

3rd April, 2018

Overall, this is not the best newsletter I have ever had to produce, most of the news being bad.



➤ **SAD NEWS**

- We regret to inform anyone who hasn't already heard that Mavis Moore, wife of David, mother of Jude and Ali, stalwart of the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Trust and long-time friend of many of us, died on 18th March after a short, respiratory illness. Her funeral will be at Lichfield & District Crematorium, Fradley Lane, Fradley, Lichfield (use WS13 8RS) at 3:30 pm on Monday, 16th April, and afterwards at the Plough at Huddlesford (WS13 8PY). John Foley has offered lifts but please inform Jude (jude.palmer1@btinternet.com) as well if you intend to attend so that she can arrange catering.

PAPERCHASES

As most of you will already know, our paper merchants, ELSA, have informed us that our collections have shrunk to the point where it is no longer economical for them to provide us with skips.

The next Paperchase, on 7th April, will therefore be the last.

The MONTGOMERY

We regret to report that the Easter Camp due to have started at Redwith Bridge last weekend has had to be cancelled because of a combination of increased complexity of work and lack of numbers. This means that our 'rolling camp' to repair the opposite wall can't go ahead as it depended on the canal's being drained for the Camp work. There is a chance that it will be rescheduled for the Autumn but postponement to next year, to tie in with revised Camps, seems more likely.

LAST TIME OUT – 10/11 March – LANCASTER

A depleted workforce found our accommodation, an ex-YHA Hostel in Kendal, a very comfortable and friendly place. Saturday was rather wet, but the techies (Paul and Adrian) set about earth moving with the Lancaster volunteers while the non-techies (Barry and John) were set to hand-mix lime mortar and point one of the bridge wing walls at the far end of the site. We managed this over the two days, though the Saturday mortar mixes had to take account of dilution by rain. We hope it stays put. An essential team member was Maureen, who dealt with our needs at breakfast, brew-times and lunchtimes, with spare food and drink for the locals

NEXT TIME OUT – 20/21 April – UTTOXETER

This will, despite being so late in the year, be a scrub-bashing weekend. The scrub will, however, be stuff that has already been cut down so there won't be any birdie issues. Accommodation will be at Great Wood Hall, Hollington Road, Upper Tean, Stoke on Trent, ST10 4JY. For those who went, this was where the 2017 Bonfire Bash was based and there is plenty of parking. Liz Chase will be catering and the van will be leaving their house at 19:00-19:30 on the Friday.

As a result of the number of dates becoming free because of cancellations we will attempt to arrange some extra digs over the Summer.

SALES

Having rescinded last year's decision not to allow charity stalls on the main field at Middlewich which led to our not attending then, Cheshire East Council have now upped the price from £60 to £300. We will not, therefore, be going this year after all.

<i>2018 Diary</i>			
Apr 07	Paper	Cleveland Hotel, Crumpsall	BMc
Apr 21/22	Dig	Uttoxeter	JD
May 05/07	Info	Canal Cavalcade	CBW
Jun 20	Admin	<i>Ad Hoc</i> (Malcolm & Barbara's)	All
Jun 30/Jul 01	Sales	Staveley	RE
Aug 25/27	Sales	IWA Festival of Water, Regatta Meadow, St. Neots	RE

<i>Contact Information</i>				
<i>Inits</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Mobile</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
MB	Malcolm Bridge	~~~	07956-944489	malcolm.bridge@wrg.org.uk
RE	Roger Evans	01606-834471	07803-851340	rogermartinevans@hotmail.com
JF	John Foley	01457-853582	07940-851588	jfoley456@btinternet.com
DM	David McCarthy MBE	01706-214696	~~~	~~~
HG	Helen Gardner	~~~	07989-425346	helen_gardner@hotmail.com
MC	Mike Chase	0161 683 4470	07974-395294	mechase1975@gmail.com
PS	Paul Shaw	01484-686899	07866-803351	paul.shaw.acorn@gmail.com
BMc	Barry McGuinness	~~~	07875-999825	b.mcguinness1@googlemail.com
GR	George Rogers	~~~	07789-493967	georgemrogers@outlook.com
JD	Julia Davenport	~~~	07808 182004	julia.davenport@sky.com
CBW	Central-booking	01494-783453 x604	~~~	jenny.black@waterways.org.uk alex.melson@waterways.org.uk

Change of Addresses etc.

The electronic circulation list for this newsletter (and other communications) is handled by IWA Head Office so if you want to change your e-mail address or drop off the circulation altogether you need to contact Alex Melson (above under CBW). Snail mail recipients need to tell me (Malcolm).