to improve the next section to the south (Fanesbridge/Rooks Hill).

This will create more attractive canalside walks and recreation opportunities. An application for planning permission is currently with Waverley Borough Council.



Birtley Bridge no1

Commodore's Awards 2023

Those of you who have attended previous Christmas parties will recall that it has become a Club tradition for the Commodore to present an Award to outstanding Club members for Service, Reputation or just bad luck!

This year was no exception and the following awards were presented, with excellently produced Certificates made by Brian Clarke.

Stella Campbell - **The Thrown in the Deep End** award for Washing Up above and beyond the call of duty



Cathy duPlessis - **The Queen of the Tea Party** award for Tea Party Brilliance



Mike Chamberlain - **The Rupert Murdoch Award for Publishing Brilliance** for *By The Way*



Kat Reynolds - **The Services to the Men's Toilets** award for volunteering to fix the Mens Toilets



Claire Clarke - **The Mrs Commodore award** for Keeping the Commodore sane

Steve Kennedy - **The "Yes, I can do that"** award for always willing to volunteer to help

Mark Wilson - **The Illuminated Parade Excellence** for the Tallest Lights in the Illuminated Parade



News of Members



Update from Mark & Jane Ryland

Mark continues to recover from his operation but will need some chemotherapy.

Tudor Rose is still moored off river at Wye Piddle Marina near Pershore, However the recent floods left them stranded for a week. Jane sent this picture (above). She said she had to wade in waist high water to carry the dogs to the nearest patch of grass for their wees! *Sending* ❤️

Gordon Edmondson

Sadly, Gordon who was a long standing member, passed away on 9th January. Gordon was 89. A former BA Captain, he loved boating and his memory lives on through his little boat '*Spec*' now owned by Dick Dolton



Gordon Edmondson

Events Diary Feb-June 2024

(subject to change please check Noticeboards)

Day	Date	Time	Activity	Contact
February				
Tue	06	19.30	Craft Evening	Christine Pantling
Sat	10	19.00	Interclub Skittles Match: BBC Club House:	Steve Kennedy
Tue	20	19.30	BBC Committee Meeting	Brian Clarke
Fri	23	19:00	Film Night	Steve Price
March				
Tue	05	19.30	Craft Evening	Christine Pantling
Fri	15	19.30	Darts Evening	Brian Clarke
Tue	19	19.30	BBC Committee Meeting	Brian Clarke
Sat	23	09.00	Working Weekend	Steve Price
Sun	24	09.00	Working Weekend (including launch Hire Boats)	Steve Price
Sat	30	14:00	Boat Race with Pimms	Andrew William-son
April				
Tue	02	19.30	Craft Evening	Christine Pantling
Sun	07	15.00	BBC AGM at Club	Brian Clarke
Sat	20	14.00	St George's Day Event	Steve Price
Tue	23	19.30	BBC Committee Meeting	Commodore
May				
Wed	01 – 08 May		Boat trip to IWA Little Venice Canalway Cavalcade	Steve Kennedy
Fri	17	19.30	3 rd Friday – TBD	TBD
Tue	21	19.30	BBC Committee Meeting	Commo-dore
June				
Sat	15	10.00	Warren Farm day Trip	TBD
Tue	18	19.30	BBC Committee Meeting	Commo-dore
Fri	21	17.00	3 rd Friday - TBD	TBD

Events Diary July-Dec 2024

(subject to change please check Noticeboards)

Day	Date	Time	Activity	Contact
July				
Sat	13	10.00	Byfleet Parish Day (Date to be confirmed)	
Tue	23	19.30	BBC Committee Meeting	Nigel Prior Commodore
August				
Tue	20	19.30	BBC Committee Meeting	Commodore
September				
Fri	13	18.00	River Wey Festival Boaters BBQ	TBD
Sat	14	10.00	River Wey Festival	Steve Price
Tue	17	19.30	BBC Committee Meeting	Commodore
October				
Sat	05	09.30	Rowing Boat Laying Up	TBD
Fri	18	19.30	3 rd Friday - TBD	TBD
Sat	19	10.00	Working Day - maintenance	Steve Price
Tue	22	19.30	BBC Committee Meeting	Commodore
November				
Sat	16	19.30	Leaf Clearing & Illuminated Setup	TBD
Tue	19	19.30	BBC Committee Meeting	Commodore
Sat	23	17.30	BBC Illuminated Parade	Brian Clarke
December				
Sat	07	19.00	BBC Christmas Party	TBD
Tue	10	19.30	BBC Committee Meeting	Commodore
Fri	14	17.00	Carol Singing	Steve Kennedy

Gabriel's last voyage

James wrote:

This last year had been a bit of a struggle for Hazel, finding it difficult to jump down from the bows to the towpath, and having to stand for long periods when we negotiated long lock flights like Hatton, Wolverhampton and Atherstone. We called in James from Rugby Boats to give us a valuation on *Gabriel*. He gave us a valuation beyond what we were expecting. He also said that we didn't need to wait until the spring, as boats were selling fast. So, we decided to proceed with the sale.

Gabriel came out of the wet dock on 9th October, just in time for Jon, a boat mover, to take the boat from Aylesbury to Rugby Boats in Weedon Bec. The boat was advertised on their website on the same Saturday 14th, and there was an offer on Monday 16th. After a survey, the sale was completed during the first week of November, and we went to meet the new owners and hand over the boat on Sunday November 5th.



Hazel with Jon the boat mover

Gabriel now belongs to Craig and Kristine. We hope they will be very happy with their purchase, and we wish them safe cruising.

(Ed: Story taken from James' blog, <http://nbgabriel.blogspot.com>)

*We remember James especially as a previous editor of 'By The Wey' and a regular visitor following their decision to become continuous cruisers when *Gabriel* left the BBC on 18th May 2014!*

*A special mention for *Aquarius* narrow boats (Mick Wilson) who did the original fitout on *Gabriel*. Ed.*

THE WARRIOR

The largest warship in the world at the time

Length

418 feet

Beam 58 feet

Displacement

9,210 tons

Speed with sail and steam combined

17.2 knots

Armour - 4 1/2 wrought iron plate backed by 18" of teak

Engine - Penn double-acting twin cylinder, single expansion horizontal trunk engine producing 5,469 indicated hp (4,100 Shaft hp) 10 box boilers

It took 176 men to raise the 4 anchors

The propeller can be lifted out of the water to reduce drag under sail



Warrior at Portsmouth (Wikipedia)

QUIZ questions:

- 1: Where was she built and what year?
- 2) What speed (under steam)?
- 3) How many 68 pounder smooth bore muzzle loading guns?
- 4) How many 110 pounder smooth bore muzzle loading guns?
- 5) How many crew?
- 6) How many tons of coal could it carry?
- 7) How many anchors and what tonnage each?

Answers on page 18

Club News: Illuminated Boat parade

Record crowds attended our annual illuminated parade on November 25th. Here is a selection of the best photos. Thanks to contributors Claire Clarke, Rob Hall, Nigel Prior and Cathy Wooden





Carols and a Singalong

Our intrepid vice commodore Steve Kennedy (*Narnia*) organised a convivial evening of song before Christmas. Thank you Steve!



Pictures by Cathy duPlessis (Ayresome)

Interested? Go to the Booking form online <https://waterways.org.uk/canalway-cavalcade-2024-boat-booking> or see the Club Noticeboard

IWA CANALWAY CAVALCADE 2024

MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND: 4TH – 6TH MAY



BOAT BOOKING FORM

Come and enjoy IWA's Canalway Cavalcade from a fantastic vantage point. Please complete the booking form to reserve your mooring.

You can book online. It's easy.
Pay by credit/debit card.

[WATERWAYS.ORG.UK/CAVALCADE](https://waterways.org.uk/cavalcade)

ENTRY FEES (INCL. VAT): £45

Christmas party



Tables laid and ready (C. Clarke)



Festive wear in the workshop



Enjoying the fare (C. Clarke)

Thanks to Claire, Brian and all the helpers for a splendid evening

David's Quiz: Answers

- 1) August 1861 in the Thames at Blackwall
- 2) Speed 14.4 knots
- 3) 26
- 4) 10
- 5) 706 men
- 6) 853 tons
- 7) 4 of 5.6 tons each

Byegone times

This picture would have been taken from the Parvis Road bridge looking downstream towards the present club moorings. The original Club was built by local philanthropist and leading socialite, Frederick Cornelius Stoop, a leading figure in the newly merged Shell and Royal Dutch petroleum companies. He had married the heiress of the Dartnell Park estate and later became the owner of the West Hall estate on the opposite side of Parvis Road. The boat club and a tennis club as well were two social centres built by Stoop for the professional and middle class buyers of the new housing being built on his wife's estate. Our present clubhouse was built for the Working Class boaters.

Not much change there then!



The original Clubhouse (picture supplied by N Prior (Hasty Cloud))



View looking upstream, our Clubhouse would be built on the left (NP)

Committee page

Commodore	Brian Clarke (<i>M'Lady</i>)	(07785 908283)
Vice Commodore	Steve Kennedy (<i>Narnia</i>)	(07808059980)
Hon Secretary	Andrew Williamson (<i>Ayresome</i>)	(07448 979653)
Hon Treasurer	Cathy Wooden (<i>Miffy</i>)	(07984 453248)
Chair Maintenance Committee	Steve Price (<i>Finans Folly</i>)	(07884148412)
Membership Sec./ Minutes Secretary	Steve Kennedy (<i>Narnia</i>)	(07808059980)
Hire Boat rota	Mark Pantling (<i>Journeyman</i>)	(07796 967590)
AWCC representative	Greg Beardsall (<i>Elstree</i>)	(07901652799)
	Melvyn Wayne (<i>Lady Jennifer</i>)	(07767605588)
	Tony Harsum (<i>canoe</i>)	
Editor By the Wey	Mike Chamberlain (<i>Paper Moon</i>)	(07531657641)

Ed: Thanks to all those who offered their services as proof readers

Next copy date 1st June 2024:

Contributions to bbc.btw@gmail.com

Editorial Contact: Editor: mike@papermoon59.co.uk,

Generic E-Mail: bbc.btw@gmail.com

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We started 2024 with a session to take down the Christmas decorations and it's a reflection of the attitude of our membership that we had so many volunteers that the work took about 30 minutes, and the rest of the time was spent chatting, drinking tea and eating biscuits!

As I look back at the last six months and forward to the next, I see a growing club with new members and an increasing number of existing members attending our events. We are looking to ensure that there are events that include cruising, day boating and clubhouse based social events, but they all include opportunities for members to talk to each other and develop friendships, usually supported by food and drinks!

Personally, the highlight of the last 6 months was the Illuminated Parade, which saw probably the largest turnout of local people we have ever had. The number of boats participating went into double figures for the first time in a while and we sold vast amounts of Hot Chocolate, Hot Dogs and even

Candy Floss, a great success!

And in the next 6 months, I am looking forward to the IWA Cavalcade to Little Venice. It's a fun trip into London in a convoy of Byfleet Boat Club boats, and then the weekend is spent surrounded by boats, boaters and all things boating. It's fun whether you have your own boat there or are visiting other members on their boats.

I also note that the number of members offering to help set things up and assist with the running of the events is also increasing which is wonderful to see and bodes well for the continued success of the club.

We have a great calendar of events for this year, which is elsewhere in this issue, and I hope to see you at them.

Brian