

By The Way

Issue no 107: June 2026



The Magazine of Byfleet Boat Club

Editorial

Mike Chamberlain (*Paper Moon*)



I really thought I would have problems filling this issue but I was wrong, it is a big one.

Many thanks to my brilliant correspondent Brian Clarke whose adventures provide a taste of what is possible outside of our sheltered habitat. See page 14 onwards.

I do wish that many of our other seasoned travellers would put pen to paper or keyboard to laptop to entertain us with their exploits. I now know that even voice notes can be readily converted to text so why not send me an audio diary, I would be just as happy with that!

While sweating buckets at the last May Bank Holiday boat hire duty (I believe we took close to £1000), Phil Hardyman proposed to send me a Wey Navigation Handbook from 1972 for the Past Times section. Having studied it I saw that my boat licence fee was £8.75, that is £165 in today's money. Interesting! More gems are in store for the next issue.

In this issue Tristan reports on the navigation works, (I note that our BBC new mooring line is running a little later than planned.) Our friends on the Basingstoke have celebrated their 60th and are keen to welcome more boaters. On p8

Terry reminisces on the state of the waterways. (*NB blue box p26*). Apparently Kat's 'Warren Farm Bakeries' produced some marvellous food, shame I missed it. I am tempted to pick up my schoolboy rod and line for the Club Fishing Match, and there are plenty of events publicised in the second half of this issue, including believe it or not, the next Christmas Party; I can't wait!

Mike



Just one Cornetto! Adrian strikes a Gondolier pose on a hot bank holiday weekend (MC)

Cover picture:

M'Lady and Tristan made their way past the Houses of Parliament after visiting Little Venice. (Picture taken from M'lady by Claire Clarke)

Navigation News: Tristan Brown



Site Set Up for Millbrook Weir Rebuild

The big news is that works to rebuild Millbrook weir have started! Throughout this project we will be doing everything we can to limit the impact to our river users and keep the Navigation open, with the exception of minor delays when materials are craned over the water. The contractors will have banksmen there to inform boaters of the need to wait but will aim to get you through with as little interruption as possible.

For those of you who have noticed the low water levels, we have needed to temporarily drop the level in the pound by approximately 6 inches. Once a temporary dam has been installed, we can then raise the water level back up. However, please be aware that in order to create a safe working environment and to help our team manage the water levels with a lower risk of overtopping the structure, we will need to run a couple of inches low for the remainder of the season. This is to try and avoid delays to the project.

We aim to have this completed by late Autumn/early Winter with the weir repaired and footbridge reinstated.

The teams have been hard at work across the rest of the Navigation too.

So far this year we have replaced the flood gates at Walsham (a job done in

record time between the red boards going in and out earlier in the year), what felt like hundreds of scaffold poles have been driven in to finish the mooring line replacement at Addlestone, our floating excavator has travelled the length of the Navigation, following the high water levels in winter, reprofiling the channel to ensure it



Walsham Flood Gates Replaced

Navigation News

was clear of sandbars, reeds have been removed from areas where the banks were encroaching too far into the channel plus remedial repairs that include fixing dogholes and backfilling



Reprofiling/Keeping the Channel Clear

behind steel sheet piling.

Following the feedback from our boaters at the end of the last season the team have also been focussing on the offside cut backs, where to increase our efforts, we are very grateful to have enlisted the help of the Swing bridge volunteers. There has also been a push to ensure that the sight lines along the Navigation are cut short to make it easier to see round those tighter meanders.

I would encourage our boaters to get

in touch if there are any key areas that we have not yet got to which would make your boating experience better.

Although it has been a busy start, there is still plenty more maintenance work to do. The team are currently repairing the moorings near Byfleet Boat Club. Once these are complete the plan is to:

Conduct remedial repairs to some undercutting in the lower pound at Thames Lock

Complete 150m of bank protection above Send Church Bridge,

Dry dock our work boats

Contract engineers to conduct bridge inspections across our 56 bridges

Replace gates at Pyrford

Replace steel sheet piling at Papercourt, Newark, St Catherine's, and Stoke locks.

It has been a busy year and we have seen a number of incidents so far with some resulting in damage to the Navigation. Millmead balance beam was snapped after a boat collided with it, lock gates have been lifted and needed to be winched back in place, there have been a couple of incidents of craft coming loose from their moorings and we even had to rescue some floating patio furniture after some high winds. It has not only been water-based incidents, we even had not one, but two vehicles collide with

Navigation News

the carpark barrier at Pyrford lock in the space of a couple of hours! With these incidents in mind and the pull it has on resources for our team, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of roping up whilst travelling through locks no matter how experienced the boater.

I would also like to ask for your help in advising either new boaters who are getting used to the life, or those visiting from other waterways, on the proper use of our Elsan and refuse points. We have seen an increase in the amount of fly tipping and when Elsan points have been emptied there has been a lot of unsuitable materials found in the tanks. We will be putting out notices at the facilities with information on what can and can't be disposed of and would appreciate your support in setting a good example.

Our water sports offer at Dapdune is also coming along nicely offering new audiences a chance to engage with the river and experience its tranquillity and beauty. This is a good example of the way that we are trying to diversify the income streams for the Navigation and ensure that all river users are contributing to its maintenance and care.

The operators are also very keen to teach both good practice and the



Watersports at Dapdune

rules of the Navigation to help our variety of visitors use the waterway safely and in a way that limits the impact to others.

I hope you all managed to get out and enjoy the sun in the recent heat wave and as always, I look forward to seeing you out on the waterway. Thank you for your continued support.

Tristan Brown

New Gates at Walsham Moorings



Not only new lock gates but the new barriers to the public at the moorings featuring an impressive padlock, not easy to navigate with a wheelbarrow!

Basingstoke Canal Society

2026 is a celebratory year for the Basingstoke Canal society. We began in January with a talk about our work and memories with input from members and supporters on what the Canal, Canal Society and the anniversary meant to them. However our biggest celebration of the year happened on the 18th April, when we celebrated our 60th anniversary by welcoming hundreds of members, volunteers and members of the public to Boundary Road Recreation Ground with family games, entertainment, food, drinks and many stalls from local wildlife groups. The event also saw the official naming of our new electric trip boat, *Kitty II*.

A commemorative booklet was also released celebrating our 60th and sharing updates from the last 10 years. Our 60th Anniversary short film is also now available to watch on our



YouTube channel and has received excellent feedback from everyone who has seen it. You can find our YouTube Channel by searching Basingstoke Canal Society on YouTube.

As well as our 60th, this year has also seen our partnership grow with the Basingstoke Canal Authority and we recently began support with our volunteer lock keepers programme.



Liz and Tim Dodwell with Kitty2

We all appreciate that the Basingstoke Canal is an wonderful stretch of water however the 28 double locks that you must climb through to the top of Deepcut can be a challenge and this new initiative will help visitors through the 17 locks of the Brookwood and Deepcut flights.

We hope that this will in turn encourage more visiting boats onto the Basingstoke Canal, something we value as a society and love to see. If you would like to visit the Canal, why not get in touch and let us know. We'd be happy to answer any questions you may have and recommend some beautiful places to stop.

Second, to seeing new and more boats on the Canal, and most importantly, this joint initiative should improve water management on the Canal. The canal is prone to running low on water towards the end of the summer and having dedicated volunteer Lock keepers who go ahead with the boats whilst the Rangers "caulk up" the leaks coming through the lock gates, should help use water more efficiently and maintain navigation throughout the season. Looking ahead to the glorious summer



Volunteer Lock Keepers

ahead, we hope to see many visitors to the Basingstoke Canal and our volunteers look forward to meeting and helping you through the locks. Next month also sees the next celebration of our 60th year with a BBQ at the Fox & Hounds in Fleet on the 11th July. We hope to see many of you there for a look at our archives display and opportunity to learn more and join us in celebrating the Society.

Last but not least, this June we're entering all new members into a prize draw for a chance to win a pair of tickets for a boat trip of their choice on Kitty II or John Pinkerton II. To become a member for as little as £15 per year, please visit <https://basingstoke-canal.org.uk/become-a-member/> where you can become a member online in only a few moments.

Housekeeping

Where does all their effluent go?

*We've been boating years and years,
Chris on locks and washing socks
Up the flights and on the cut,
rivers too with anchors up
Starting boating was a dream
Favourite moorings an easy steam*

*But now canals are full of dross
because 'water gypsies' are the boss
From year to year those boats don't
move*

*I suppose they think they're in the
groove*

*So tell me please I want to know
where does all their effluent go?*

*I'm sad to say we were in clover
best boating years are definitely
over*

*At bridges, bends and narrow bits
these junk boats always seem to sit
So tell me please I want to know
Where does all their effluent go?*

*We all make regular trips
to Elsan points and tips
Get pump-outs for our loos
But have they heard of 'Blue'?
So tell me please I want to know
Where does all their effluent go?*

(Terry Simmons -with Ed's A I)

BINS

The Club's "blue bin" is emptied fortnightly and sorted for us by the recycling company. It's for clean, dry recyclables, but a limited amount of household waste in sealed black sacks is permitted. Industrial or building waste, scrap timber, oil, paint, solvents, dog waste, glass, textiles, rope offcuts, electrical appliances, batteries, etc. are not allowed - they must be taken home or to a designated waste disposal site.

There is a real risk of our service being cancelled if members and the public continue to put these in the bin.

For safety reasons there is a weight limit on the contents, which is reached when the bin is roughly half to two-thirds full; we are billed for excess weight.

Finally, although currently exempt, from next year the Club will be required by law to sort recyclables at source. So let's start getting used to managing our personal waste too. The blue bin should have ONLY washed cans or foil containers, rinsed plastic bottles, paper and card that is uncontaminated by food waste, and LIMITED domestic waste in sealed black plastic bags. Members should also be aware that there is a disposal site at Pyrford Lock where sorted recyclables and domestic waste can be disposed of.

Woking Palace Trip

A few intrepid boaters made the trip to Woking Palace. Always an interesting voyage!

(Pics by C du Plessis)



Spec made it all the way to the Palace

Warren Farm weekends

We made a couple of visits up the river to the BBC moorings.

On the first, we were shivering; on the second, we were grateful for the shade.

We missed Mark and Kat, and the bread she had made.

Canoes and paddleboards were out in force, some with dogs riding on the front. In the heat, there was little choice, though I suspect a few people stayed in the sun too long.

For children and dogs alike, the moorings are a lovely place to be once the holidays are over.

Rod and Val



Warren Farm weekends



Kat's bread making (CduP)

Eric and Jack's Angling Page



Jack's holiday Rudd weighed 1lb+

Float fishing for Rudd

This is one of the nicest freshwater fish with its bright red fins that make it stand out. It is very similar in shape to the roach, but will not get as big. Lots of anglers get the two mixed up they are normally in bigger shoals than the roach so when you've got them feeding you can catch a good amount. If you are fishing light and not too heavy, make sure you land them with a net and on a soft unhooking mat. This is a delicate fish and will damage easily but it is a satisfying fish to catch and will put up a good fight

Method "float fishing" It is a middle depth feeding fish. Fast strike is best to stop the rudd swallowing the hook. The best hook size is a 16 or 18 barbless hook

Bait: maggot normal or red or bronze and also pinkies. Bread punch is a good bait. Small bits of bread from a

punch loose feed and cloud ground bait. (I will cover this at my workshop evening at the club)

Eric

Molluscs or Barnacles?

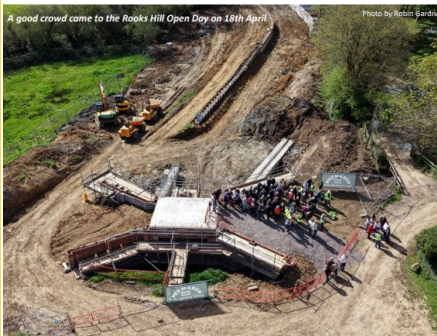
Some of the members may know that my boat is in the compound as I am doing work on it including a service on the outboard Honda 20. My engineer took the lowest section away for inspection. It was the thermostat setting an alarm off. These little things had got inside so I had to have a new Honda parts kit which included the prop.

You can see them below inside my old prop so watch out with your outboards. I've not seen them before on any of my other outboards. Are they new to the navigation? *Eric*



WACT news*

Excellent progress has been made at the Rooks Hill Bridge site where a good



crowd assembled for the Open Day in April. There were well-attended site visits on the morning of the WACT Spring Meeting and the commemorative brick laying by Sir Jeremy Hunt MP.

Four different teams have been working on a wide variety of tasks with the aim of completing Phase 1 of the project over the summer.

Work includes bricklaying on the wing



walls, concreting the cavity voids and filling the Gabion baskets along the new section of canal bank. The baskets were faced and topped with limestone, to provide an aesthetic appearance. On completing the length of baskets they were backed with a sandwiched layer of butyl liner, in preparation for the backfilling of the void behind the wall and the final profiling of the soil bank.

There was a problem at Loxwood Lock where one of the top gates would not close properly, which made it impossible to open the lower gates. The Monday team installed stop planks, drained the chamber above the top gates and discovered a piece of wood jammed in the mitre. With the wood removed and the silt cleared the gates operated correctly and normal service resumed.

*(*Taken from the monthly WACT Newsletters)*

Five go to Little Venice

Five Go to Little Venice (*title credits to Steve Kennedy*)



Three crews set off from BBC

Tuesday 28th April broke sunny but windy. Crews from *Narnia*, *Tros-yr-Afon*, *Tristan III* and *M'Lady* met up at Byfleet Boat Club and set off for the Little Venice Cavalcade, all but *M'Lady* being single handed. We all arrived at Thames Lock, where Tracy had a new apprentice by the name of Rodney Wardlaw!!

All successfully moored at Lady Linda's Lawn for Tuesday night. And in keeping with tradition a trip to the pub was in order and the chosen establishment was the Red Lion.

Wednesday dawned, and the four boats headed off for Brentford, by way of Teddington. It was at Teddington Lock, that the fifth boat, *Danum 2*, joined our convoy. The run to Brentford was uneventful with the exception of some white horses on waves caused by a very chilly wind.

Having reached Brentford, the decision was made to moor for the night due to the continuing high winds. Inevitably a pub trip was in order and Pete, from *Danum 2*, recommended the Brewery Tap, which turned out to be a fine establishment and well-earned drinks were consumed to the sounds of Reggae music.



Thursday was a very hot day, and the five boats ascended Hanwell Flight and the Norwood Locks. The addition of narrowboats *Thyme* and *Lazy Bee* at various points along the way resulted in

Five go to Little Venice



Phil, Brian, Claire, James, Tina and Steve

a couple of changes to boat-lock configurations but we all arrived at Willowtree Marina late that afternoon. The two larger narrowboats had some fun and games getting into the allotted moorings with Mel and Pete showing some superb poling to get *Danum 2* neatly into her mooring. *M'Lady* will be learning this technique in the future when things are tight! As you may have already guessed, the evening was spent in the Lock & Quay at Willowtree Marina.

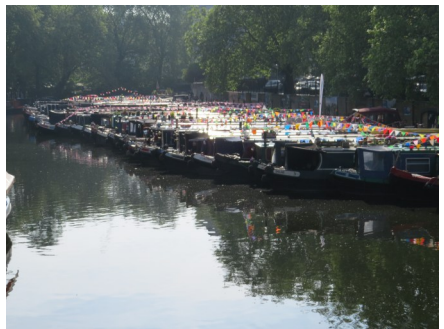
Friday was the trip into Little Venice and due to the excellent IWA organization, we all found our moorings and met up with Greg Beardsall whose boat was already moored up, near the beer tent! A few of the travelers met up in the Beer

Tent to join the Boaters Quiz, unfortunately only the second half of the quiz, and our scores are best forgotten!

Saturday was a lovely day spent looking around the festival, with Steve, Vikki, Claire and Brian doing a stint on the IWA stand. There was the usual boat pageant, the BBC was

represented by Greg on *Slow Train*, and Helen and Cheryl were spotted as passengers! Phil and Steve joined *M'Lady* for grandstand seats on the bow of *M'Lady*, which was positioned in front of the jazz band.

Saturday evening meant the open mic night in the beer tent. It always amazes me how many talented singers, poets and musicians spend their time on boats. It was an



Assembled boats at Little Venice (CC)

Five go to Little Venice



Greg on Slow Train (pic: C. Clarke)

enjoyable evening, and BBC joined in with the chorus of some of the better-known songs.

Sunday was a slower start but there was still a lot going on, including Alarum's final performance, which was a one lady depiction of life on the working boats through history. If you are interested, then have a look on Facebook under Alarum Productions.

There was a small drinks party on *M'Lady* for the BBC contingent before the illuminated parade in which BBC had two entries, Phil in *Tros-yr-Afon* and Greg in *Slow Train*. No prize this year but two fantastically decorated boats. Brian, Claire, Steve and Vikki watched from the bow of *M'Lady* and believed that the BBC boats were the best two entries, clearly an unbiased view!! The illuminated was accompanied by lots of music from our

era and we sang at the top of our voices, obviously in tune!!!

On Monday there was the prize giving and Greg on *Slow Train* won the community boat award, not for the first time!

The various BBC boats departed in different directions, with *M'Lady* and *Tristan III* heading to Limehouse for a Tideway cruise (and that's another story), *Danum 2* heading to Watford for some repairs, *Narnia* heading towards the Lee and Stort, *Tros-y-Afon* heading back to the River Wey and *Slow Train* remained to provide bunks for the clear-up crew. When *M'Lady* first arrived at Little Venice our neighboring boat recognized our BBC pennant and commented that the BBC used to come to the Cavalcade in great numbers and it would be nice to see more of us again. So, if you fancy a little adventure on the first bank holiday of May next year, there will be a BBC convoy going and we all help each other and have a lot of fun on the way, so why not join us?

Brian Clarke

Tidal Way Cruise

After a great weekend at the IWA Canal Cavalcade at Little Venice, two Byfleet Boat Club boats *Tristan III* and ourselves, *M'Lady*, made their way to Limehouse Basin on a calm Tuesday to meet up with 14 working boats and 12 other pleasure narrowboats for a Tidal Thames Cruise.

We arrived mid afternoon with a small concern that there was play in our tiller which we had mentioned earlier in the day. As we arrived we were instructed to moor abreast of a line of working boats, and we were immediately descended upon by a number of willing and knowledgeable boat crew, consisting of marine engineers, mechanics and boat safety examiners! In a blur of activity, the weed hatch was opened and the rudder inspected by feel, and following various discussions it was agreed that we were safe to proceed with the trip.

All the boat crews met in the Cruising Association for a detailed and humorous safety briefing led by St Pancras Cruising Club's Andrew Phasey. This included information on our locking out time for the following morning and the name and skipper of our lead boat, which is an experienced boat skipper to help less experienced crews.

We met in the Limehouse Basin Thames Lock at about 6.30 on Wednesday morning, we were the third of seven lockings of the morning and once settled by the very helpful lock staff we were let out onto the Thames. It was time to take a deep breath and we proceeded out and turned left onto the tideway using our horn signal as we went. We have done this trip once before, but that was even earlier and on a very calm day, this time there was some swell. We moved quite quickly, mostly due to the tide towards the Thames Barrier. The London VTS gave us permission to enter the Barrier Control Zone and before we knew it we were passing the Woolwich Ferries. Fortunately we arrived just as they had docked and were unloading, which meant we didn't have to take any avoiding action, but we didn't get to see their synchronised dance as they cross the River Thames. We approached and passed through the Thames Barrier via the approved span, taking lots of pictures to send to our friends, as we passed.

Tidal Way Cruise



It was then onto Margaretness, which is the end of the Barrier Control Zone, and performed our 4 and 2, the horn signals for turning around to the left, and met up on the other side of the river to hold station until the tide turned and we were allowed back into the Barrier Control Zone to get to our destination for the night, The King George V docks. Once we had permission, the order of boats was changed to allow the 14 working boats, most of whom were built at Harland and Wolff in the Royal Docks to enter first for photo opportunities. We then arrived and were moored abreast of other boats and waited for the lock to be closed and the 6 metre rise as the lock was filled. There was an audible sigh of relief on *M'Lady* once we were secured for the evening! The crews

of all the boats then went to the Galyons Pub for a supper and naturally to re-live the day!!

The morning brought a 7.30 start to go out of the lock away from the River Thames, mostly to get the 14 working boats lined up for a once in a lifetime

photo shoot, what a sight!

At about 1pm on Thursday the 6 metre drop started and then in the new order we were released back onto the River Thames. As we have come to expect, Andrew Phasey had this all sorted and the boats heading to Teddington were at the front, then those going to Brentford and finally those taking the shorter trip back to Limehouse. We repeated the passing through the Thames Barrier and the proceeded through London in what I can honestly say was the roughest water that I have experienced in my 12 years on *M'Lady*, but the sights of all the bridges and the convoy of boats was spectacular. It really was



quick phone call to London VTS to inform them that the last boats of the convoy had left the tidal Thames and was rewarded with praise from the London VTS that the convoy had been very well behaved, a reflection on the organization and leadership skills of Frances and Andrew Phasey.

a case of being frightened and doing it anyway!

Things calmed down as we got through the busy part of London and along with *Tristan III*, from Byfleet Boat Club and the working boat and butty, Towcester and Argus, we arrived in Teddington in good spirits. I made a

A fantastic two days, being part of a reunion of 14 beautiful restored working boats with their birthplace, and also a very exciting Tideway Cruise. If you haven't done the trip before I would whole heartedly recommend joining one of the St Pancras Cruising Club's trips, they are very well organized and very friendly, especially to newbies!

Brian



Events Diary Jun26-Dec26

Subject to change: please check Noticeboards or Facebook

JUNE

3rd Friday June 19th 7.30 Eric Bailey Talk : fishing techniques and tackle (EB)

Saturday June 20th 10.30 Fishing demo and competition Eric Bailey (EB)

JULY

Friday July 3rd Committee meeting

Sunday July 12th 3pm Wimbledon on TV at the club. Men's singles final

3rd Friday July 17th 7.30 DIY barbecue

AUGUST

3rd Friday August 21st 7.30 Informal meet and greet in Club

29th August - 31st 10.30 August Warren Farm Bank Holiday Cruise

SEPTEMBER

Friday Sept. 4th Committee Meeting

3rd Friday Sept.18th 7.30 Member Steve Flagg Guitar Singalong evening

Weekend Sept. 18th -19th WEYSIDE

OCTOBER

Friday Oct. 2nd Committee meeting

3rd Friday Oct. 16th

Saturday / Sunday 17th /18th Working party and rowing boats out

Sat October-31st Nov 1st Ripley bonfire trip

NOVEMBER

Friday Nov. 6th Committee meeting

Sat. Nov. 14th Leaf clearing and Christmas decorations put up

3rd Friday Nov 20th 7.30 Talk about the management of the WEY NAVIGATION
by Tristan from the National Trust

Sat. Nov. 21st 7.30 Illuminated boat parade

DECEMBER

Friday Dec. 4th Committee meeting

Saturday Dec. 5th 7.0 Christmas dinner

3rd Friday Dec.18th Christmas 7.30 carols singalong

Coming Events

Club Fishing match

20th June 1-4pm

Rules

Bank only, no fishing from boats

No keep nets. Competition based on number of fish caught, unless it's a big fish then it will be weighed.

2 Winners: Best fish and Most fish

Barbless hooks only, no lead shot, sea gear or string line

If no gear don't worry it will be supplied!

NB Get an EA Rod Licence for the day

If you wish to fish add your name to the list on the Board, Ladies are welcome, not just men! *Eric*

Woking & Sam Beare Hospice Appeal

As discussed and agreed at this year's AGM , Andrew Smith will be hiring the rowing boats out for a week on behalf of our Club in support of Woking & Sam Beare Hospice.

The dates are:

Monday 3rd August through to and including Friday 7th August.

Please help to promote this activity *Andrew*



Coming events

Summer Social at the Club

**Join your fellow boaters at the club to
watch the**

Wimbledon Men's Final

**Bake or Buy a cake to share, we'll supply
the tea & coffee.**

so come along and join us on

Sunday 12 July 2026

We hope to see you there!

PS Waverley Trip 6th September



PS Waverley going past the Needles

DATE:- Sunday 6th September 2026

Departure from Southampton 09.25

Return to Southampton – 20.30

Options:-

1. Southampton to Swanage & return
2. Southampton to Swanage + steam railway & return
3. Southampton to Cruise Jurassic Coast, Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door & return (stay on board for the whole trip)

I am only offering transport as ticket prices vary on what you would like to do for the day – look up PS Waverley & book your choice. Regardless of what you want to do we all end up back at Southampton on board PS Waverley. There is hot food & drinks served on board, check out the brochure.

I will sort out pick-up & drop-off points once I have final bookings, but regardless, we must be in Southampton for 09.00 at the latest, so an early start will be required.

Cost for transport £15.00 per person. Transport will be, either a minibus (16) mini coach (32) Coach (53 seats).

To book just transport please email me pirate.adc@gmail.com with how many people & your preferred pick up point etc. Quite a few members enjoyed this trip last year, it is a fantastic day out!!

Greg Beardsall
07901652799

Coming Events



BYFLEET BOAT CLUB



WEYSIDE 2026

18 & 19 SEPTEMBER



EVENTS:

FRI 19:30: BOATERS' CHAT AREA WITH LIVE MUSIC FROM "RISING DAMP" (BRING NIBBLES, DRINKS AND GLASSES



SAT 14:00: "OLD STYLE" BOATING ACTIVITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT



*** LIMITED FOOD AND DRINK ***



*** ARTS AND CRAFTS ***



*** BOAT BITS AND JUNK AUCTION ***



SAT 19:30: MEET YOUR BOATING FRIENDS DO-IT-YOURSELF BARBECUE WITH FIRE PITS AND MUSIC. BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS



MOORING BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL



Weyside 2026, Byfleet Boat Club, 4 Old Parvis Road, West Byfleet, KT14 6LE
Further enquiries: Rodney Wardlaw 07887-552922

Coming Events

Christmas Dinner 2026

5th December

A list will be going on the board sometime in August.

The price will be the same as last year: £55 per head

BUT

This year we will not be supplying drinks

so it will be a BYO evening

You can of course book a place as soon as you like with

eileenjsearle@gmail.com



Thames quiz answers from last *issue*:

1 *Boveney lock*

2 *Staines on Thames*

3 *Bell Weir Lock*

4 *Henley bridge*

5 *Clifton lock*

Committee page

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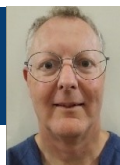
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Stern View Andrew Williamson (Ayresome)



*The AGM is over; The licence paid once more.
Get the boat off the mooring. Let's go and explore.
There is hot summer sun on the River Wey,
It's a perfect time for a cruise and sleepaway
At Warren Farm with shade and soft green grass,
Enjoying drinks and laughter as fireside evenings pass.*

on three of those I've had some sort of engine trouble. Maybe I'm being haunted by the angry ghosts of past

Summer's here. We've had our first heat wave and on the Bank Holiday weekend there were queues waiting for rowboats. On the same weekend, a small group went on an expedition to Woking Palace to keep our right to navigate that portion of the river. It was an eventful trip and I was really grateful for the fantastic group that joined it. I'm not sure I'll do the trip again this year, though. I've done four expeditions to Woking Palace now and

Commodores. That aside, I really enjoy a weekend at the Club's weekend moorings at Warren Farm. They are for exclusive use of Club members every weekend, so even if there isn't a planned outing, consider cruising up there and enjoy the rope swing, or the campfire, or just some peace and quiet. Talking of expeditions, several members went to Little Venice again. That is a much longer expedition than the day



Ayresome (Catherine du Plessis)

trip to Woking Palace, but I'm told it is well worth it. We planned an outing on the Thames too, but temporary licensing has become expensive and the event was cancelled due to low sign-up.

Back at the club house work has started on extending the bankside moorings to accommodate more members' and visitors' boats.

Stern View

Andrew Williamson (*Ayresome*)

The increased space is going to be so welcome but moorings will still be at a premium along our frontage. I'm often reminded that we have "rules" - about working on boats, loading and unloading boats, leaving boats unattended overnight, and more. For me, though, it's really about kindness,



tolerance, awareness of others' needs, and just being

courteous. Take as much time as you really need to load up before a cruise or unload when you get back from one, but only that much.

Let's make it a thing of the past to have a string of unattended boats halfway to New Haw lock for hours, days, or even weeks and months on end!

Last year we completed some upgrades to the slipway and compound, and this summer several boats were pulled out and pushed back relatively easily.

The facilities are continually improving, and a short stay in the compound to do a bit of work on the bottom-sides or interior is really viable now. If you have quite

a bit of work to do, a few weeks in the compound is well worth it, and so much easier than trying to work from the bank while the boat is still in the water. The compound and lifting gear can take boats up to about 1.5 tonnes and 9m long.

On the social side, we have had several fun third Friday activities, although sadly attendance at some has been low. It isn't everyone's cup of tea, but third Fridays are a good opportunity for meeting boating friends, sharing stories, or learning something new. I found the presentation on the Lancaster Canal particularly interesting – if you didn't hear that then I think

you missed out! *Andrew*