IWA’s Saul Waterways Pageant, took place over the Bank Holiday weekend, 23rd - 25th August, with a variety of boats displayed at their best and events and entertainment enjoyed by the public. Despite the variable weather, around 2500 visitors enjoyed the Pageant at Saul Junction. The event featured live music, markets, refreshments, a real ale bar and a daily lucky programme prize draw. A diversity of interests on and around the waterways were showcased including activities such as walking, fishing and cycling as well as demonstrations and water-based competitions. Crowds gathered in the afternoon to watch the boat handling competition and the illuminated boat parade later in the evening.

A popular attraction at the event was the parade of historic RNLI lifeboats, spanning the last sixty years, brought to Saul by lifeboat enthusiast Phil Trotter of R W Davis & Sons, the well-known Saul Junction boat builders. The lifeboats paraded past the Pageant site at Saul Junction daily and were moored on site all weekend. Two old steam launches and a steam traction engine joined the pageant on Saturday and Sunday. There was also an unexpected attraction of the...
IWA Bulletin - September 2014

occasional stately passage of tall ships returning from filming in Gloucester Docks. Over fifty other visiting boats lined the canal for a considerable distance.

Cotswold Canals Trust, located next to the Pageant site, was also busy providing trip boats for the public.

The Saul Waterways Pageant celebrated the restoration work taking place on the Cotswold Canals. During the pageant, IWA’s Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) worked with the Trust, to restore the canal at Bowbridge Locks near Stroud. Members of the public were invited to go along and see WRG in action.

Report from IWA Trustees Meeting held on 9th August

IWA’s trustees met on 9th August and the following notes offer a glimpse into some of the issues considered at the meeting. Edited minutes of trustees’ meetings are available in the Minutes of Meetings area of the website, once they have been approved by trustees at their subsequent meeting.

The national chairman recently held a meeting with Angela Smith MP, shadow waterways minister, which had been encouraging and the shadow minister demonstrated a good knowledge of the inland waterways and an understanding of the issues involved.

The All Party Parliamentary Waterways Group inquiry into Canal & River Trust’s (CRT) first two years and the potential for it to take on the Environment Agency’s navigations had taken place in July and appeared to have gone well. Amongst other issues, the MPs in the Group have taken a particular interest in the moorings situation in London and elsewhere.

IWA News

IWA’s marquee at the Stratford River Festival had been successful in most respects. There had been good opportunities to lobby local politicians, who had been favourably responsive.

The on-going business of all parts of Inland Waterways Enterprises Ltd is to be transferred to the Association as at 31st December 2014. This follows a review of the subsidiary company’s activities and the need or otherwise for them to remain in a subsidiary company. The Association’s auditors have been involved in the review and the purpose of the transfer is largely a technical issue and aimed at reducing administrative costs. Trustees confirmed that their intent and wish was that all the work of the Association and that currently undertaken by Inland Waterways Enterprises Ltd was for the achievement of IWA’s charitable purposes rather than primarily for fund-raising purposes.

Trustees reviewed the process for risk management review throughout the Association and considered proposed modifications to the Top Risk Register individually, with a number of minor revisions being agreed. Trustees agreed to adopt a more frequent discussion of individual top risks at trustee meetings, with one or two top risk topics being on the agenda for each meeting.

Trustees approved the appointment of Paul Birkett, Christine Smith and Oliver Wilkinson to Marketing Committee, and of John Butler and Mike Elwell to IWA Events Committee. John Butler is also taking on the chairmanship of IWA Events Committee. Marketing Committee has formed sub-groups to consider (i) the Association’s declining membership base, (ii) corporate memberships and trade relations, and (iii) public relations in general. These would then inform an overall marketing strategy that the committee is to produce.

Trustees paid tribute to retiring trustee Paul Roper, and in particular to the enormous amount of work that he had achieved as chairman of Navigation Committee, particularly in parliamentary campaign work associated with the transfer of British Waterways’ activities to CRT and other key campaign issues.

Find out about volunteering - www.waterways.org.uk/volunteer
IWA's Navigation Committee meets on the same days (in the morning) as IWA's trustees (who meet in the afternoon). The following notes give a glimpse into some of the issues addressed by the Committee at its August meeting.

Gren Messham was elected as chairman of Navigation Committee in succession to Paul Roper, who stood down with effect from the end of the meeting.

A briefing note on Volunteering had been added to the volunteer section of the website with a link from the policy documents page. Further briefing notes are in hand, and a meeting had been arranged with a representative from British Canoeing to discuss campaigning issues which will help inform a briefing note on 'Using Small Boats on the Inland Waterways'.

A meeting had been arranged with the Environment Agency for early October to discuss IWA's concerns about Elvington (Sutton) Lock on the Yorkshire Derwent following advice from EA that the structural assessment would not be complete until the end of September. A press release had been issued linking to the position paper that was now available on the website.

Navigation Committee considered and agreed a number of actions to tie in with a Strategy paper formulated by trustees. These actions included work on the transfer of EA navigations, HS2 mitigation campaign work and improvements to the areas for boaters on IWA's website.

IWA's petition to Parliament concerning HS2 had passed an initial hurdle and there is to be a second visit of the Parliamentary select committee to Lichfield. Current indications are that the representations made by IWA are being taken seriously, and CRT's commitment to get a better arrangement for the waterways at Fradley is particularly helpful.

A paper on residential moorings was approved and will be available on the website shortly.

There was a detailed discussion on IWA's 2007 Moorings Policy, which identified a need for a relatively minor update, removing duplication (such as slipways), confirming the acceptability of variable stay ('Seasonal') moorings where necessary, with the default being 14 day moorings, and other issues.

Recent issues over access and navigation restrictions on the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal were noted and local IWA actions to challenge these were cited as a good example of IWA looking after boaters. Restriction notices issued by CRT had not got to boaters in time for them to safely travel on the waterways concerned. A new circulation list had since been agreed locally to ensure boating boaters actually got the information they needed - through locks, lock keepers and notice boards rather than expecting everyone to have instant web access at all times.

Recent experiences of excessive vegetation particularly on the Staffs & Worcester and Shropshire Union canals were noted. Vegetation management on some other waterways was considered poor, and an instance of offside lock landings being ignored completely on one waterway was noted. Various experiences and discussions with CRT staff indicated much inconsistency in what was expected of contractors, with both good and bad examples existing at the same time across the network. CRT had acknowledged some failings to maintain vegetation this year in some places. Navigation Committee agreed to review IWA's current policies and expectations on vegetation management to ensure these did cover the issues now being found and would then decide what further action to take.

IWA's AGM is to be held The Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek later this month on Saturday 27th September.

The day will start with an IWA Open Meeting from 10am to 1pm, which will discuss various topics under the general heading “How do we engage better with younger people, involve them more and ensure their long term commitment?”. This will be
followed by Lunch at 1pm (lunch can be provided for £6.50, please see the booking form for details). The formal IWA AGM will take place from 2pm to 4pm including a presentation from the National Chairman, Les Etheridge, followed by a presentation from Gren Messham on HS2 and IWA Award presentations.

The full AGM agenda can now be viewed at IWA’s website, along with directions to the venue, the lunch booking form and more information on the morning’s Open Meeting.

In addition to the morning open meeting and AGM itself on the Saturday, the weekend (26th-28th September) will include a series of social events on the Friday and Saturday evenings and Canal Community Day on the Sunday to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the reopening of the Caldon Canal. Full details of the weekend’s programme are available at IWA’s website.

IWA Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Branch Lock Wind

On Saturday 2nd August, IWA Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Branch held a lock wind at Derwentmouth Lock on the Trent & Mersey Canal in Shardlow to raise money towards a new WRG excavator.

A marquee containing a selection of literature, including WRG’s Navvies and sales goods was set up beside the canal to attract passers-by. Unfortunately, the sun
came out only briefly and rain was prevalent throughout the day. However, this did not seem to deter boaters as a continuous stream of boats went through the lock for most of the morning. The afternoon saw the canal reach a significantly quieter period, which failed to match the success of the morning. Due to the generosity of the boaters, £103 was raised. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Mooring Restrictions at Shackerstone Festival

In response to recent online speculation regarding mooring restrictions at Shackerstone Festival, 6th-7th September, and a perceived threat to navigation on the Ashby Canal, CRT has released a statement to explain the situation:

CRT has reported that it was contacted by Natural England (NE) on 15th August concerning Shackerstone Festival. NE asked for the imposition of certain conditions within the section of the Ashby Canal that is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to prevent damage from anticipated boat movements during the festival.

NE wishes to protect the aquatic plants that grow below the water surface in the shallows at the edges of the canal, which could be damaged by the passage or mooring of boats. NE therefore asked for boats to be single moored to prevent passing boats travelling too closely to the offside vegetation (which would not normally be disturbed by navigation). CRT accepts it has a responsibility to protect the SSSI but acknowledges that this must be balanced with its support for the festival and its aims to protect the interests of its boating customers. It therefore suggested the installation of 200m of temporary nico-spanning to protect the plants from wash thereby allowing double mooring in specific locations. NE has accepted this proposal and CRT believes that these measures will allow sufficient mooring space for the number of boats expected to attend the Festival but may reduce the navigation to a single boat width in some places.

IWA Bulletin - September 2014

IWA Campaigns Page - www.waterways.org.uk/campaigns
Boaters have also been assured by CRT that there is no threat to navigation and no proposal to close the canal to boats.

To help manage the situation efficiently CRT is encouraging all boaters wishing to attend the Festival to book in advance so that they can be allocated to a mooring length.

More information and CRT’s full statement is available at CRT’s website.

Kier appointed for £150m CRT contract

Kier Group plc, a construction, services and property group, has agreed a new £25m per annum contract with CRT to carry out engineering and construction works on the Trust’s waterway network.

The National Engineering & Construction Contract (NECC) is CRT’s largest single contract and will initially run for six years, with options to extend up to a maximum of ten years. Kier has reported that this longer agreement is aimed at encouraging greater capital investment, innovation and improvement in services.

The NECC will deliver around £25m of construction works each year. This equates to approximately 100 major construction projects and over 200 minor repair projects annually, including:

- Channel lining, trench sheeting, and piling
- Culvert cleaning, lining, inspection and repair
- Towpathsurfacing
- Repairs to historic locks, bridges and aqueduct repairs, including grouting
- Safety related reservoir works
- Mechanical & Electrical works
- Repairs to weirs on both canals and rivers
- Restoration schemes (which may include new build)
- Minor works including bridge parapet repairs and bank protection projects

The NECC replaces the Omnibus contract currently held by Kier.

CRT to Recruit New Welfare Officer

CRT has created a new Welfare Officer post as part of the charity’s new strategy to support vulnerable boaters.

The role, which is currently being advertised, is to support developing policy about boater welfare and establishing a network of external organisations that can provide local support, as well as acting as a point of contact for staff who are concerned about the wellbeing of particular boaters.

CRT estimates that around 7,000 boats on its waterways are currently used as homes. A small proportion of their owners suffer from physical or mental health problems, alcohol or drug addiction, or other difficulties that make them more likely to come to the attention of enforcement officers for breaches of licensing rules. These cases are often complex and benefit from support from relevant organisations such as councils, social services and other agencies.

In response to this, CRT has acknowledged the need to expand the capability of its own front line staff to meet these needs and believes the new Welfare Officer role addresses this.

Operating on a confidential basis the Welfare Officer will be able to help vulnerable boaters find the right solutions for their issues and particular set of circumstances. This will be done in partnership with a network of external organisations to provide welfare assistance and advice to boat dwellers who need such support. The Welfare Officer should also be able to offer expert advice to staff, volunteers, and stakeholders on matters involving vulnerable boaters, and in particular with enforcement cases where the boat owner is discovered to have welfare needs. In addition, the role will help establish the Trust’s policies on vulnerable boaters and assist in its compliance with relevant legislation, for example the Equality Act.

Alongside this, in June, CRT signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Workplace Matters, the organisation that supports the Waterways Chaplaincy service. CRT has announced that it will provide a grant of £16,000 to Workplace Matters to help maintain the Waterways Chaplaincy, a service that helps boaters in the southeast who may be struggling. CRT has also
announced that it had pledged expert assistance with fundraising for the longer term.

The Welfare Officer role is being advertised on CRT’s website.

Commercial Boat Operators Invited to Tender for New Moorings in Paddington

Photo: Pool at Little Venice (photo by Hannah Ranken)

CRT plans to create a new permanent trade mooring in Paddington Basin, outside the entrance to Paddington Station, and has invited business boats to tender for the spot. In addition, the Trust has vacancies within the pool at Little Venice for two commercial mooring berths.

CRT has said that it frequently receives applications from new operators to set up businesses in these locations, as well as interest from existing operators to expand or relocate their businesses. Alongside this, the Trust has seen a demand for space from roving traders and visiting leisure boaters that it needs to manage. The tender follows an informal consultation amongst boaters, boating groups and other stakeholders.

CRT has produced plans showing the moorings that are open for tender and is inviting both existing and new boating businesses to apply. The tender process is now open, all applications should be submitted by 3rd October. CRT intends to publish the results of the tender on 31st October. For more information on the tender process, please visit CRT’s website.

Sponsored Walk Raises £9000 for Wey & Arun Canal Trust

Photo: Walkers crossing the River Wey

Wey & Arun Canal Trust’s annual sponsored walk, The Poddle, has raised at least £9000 for the charity.

153 people took part in the walk, a figure-of-8 route that started and finished at Shalford Mill in Surrey. The route included the new riverside walk built by volunteers last year.

Appeal for Memories of Bugsworth Basin

Photo: Restoration work at Bugsworth Basin, Peak Forest Canal. 1989 (photo by Neil Edwards)

CRT is appealing for memories of Bugsworth Basin on the Peak Forest Canal, anything from the original restoration to playing there as a child.

CRT has made the request as part of a project to assemble an archive of oral, written and pictorial memories of life at Bugsworth Basin. Interviews and information collected will be professionally archived for posterity by the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum and Derbyshire County Council and it is hoped that in the future it will be displayed on site for visitors to enjoy. For more information or to share your memories please contact Heather Roberts at heather.roberts@canalrivertrust.org.uk or on 0797 289 3656.
This section contains volunteer reports from IWA branches and IWA’s Waterway Recovery Group (WRG). IWA branch reports contain information from their latest work parties where volunteers have worked to help maintain their local canals. WRG reports on its Canal Camps and weekend digs to keep readers up to date with the restoration work the group has been undertaking.

**Work Party Makes Final Preparations for Britain in Bloom Judges**

Friday 25th July saw the third work party in Congleton on the Macclesfield Canal, which is now a regular monthly venue for IWA North Staffordshire & South Cheshire Branch work parties and one of the branch’s key projects. As with the previous two work parties, there was great support from local residents with eleven volunteers on the day, despite a number of people who sent apologies due to holiday etc.

The team continued the work from previous work parties focusing on the canal area around the station as well as the towpath towards Bridge 76. The jobs ranged from further litter picking and vegetation clearance to clearing cobble setts and overhanging branches. A number of boaters passing remarked about the improvement to the general area as well as passing on good wishes for the team in future months.

One of the initial reasons for starting work in this area was that Congleton has been selected as one of ten UK finalist’s for Britain in Bloom in the large town category. The work party has shown the benefit of different groups working together; including local residents, volunteers from other work parties in Cheshire, Congleton Town Council, Congleton Sustainability Group, Northern Rail, one of whose staff volunteered to do some strimming for us during his lunch break from painting the station, and Sustrans, the National Cycle Network. The results at the end of the day really showed that the team was having a very positive impact.

Judging took place on Wednesday 6th August and as part of the assessment, the Judges were shown the work we have been doing around the canal area near the station. The judges made specific comment about how good it was to see the results and in particular praised the community spirit that had been a feature of the work to date.

Over coming weeks, a full survey will be undertaken with CRT of the stretch from Congleton Wharf to Buglawton to establish a plan for canal and towpath improvement over the next two to three years which will also include offside vegetation clearance through this stretch of canal.

**Kind Cyclist Helps at Kidderminster**

IWA Birmingham, Black Country & Worcestershire Branch held another work party on August 13th at Caldwell Lock on the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, Kidderminster.

Volunteers gathered to litter pick and paint lock beams and a non-slip surface on the bridge. Seven IWA members turned out as well as a passing cyclist who kindly stopped and gave a few hours to help with the painting.
Work Party Prepares for 40th Anniversary

Volunteers from IWA North Staffordshire & South Cheshire Branch joined forces with the Caldon & Uttoxeter Canals Trust again on Thursday 14th August for their monthly joint work party on the Caldon Canal. After an intensive two months of Himalayan Balsam pulling, volunteers were happy to turn their hands to painting for a change, along with some vegetation clearance, at Cheddleton Top Lock. The location was chosen so that the area can be spruced up ahead of the forthcoming Caldon 40 weekend at the end of September. Vegetation around the lockside was cleared back, ready for a ceremony on Sunday 28th September, the 40th anniversary of the reopening of the Caldon Canal, and handrails and lock furniture were prepared for painting.

Painting will continue, weather permitting, on the next work party on Thursday 11th September. Anyone wishing to join in should contact Alison Smedley. Further details about the Caldon 40 event, which includes the IWA National AGM taking place on Saturday 27th September in Leek, can be found on the IWA website.

Painting Project at Bridgwater Docks Begins

On Saturday 23rd August, IWA West Country Branch began work to paint the large amount of metal machinery, bollards and rings at Bridgwater Docks on the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal. Eleven volunteers gathered at the Docks and collectively gave fifty hours, getting the task of painting over fifty objects off to a good start. The group plan to continue the work, weather permitting, over the next few months and once finished will have given everything from bollards and rings to winches and sluice paddles a new lick of paint.

Waterway Events

Major IWA events in 2014

26th - 28th September 2014 - IWA’s AGM Weekend, Leek

Branch Boating Events in 2014

6th - 7th September 2014 - Maesbury Canal Festival (joint arranged by IWA Shrewsbury, District & North Wales Branch along with Friends of the Montgomery Canal)

Upcoming Volunteer/Clean-up Events

September

3rd September Work Party - River Gipping (supported by IWA Ipswich Branch)

3rd September Work Party - Hatton Locks (supported by IWA Warwickshire Branch)

6th September Work Party - River Gipping (supported by IWA Ipswich Branch)

6th September Work Party - Chester (IWA Chester & Merseyside Branch)

6th-7th September Work Party Weekend - Chelmer & Blackwater (IWA Chelmsford Branch & Essex WRG)

7th September Work Party - Northampton Arm (IWA Northampton)

10th September Work Party - River Gipping (supported by IWA Ipswich Branch)
10th September Work Party - Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal (IWA Birmingham, Black Country & Worcestershire Branch)

11th September Work Party - Caldon Canal (IWA North Staffordshire & South Cheshire Branch)

14th-19th September Work Party Week - Macclesfield & Upper Peak Forest Canals - Offside Vegetation (Supported by IWA Manchester Branch)

17th September Work Party - River Gipping (supported by IWA Ipswich Branch)

18th September Work Party - Lapworth (supported by IWA Warwickshire Branch)

20th September Work Party - Lapworth (supported by IWA Warwickshire Branch)

20th September Work Party - Trent & Mersey Canal (IWA North Staffordshire & South Cheshire Branch)

20th September Work Party - Bridgewater & Taunton Canal (IWA West Country Branch)

21st September Nottingham Canal Clean-up (IWA Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Branch)

23rd September Work Party - Northampton (IWA Northampton Branch)

24th September Work Party - River Gipping (supported by IWA Ipswich Branch)

25th September Work Party - Banbury (IWA Oxfordshire Branch)

26th September Work Party - Congleton (IWA North Staffordshire & South Cheshire Branch)

October
1st October Work Party - River Gipping (Supported by IWA Ipswich Branch)

1st October Work Party - Hatton Locks (Supported by IWA Warwickshire Branch)

4th October Work Party - River Gipping (Supported by IWA Ipswich Branch)

4th October Leicester Canal Clean-up (IWA Leicestershire Branch)

4th October Work Party - Chester (IWA Chester & Merseyside Branch)

4th-5th October Operation Manchester - Cleaning up the canals of Manchester (IWA)

6th October Work Party - Hatton Locks (Supported by IWA Warwickshire Branch)

8th October Work Party - River Gipping (Supported by IWA Ipswich Branch)

8th October Work Party - Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal (IWA Birmingham, Black Country & Worcestershire Branch)

9th Oct Work Party - Caldon

12th October Work Party - Northampton Arm (IWA Northampton Branch)

15th October Work Party - River Gipping (Supported by IWA Ipswich Branch)

16th October Work Party - Lapworth (Supported by IWA Warwickshire Branch)

18th October Work Party - Lapworth (Supported by IWA Warwickshire Branch)

18th-19th October Work Party - Milton Keynes (IWA Milton Keynes Branch)

21st October Work Party - Trent & Mersey Canal (IWA North Staffordshire & South Cheshire Branch)

22nd October Work Party - River Gipping (Supported by IWA Ipswich Branch)

24th October Work Party - Congleton (IWA North Staffordshire & South Cheshire Branch)

26th October Work Party - Tinsley Marina (IWA South Yorkshire & Dukeries Branch)

28th October Work Party - Northampton Arm (IWA Northampton Branch)

29th October Work Party - River Gipping (Supported by IWA Ipswich Branch)
IWA Bulletin - September 2014

Upcoming Towpath Walks

September
2nd September Waterside Walk - Alvecote Pools Nature Reserve (IWA Lichfield Branch)

2nd September Waterside Walk - Basingstoke Canal (Railway & Canal Historical Society)

7th September Waterside Walk - King’s Cross to Camden (IWA Towpath Walks Society)

21st September Waterside Walk - Stratford (IWA Towpath Walks Society)

25th September Waterside Walk - Wey & Arun Canal (Wey & Arun Canal Trust)

30th September Waterside Walk - Basingstoke Canal (Railway & Canal Historical Society)

October
5th October Waterside Walk - King’s Cross to Hitchcock’s Hackney (IWA Towpath Walks Society)

19th October Waterside Walk - Braunston (IWA Warwickshire Branch)

19th October Waterside Walk - Little Venice to Camden (IWA Towpath Walks Society)

IWA Member Discounts and Special Offers

The following special offers are now available exclusively for IWA members:

ABC Boat Hire - 15% discount
Airedale Cruising - 10% Discount off skippered day cruises
Boatshed Grand Union - 10% discount on brokerage
Calcutt Boats - 5% Discount
Canal Boat Magazine - 6 Issues for £6
CanalCruising.co.uk - 10% discount
Channel Glaze - 10% discount on double glazing for boats
Cotswold Outdoor - 10% discount
Europcar - Special hire rates to IWA members
Frangipani SUP Ltd - 10% discount
Forge Studio - 10% discount
Grand Union Diesel Services - 5% discount
IceGripper - 20% discount
King’s Lock Chandlery - 5% discount
Lee Sanitation Ltd. - 10% on orders over £100
Marine Megastore Ltd. - 15% discount
Midland Chandlers - 5% discount
Paper Wizard - 15% discount
River Canal Rescue - up to 15% discount
RoadPro - 5% discount
UltimateBerths.com - Free Listing
Willowbridge Marina - 10% discount on chandlery purchases and services in the yard
Worcester Marine Windows Ltd - 5% discount
Wyvern Shipping Co. Ltd - 10% discount on published prices
Zead - Free postage and accessories

Please note: All discounts and offers are entirely at the organisers’ discretion.

For IWA members who receive a printed copy of this bulletin in the post, please contact the membership team on 01494 783453 for the details of the offers.

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Find out about volunteering - www.waterways.org.uk/volunteer

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