

# THE REED WARBLER



The Newsletter of the Monmouthshire,  
Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust.

May 2009



The Waterways Minister Huw Irranca-Davies assisted by First Minister Rhodri Morgan officially reopened the canal to navigation on Sunday 29th March 2009, following the repairs to the Gilwern breach of 2007.

## **PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS**

Registered Charity No: 515879

Saturday 28th February  
Volunteers from the Trust,  
Cwmbran Volunteer Group  
and Keep Wales Tidy  
assembled near Five Locks  
Pontnewydd for the canal  
clean up day.



Cutting back overhanging  
branches to clear the canal for  
the passage of boats.



Torfaen Council cleared the off cuts.  
Weed Cutter pictures Torfaen Council



The Weed Cutter finished the clean up  
operation. No weed, no branches, no  
excuses! See you all at Five Locks soon.



## **The Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust Limited**

The Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust is a registered charity established in 1984. The aims of the Trust are to promote Improvement and Maintenance of the navigable canal from Brecon to Five Locks, Pontnewydd; Sustainable Regeneration of the canal from Five Locks, Pontnewydd to Newport and from Newport to Cwmcarn; Greater awareness of the economic benefit to local communities and business through tourism and leisure activities; Education and interpretation through displays and presentations of the culture and history of the canal and its people.

### **President**

Lord Raglan JP DL

### **Vice Presidents**

Lord Crickhowell, P. Flynn MP., Sir R. Hanbury-Tenison KCVO JP,  
Geoffrey Horton-Jones, Roger Williams MP.

### **Committee of Management**

Chairman,* Events Officer	Chris Morgan. Tel: 02920 888 681 e-mail CHRISBMORGAN@aol.com
Hon. Secretary	Phil Hughes. Contact via the Registered Office.
Hon. Treasurer*	Karen Wozencroft.
Northern Team Co-ordinator*	Bernard Illman. Tel: 01873 812 562
Membership Officer	Hilary Morse. Contact via editor below.
Regeneration Manager*	Richard Dommett MBE. Tel: 01873 832 153
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Minute Secretary	Ursula Burgoyne.
Photographer & Publicity Officer	Goff Barker. Tel: 01633 895 200
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Nominee Member IWA	Bill Tilley.

Newsletter Editor	Malcolm Morse, 8 Elm Park, Filton Bristol BS34 7PW. Tel: 0117 975 3579 e-mail: mh Morse@blueyonder.co.uk
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\*denotes Directors of the Trust

Registered Office	Laurel House, 95 The Highway, New Inn Pontypool, Gwent. NP4 OPN Tel: 01495 762 823 or e-mail NEFYN@aol.com
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All correspondence to the Secretary at the registered office please.

Trust Web Address	<a href="http://www.mon-brec-canal-trust.org.uk">www.mon-brec-canal-trust.org.uk</a>
Archive Officer	Ray Haydon.

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A big thank you must go to Torfaen Council who supported the event by helping with the removal of the very large branches and the shredding and disposed of all the off cuts.

Thanks must also go to Steve and Sue, who run the Pontymoile Tea room and Day Boat Hire, for the loan of three day boats. These were invaluable, allowing access from the water and transporting cut branches across to the tow path for removal by Torfaen Council.

Following the successful cut back, Torfaen Council employed a floating weed cutter (*see the front inside cover-Ed*) to remove the underwater weed in their section of the canal. Already some of the early hire boats have successfully navigated to Five Locks. There are now no excuses!!

Welcome to Ken Petty who was recently co-opted to the committee. Ken's role will be Trip Boat Co-ordinator, organising trips, crews and maintenance.

Another change is the role of Publicity Officer. I have handed this over to Goff Barker, who will I hope be hounding the newspapers and publications to get our work noticed, good luck and thank you to all our new officers.

Since the committee made the hard decision to increase the membership fees we have lost some members. Hilary Morse's (Membership Secretary) membership drive for 2009, to double our membership, is now more important than ever. Please try to encourage a friend or family member to join us, why not buy one as a birthday present?

Thank you to the new volunteers who turned up to help run the trip boat at Goytre for the official opening at the end of April. I know from experience we are not the best in introducing new volunteers to the cause so please give us a chance and don't be afraid to ask questions!. If anyone would like to help with the trip boat please contact Ken Petty on 02920 413 287. You can then let him know your availability and what training you would like to receive.

Please make sure you have a good look at the events dates further on in the newsletter, we have a few additions from the previous newsletter.

The committee continues to do what it sees as the best for the canal, the Trust and it's aims, with your help and continued support we can achieve them.

*Chris Morgan*

*Chairman*

*April 2009*





## FOURTEEN LOCKS CANAL CENTRE

**www.fourteenlocks.co.uk    Tel: 01633 894 802**

**E mail: mail@fourteenlocks.co.uk**

By the time you read this, the Centre will have been open for a year and the visitor numbers will have exceeded 30,000, visitors not just from the U.K. but from all over the world. A look at our map in the entrance hall will show you from which countries our visitors have come.

So much has happened in our first year I don't know quite where to start. The Trust was finally handed the keys of the Centre on 23rd May 2008 and we were allowed in.

How things change. We now have a fantastic working relationship with all departments of Newport City Council, quite a few of whom rent the Cefn Meeting Room for their meetings & training sessions.

Newport Support Service, who run the Tea Room, have just signed a long term lease with us right up until 2017.

Shop and painting sales are going up and Colin Westacott has taken total charge of the shop. Over the summer we are going to increase the number of goods on offer, with either the Fourteen Locks logo or photo on them; we have started by commissioning these two new post cards:



Tom Maloney has recently been appointed Education Officer to the Centre, financed by the Education Through Restoration Project which is part of the Lottery funded restoration of locks 20,19,18 & 17. Tom is a welcome addition to our team.

We have already started working together on an audio tour of the site using MP3 players and shortly we are going to collaborate on a new Fourteen Locks booklet or a large folding leaflet. We will visit other canal museums to see how they are run and to look at their education programmes, the first on the list is Foxton



Inclined Plane Museum near Market Harborough on the Grand Union Canal.

Our monthly walks are becoming very popular, especially the Photographic Walk and Competition which was held in February, the winners of which were: 1st prize Mr David Burnell-bottle of wine, 2nd Mr J Smith-box of chocolates, and an Easter Egg to Teddy Quantock aged 11 who was Very Highly Commended.

My sincere thanks go to Martyn Pinches of Cardiff Camera Club who not only judged the competition but also took part in the walk passing on expert tips along the way.

Newport Council have at last set the date of Friday 22nd May for the official opening of the Canal Centre here at Fourteen Locks.

Please come along and support us, you will be most welcome. We are hoping to have the trip boat here and use the lock if we have enough water.

Cheers. Here's to our second year, I wonder what our visitor numbers will be this time next year.

*Phil Hughes Centre Manager*



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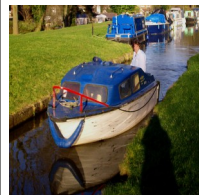
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## EDUCATION THROUGH RESTORATION PROJECT

### It's Education but not as you know it!

The 'Education Through Restoration Project' at Fourteen Locks is afloat and ready to begin with the appointment of Tom Maloney to the successful team that has already made the Canal Centre a popular attraction for visitors. An amazing 27773 people have visited the centre since opening in May 2008.

Opportunities for educational projects that tell the story of the Cefn Flight and the people who worked there will be open to schools, community groups and people of all ages. Workshops will include a wide range of formal and informal activities, from poetry to digital animation and filmmaking.

The programme will closely follow the restoration of Locks 17-20, which is due to begin this year.

Tom is particularly interested in recording stories about the locks and the canal, particularly childhood memories.



Trust member, Gladys Jones, talking with Tom Maloney about her father Jack Brooks, who was the last lock keeper on the Cefn Flight.

*Picture by Mr. Jones taken on Tom's camera.*

So if you have a story to tell or would like to know more about the 'Education Through Restoration Project' contact Tom at the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre.

#### Contact Details

Tom Maloney Education Officer, Fourteen Locks Canal Centre.

Tel. 01633 894802

email: [tom@fourteenlocks.co.uk](mailto:tom@fourteenlocks.co.uk)

**TO MAKE YOU THINK!!!**



Thanks to Ray Haydon for providing this picture from the archives. When you have discovered where it is, why not pay a visit and see what it is like today?

Bridge 45 on what was the Monmouthshire Canal, although by the time of this photo in about 1915 it was known as the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canals. The balance beams of the lock can be seen but the lock and the bridge have disappeared.

Where were they? What is the road called? What is the Pub nearby?

*The answers will be found on page 14 and a new question will be posed in August-Ed.*

**TRUST TO BE PART OF THE  
ABERGAVENNY CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL**

The Trust is pleased to announce that thanks to the sterling work of the Fourteen Locks Education Officer, Tom Maloney, and other Trust members, we have been chosen to be part of the prestigious Abergavenny Children's Festival.

They intend *hiring the EDITH ELIZABETH* trip boat for the full day on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July to give children and parents a sample trip on the canal. This will provide the trust with an opportunity to spread the word to people who otherwise would not visit the canal.

More information will be provided as soon as it is available.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL INVOLVED.**



## THE RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS

### Protecting the Past for the Communities of the Future.

A programme of works, commenced in January 2008 is well under way. It will re-open the navigation between Pentre Lane, at Lower Cwmbran on the main line of the canal, down to the Canal Junction under the M4 and up to the tail of Waen Lock 3 on the Crumlin Arm. The work is being carried out under the Supervision of Chris Annetts and John Smith by the Trust and Community Volunteers supported by the Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) supervised by Rob Daffern.

Structural repairs to Waen Lock 3 and Gwasted Lock 2, including the complete construction and installation of a new top gate, kept the team of volunteers in that area during 2008. Thanks to the full and committed partnership which has developed, the WRG team were able to repair Malpas Aqueduct during their summer camp.



Since January 2009 the team has developed its skills in clearing overhanging branches and scrub from the offside bank. They have worked from Gwasted Lock 2 (Crumlin Arm) to the Canal Junction and up the main line to above Hollybush Bridge which is located between Malpas and Bettws Community Estates. The team estimates they have carried out at least 1½ miles of clearance work whilst at the same time creating cover for wildlife.

*Photographs by Richard Dommett*



Notification of the work was made to local residents and they all gave their support for the project. Visitors using the towing path are daily giving their encouragement and support to the volunteers as the work progresses.

The Top Gate chamber of Gwasted Lock 1 (Main Line) has been dewatered. The cill has been repaired and some pointing of the brickwork in the chamber carried out. More repair work to the chamber walls will be done later in the year.



With the support of a development grant from Rob Frowen of Newport City Council (NCC) the team have installed a 4" silent running pump for four weeks at Malpas Lock. The water will be pumped from the lower pound to maintain water levels in the upper pound which runs from Malpas Lock to Ty fynnion Lock. At present there is little or no water in the canal channel upstream between Ty fynnion and Tamplin Lock. This may be due to a combination of dry weather, water seepage and the work carried out by British Waterways (BW) in repairing the upper reaches of the canal following the breach on the cruiseway section of the waterway at Gilwern in 2007. Records are being kept of the amount of water pumped on a daily basis. This information will be used to decide whether a permanent or mobile system will be installed in the future.

With the support of the NCC canal warden Andy, a man of many skills, and his manager Phil Evans, areas of canal bank have been repaired where water had been visibly seeping from the canal.



*Photograph Richard Dommett*

At the end of March a clay dam was installed across the canal, with Andy's help, to allow the repairing and extending of the slipway at Bettws Bridge

The restoration team took time out during March to support the Northern Team Volunteers ( *See Bernard Illman's report on page 12-Ed*) and to help the BW staff (Kevin Phillips and team) with the Annual Towpath Tidy

Project. Locks 64, 65 and 66 at Llangynidr were all repainted but rain on the last day prevented Locks 67 and 68 from getting a fresh coat of paint.

This project has been made possible by the continued support of NCC staff, A4e employment provider, the Waterway Recovery Group, finances by NCC Urban Regeneration Unit, Newport Waste and Arena Network Wales on behalf of Corus Landfill receipts.

Partnerships make Progress

More restoration progress news to come.

Richard Dommett MBE Regeneration Manager



## BEREAVEMENTS

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of three of our members.

Terry Worley of Pontlanfraith passed away on 12th March. Terry was also a member of Goytre Boat Owners Association and his boat CatNap was well known along the canal.

Robert (Bob) Clayton of Rogerstone passed away on 1st April. Bob and his wife had been boaters on our canal before moving onto the main canal system and living afloat for a number of years. Recently they returned to the Mon. & Brec. with a boat moored at Pencelli.

Jean Davies also of Rogerstone passed away on 2nd April. Jean and her husband Ron were good supporters of the Trust and Jean's smile will be sadly missed at future events.

We extend our sincere condolences to the families at this sad time.



**Bob Coldwell IEng MIET**  
**Boat Safety Scheme Examiner**

**01633 266 187**

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## NORTHERN TEAM REPORT

The work days planned for the volunteers turned out to be the worst in several weeks. Richard Domett and I met Kevin Phillips from BW at Brecon on the Monday and surveyed several sites down as far as Gilwern and Richard started his team on the Tuesday. (See Richard Dometts 's report on page 9-Ed).

However by Thursday when Ron Gerrard and I went to Brecon to start painting it started raining and all we managed was to cut back some bushes. With some people coming from as far as Cardiff and the 3 day forecast looking bad, I decided to call off the exercise until better weather was in sight, I still have all the materials and at the first opportunity will phone those who offered help.

Sites for the bench seats (financed by the Trust) have been selected. They will be by Bridge 95, Bridge 118 and Bridge 121. Richard and Kevin have identified a period towards the end of May when they can be installed.

*Bernard Illman Northern Team Co-ordinator.*



## THE SIDE SHOW

It is 7 o'clock in the morning and those long dark mornings have left us for a while. As I walk along the towpath I realise that it is not as quiet as one would expect at this hour, there is the constant chatter, chatter of the birds.

The song of the robin, the tits, chaffinches and the blackbird are easily recognised and they can be seen flitting from tree to tree; it is spring and nesting time so they are busy finding mates and starting to build suitable homes for new families.

There aren't many water birds along this stretch of the canal, a few mallards that have paired up and a rare treat this morning, a moorhen - very seldom seen along here! The herons must be away on vacation as there is not one in sight.

The last of the snowdrops have gone and have been replaced by drifts of white wood anemones, looking like snowflakes amongst the trees, mingling with the foliage of bluebells which wait their turn to enthral us with their beauty.

The cheerful yellow of celandines also making a lovely display. Another treat this morning, the first violets that I have seen this season, their lovely mauve faces telling us that for now winter has left this part of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.



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## WEDDING BELLS



We extend our congratulations and best wishes for the future to the following Trust members:

To Ken Petty and Kay Davies who were married on 6th April.

*The chairman thought getting married was a poor excuse for Ken missing the committee meeting on the same day-Ed.*

To recent new Trust members Richard Lake and Joanne Paxman who will be tying the knot on 16th May.

*Richard has been a strong supporter of the volunteer work groups. Enjoy the rest on your honeymoon-Ed.*

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

Thanks to Mrs Margery Greenwood, aged 94, of Newport who sent in this lovely story with her recent membership application and donation for “sentimental reasons.”

“I came to Newport as a bride in 1938 and lived in Stelvio Park Drive. In the summer my husband and I walked to the top of 14 Locks, hired a boat near the Rising Sun pub and rowed up the canal.

We finished the day playing putting at the bottom of the garden and darts inside the pub and drinks at night.”

*If any one else has interesting memories please do share them with us.-Ed.*

## TO MAKE YOU THINK!!! ANSWERS (from page 8)

This is on Five Locks Road, Pontnewydd, where Lock 63 ( the top of Five Locks ) is under the grass just above the new road.

This is the end of the continuous navigable section of the canal as we know it today. It is the start ( or end ! ) of a lock free section to Llangynidr – some 23 miles away.

Lock number 1 was originally in Newport, hence, the bottom lock at Llangynidr (which many people mistakenly think is the first lock on the canal) is Lock 64.

The Cross Keys pub is nearby where Trust member and landlord Chris Davies has a book for recording your visit by boat.

*Make sure you put your entry in it at the May Five Locks Rally-Ed*



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Committee extends a warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined the Trust. We hope you continue to enjoy your membership of the Trust and look forward to seeing you at future events.

Mr & Mrs Allen, Brecon.	Mrs M Greenwood, Newport.
Mrs J Banks, Blackwood.	Mr & Mrs J Jonson, Cardiff.
Mr A Edwards, Pontlanfraith.	Mr & Mrs C Lintonbon, Rogerstone
Mr G Freeburn, Burry Port.	Mr & Mrs D Seymour, Abertillery.
Mrs P French, Orpington.	Mr & Mrs A Smith, Crumlin.
Mr C George, Carmarthen.	Mr H Stenner, Bridgend.

*Hilary Morse, Membership Secretary.*

**Please notify Membership Secretary of any change of address**

### NEW MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2009

**Annual Membership Rates: Adult £10.00 each. Joint / Family £15.00.  
Senior £5.00 each. Joint Senior £8.00. School / Club / Business £25.00.**

Contact the Membership Secretary: Hilary Morse, 8 Elm Park, Filton, Bristol,  
BS34 7PW. Tel: 0117 975 3579. Email: [mhmorse@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mhmorse@blueyonder.co.uk)

### A Bit of Humour from Ron Shackell

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine

A backward poet writes inverse.

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Dijon vu: the same mustard as before.

Practice safe eating— always use condiments.

Shotgun wedding: a case of wife or death.

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

A hangover is a wrath of grapes.

Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

## **COMMITTEE AND DIRECTORSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

**Due to unforeseen circumstances the Committee of Management are looking for an Enthusiastic Volunteer willing to look after the Trust accounts.**

**The role is relatively simple, but computer skills with Excel and Word would be required.**

**It would be desirable, but not compulsory, that the person should also become a director of MBACT Ltd.**

**Call Chris Morgan on 02920 888 8681 if you fancy joining the team.**

## **The Allt-yr-yn Club 2009**

Congratulations to all the winners in the April 2009 Draw:

1.	£50.00	Unit No 134	Bill Tilley	Rogerstone
2.	£42.00	“ “ 4	Barbara Haydon	Llangattock
3.	£35.00	“ “ 1	Barbara Haydon	Llangattock
4.	£30.00	“ “ 82	Mike Jeffs	Caerphilly
5.	£24.00	“ “ 72	Margaret Birchall	Cardiff

The annual cost for one unit is £12.00 and this is entered into 4 draws. The minimum potential win is £24.00 per draw. More units available.

To join send a cheque (payable to MBACT) to Alan Birchall, 23 Earls Court Road, Penylan, CARDIFF, CF23 9DE. Or telephone: 02920 049 4622.

## **TORFAEN VOLUNTEER CANAL GROUP**

The Torfaen Volunteer Canal Group met at Pontnewydd on 15th March to clear the section of canal between the bottom of Five Locks down to Maendy Way.

The group was joined by several Trust members and the haul included:

30 sacks of litter (bottles, cans, etc.) 8 bicycles, 2 tricycles, 2 car tyres, 2 shopping trolleys, chair, skateboard, lawn mower, watering can, flower pots, bowls/buckets, flower pots, 2 hanging baskets (*These were in good condition and have been recycled to our garden-Ed.*), fishing rod, fishing net, metal frame, 4 metal rods, toys, footwear, tennis balls, bits of wood. Plus the branches & logs, as usual.

*Thanks to all who attended. Its not hard work, but it is very satisfying-Ed.*



## **IMPORTANT EVENTS by the Chairman**

Everyone is invited to attend the first rally at Five Locks for two years. If you are a boat owner please try to bring your boat down for Saturday 2nd May. Torfaen Council are sponsoring the trip boat to enable us to provide FREE public trips through the tunnel. Mementos will be arranged for all boats that attend the rally. *Is anyone coming down from Pencelli? -Ed.*

Afternoon entertainment and BBQ have been arranged with our partners for the event, The Goytre Boat Owners Association.

It is hoped that the Mayor of Torfaen will cruise with us from the Open Hearth to Five Locks, leaving at 10am to open the rally at 11am.

The trip boat will operating again on the Sunday but on a pay as you go basis.

The official opening of the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre (also the First Anniversary) will take place on Friday 22nd May. Newport have not yet given any times. Please ring Phil Hughes at the Centre for details: 01633 894 802.

Torfaen Council are also sponsoring our old favourites Tony Breen and Friends band for the rally at Pontymoile on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. There will also be a free BBQ for attending boaters provided by Steve and Sue of the Marina Tea Rooms. Mementos will also be arranged for attending boats that participate in the Sunday Five Locks Convoy Cruise (fancy dress optional).

Gilwern Celebration Rally will take place through the village on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Afternoon entertainment will be provided by folk group Broadside. We hope to have a few stalls and public boat trips to the site of the breach. Mementos will also be arranged for attending boats.

The Trust has been approached by Abergavenny Children's festival to hold an event at Goytre Wharf on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July. We will be doing boat trips free of charge, as they are sponsoring the boat for the day. Please come and support us.

The Brecon Rally is on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August. Entry for boaters will cost £15.00 per boat which will include a champagne toast (for two) at the Evening Social at Theatr Brychieniog. British Waterways are sponsoring Moonlight Jazz for the entertainment in the gallery bar. Boaters are encouraged to decorate and light up their boats. Moorings will be allocated as per boat length on a health and safety basis and, as in previous years working with British Waterways and local boat operators.

Boaters MUST complete an Entry Form to attend. Contact Chris Morgan for full details. Telephone: 02920 888 681 email: [chrismorgan@aol.com](mailto:chrismorgan@aol.com).

**Please return your forms and fee by 1st July.**



The Annual Duck Race will back on the water on Sunday 30th August.

Your tickets are enclosed with this newsletter together with a pre-addressed envelope for their return. Please remember to affix a 2nd class stamp before posting. If you do not wish to receive tickets in future, please make sure you tell us when you send them back to save costs next year.

Many thanks to the many who I know will support the race. We always count on a good return from members.

Come and support the ducks on the day if you can.

There will be no organised trip this September; it will give me a chance to look at organising something different for 2010.

*Chris Morgan Chairman and Events Officer.*



### TRUST WEBSITE UPDATE

The trust Web Site is in the middle of being revised and up-dated. If any member has any suggestions or has a business they would like added as a link, please email Phil Hughes: nefyn@aol.com

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## **B.W. CANAL OPENING DAY AT GOYTRE WHARF**

### **A Report from the Trust's New Trip Boat Co-ordinator Ken Petty.**

Rhodri Morgan can certainly choose his days, along with his assistant Huw Irranca-Davies they opened the canal in great style.

The canal was looking at its best with very picturesque bunting put up by British Waterways. BW had provided a strong work force to give the site a good spring clean. It was a pity they hadn't used our trip boat for the ceremony, but the way they had arranged it with Red Line was first class.

We had a wonderful day out and I am sure all the crew had a very satisfying day. A little fraught at times but with a little humour and a bit of understanding we pulled through.

I would especially like to mention TONY SMITH who sat on the boat as crew all day and performed his tasks admirably.

NIGEL JONES, helmsman, who turned up early to help with the preparation of the boat, had never steered a boat like this before, but after a short lesson performed remarkably well until his relief at 2pm.

MIKE JEFFS, who came along to see if he could help at 10.30am, did a sterling job as Banks man, Ticket seller and all round Information Bureau, finally going home after helping to put the boat away.

Bernard Illman and Tom Maloney were also a great help to us.

Pam from BW at Govilon arranged for us to have a free licence for the day which was gratefully received.

Every journey except the 11 o'clock start was fully booked and there were numerous enquires as to our next day out from disappointed customers so hopefully we will be busy on the 11<sup>th</sup> April.

The publicity from BW had attracted many families and it was nice to see them. We had a baby from a few weeks old to a grandmother of 93 who had come all the way from Canada.

All in All we had a splendid day and hope to repeat it with the bumps ironed out.

PS- the weather was outstanding, that always helps.

*Ken Petty Trip Boat Co-ordinator.*




*A new job, a new boat, a new crew and a newly opened canal all on the same day. Quite an achievement. Congratulations to you all-Ed.*

*If you think you could slot in with Ken's team telephone him on: 02920 413 287*

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE TRUST SINCE 1984

### **In partnerships with Torfaen, Newport and Caerphilly Councils and British Waterways.**

For the benefit of new members, and those who have forgotten, here is a list of which the Trust can be justly proud. There is still a long way to go.

- 1986 The Welsh Waterways Festival Rally was held at Pontymoile.
- 1988 The IWA National Trailboat Rally was hosted at Pontymoile during which the new toilet facilities and slipway were opened.
- 1989 The first ever volunteer clean up was held at Malpas, Newport.
- 1989 The Trust launched a regular trip boat operation at Malpas.  
Early in the 1990's the first Annual Duck Race was held at Llangynidr.
- 1994 Crown Bridge, Sebastopol, rebuilt to a navigable height.
- 1997 The canal was opened to Five Locks and the new mooring basin was built by Torfaen Council.
- 1998 Ty Fynon Lock restored on the Newport section.
- 1999 Tamplin Lock restored on the Torfaen section.
- 2000 Slipway built near Bettws Lane Bridge, Newport.  
Gwasted Lock restored, Newport.  
IWA National Trailboat Rally hosted at Kimberley Park, Newport.
- 2001 Successfully campaigning to stop Caerphilly Council culverting large sections of the Crumlin Arm in Risca.  
Slipway built at Pontwaun on the Crumlin Arm with a £3000 investment by the Trust.
- 2001 Bettws Lane Lock restored, Newport.
- 2001 Trust Trailboat Rally held at Cwmcarn on the Crumlin Arm.
- 2002 Lock 21 of the Cefn Flight (14 Locks Rogerstone) restored.  
Convincing Torfaen Council to include the canal in their plans to regenerate the town centre, although a close eye needs to be kept on these proposals to make sure they include the means of getting boats down there!  
The Trust Trip Boat was purchased. Grant funding was used to purchase the Trust Land Rover. 

Promotion of the benefits of the regeneration of the Fourteen Locks flight. This has led to regular work parties (at least four every year since) organised by the Waterways Recovery Group.

- 2003 Successful events to promote the canal were held at the National Eisteddford in Newport and the Royal Welsh Show at Builth Wells.  
A water point was installed at Five Locks in conjunction with the IWA and Torfaen Council.  
Newport Canals Public Consultation
- 2004 Gwasted Mawr Lock restored, Newport.  
IWA National Trailboat Rally hosted for the second time at Kimberley Park, Newport.  
Promoting and achieving the funds for the raising of Bettws Lane Culvert (Newport) to “navigable” headroom.
- 2005 Slipway built by volunteers at Fourteen Locks.
- 2005 Dredging and relining the canal from Lock 21 to Ruskin Avenue.
- 2005 Canal Corridor Study for Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- 2006 An engineering study was funded for the restoration of Five Locks Bridge and new locks. The cost in 2006 was £2.3million.  
Completion of a full engineering study / costings for the removal of blockages on the Newport owned Crumlin Arm section including the M4 underpass and possibility of a Bettws Marina at the Malpas fishing grounds.  
Installation of mooring rings, seats and water points on the British Waterways owned section as well as various interpretation works at various points along the canal.  
Intereg volunteer exchange, Utrecht (Holland) and Strabane (N. Ireland).  
Intereg project to create an education CD ROM “Philleas Frog” for schools to appreciate the canal.
- 2007 Living Links Lottery Bid 2005 to 2007 over £350K of studies completed. The Regeneration Partnership lost this at the last round.



## ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

2008 Promoting the advantages of the Crindau Marina plans to Newport Unlimited from the early stages of their formation, now a major part of the “Crindau Gateway” plans, public consultation.

The Fourteen Locks Canal Centre Tearoom, Kitchen and Meeting Room Extension completed by Newport Council. The Trust accepted the lease (through funding) to run the centre.

The Trust now has a base from which to work.

In addition to the above we are continuing to increase our membership base and work within each community.

We are developing and maintaining our wide ranging archive of photographs, company minutes and maps, for future generations, researchers and canal owners benefit.

We have won several lottery bids for lap tops, projectors, and to pay for access to records stored at the Public Records Archive at Kew, London.

Installation of a new top gate on Waen Lock 3 on the Crumlin Arm

Commencement of the work to re-open the navigation on the Monmouthshire Canal between Pentre Lane, Lower Cwmbran, the Canal Junction under the M4 and Waen Lock 3 on the Crumlin Arm.

2009 Volunteer Clean Up of the canal between Five Locks and Solomons Bridge to allow boats to once again reach Five Locks.

Continuing the work to re-open the navigation on the Monmouthshire Canal between Pentre Lane, Lower Cwmbran, the Canal Junction under the M4 and Waen Lock 3 on the Crumlin Arm.

This list will be on-going until total restoration of the canal from Five Locks to Newport and up to Cwmcarn is complete.

A host of events have been arranged along the length of the canal to celebrate the successful re-opening of the canal following the breach at Gilwern in 2007.

The annual Duck Race will return again to Llangynidr in August.

*Check out the Events Leaflet-Ed.*



## SPONSORSHIP PLEA

Over the past year our chairman has lost nearly 3 stone in weight by changing his diet and taking up running!

He ran in the 3.2 mile Nos Galan Race in Mountain Ash last New Year's Eve and raised a small amount of money for the Trust.

His next challenge, after much training, will be on 4th July in the Birmingham to Wolverhampton Half Marathon. This takes place along 13 miles of the BCN canal network.

Chris's chosen charity is the BCNS (Birmingham Canal Navigations Society) who do similar work to ourselves, but suffer from much more vandalism and illegal dumping. The society are looking to buy a tv / dvd unit to use for promotional purposes and any money Chris raises will help towards this.

If you would like to sponsor Chris please send a cheque (payable to BCNS) to Chris Morgan at 32 St David's Drive, Machen, Caerphilly, CF83 8RH

Thank you for your support.



## TOWING PATH CYCLING



There has been much criticism of the massive amount of funding going to the cycling charity Sustrans, our traditional mud and grass towing paths are being ripped up and replaced with harder stone dust surfaces.

Cyclists on our canals have a big responsibility to other canal users. Accidents involving pedestrians, walkers and boat owners are increasing due to the thoughtless actions of a minority. There is nothing so frustrating as speeding cyclists kicking up the dust over your polished moored boat, or having to move your BBQ into the long grass!

Did you know cyclists need a BW Cycling Permit to use our towing paths?

**Yes they do!** They also need third party insurance to cover them in the event of an accident. Cyclists without the above can be prosecuted under BW bylaws. So if you have trouble with a cyclist, challenge them, to prove they are legally covered to cycle along our canal towing paths.

Perhaps there should be more signage at access points reminding cyclists of their responsibilities?

Cyclists can check out [www.waterscape.com/things-to-do/cycling/permit](http://www.waterscape.com/things-to-do/cycling/permit).

We are not anti-cycling, we just want to point out there are rules for all canal users to ensure we all behave responsibly and safely.

### **MON & BREC JUNIORS IN BLACK COUNTRYLUCKY DIP**

While the celebrations to reopen the Mon & Brec were taking place, two of our younger members were taking part in the Annual BCN (Birmingham Canal Navigations) Clean up takes place every March in the Black Country. Trust member Alan Birchall has attended many times over the last 10 years. Trust chairman Chris Morgan has attended the last three events and in 2009 his sons Lewys and Owen attended.

The event is organised by the London Waterway Recovery Group, who arrange the accommodation and liaise with British Waterways as to where the work will take place. This year was on sections of the Walsall and Tame Valley Canals.

We turned up on the Saturday morning, were given a grappling hook and gloves and off we went, everyone made for the bridge holes where the local hoodlums throw their junk in!

The water is deep and black; this is where the lucky dip starts.

Shopping trolleys and bikes are the favourite, followed by pipes, ladders, fencing panels, corrugated sheeting, tyres, cones, lawn mowers, car seats, childrens prams, subuteo games, vending machines, and more shopping trolleys! Interesting items found in 2009 included a box of expensive looking jewellery and a rifle in a bag; both were handed to local police.

Owen said "Dad, I'm a human dredger", Lewys wanted to keep the motorbike he found! Both boys help tick boxes for their Boy Scout badges by attending this event.

Over the weekend six - five ton skips were filled with the debris removed by 60 volunteers, quite satisfying when you realise that's 35 ton less to wrap around the propeller, now I wonder what lurks under that bridge in Griffithstown!

Perhaps our own 2010 Clean up will find out? *Chris Morgan*

### **Volunteer Work Camps 2009**

We are pleased to announce that the Waterways Recovery Group will be holding two work camps on the Monmouthshire Canal this year. Thank You WRG.

From the 11th - 25th July they will be working on the Newport section reconstructing the slipway at Bettws Lane Bridge and raising the Malpas foot bridge to enable boats to pass underneath.

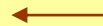
From 24th - 31st October they will work on the Torfaen section and remove silt from the canal channel above and below Tamplin Lock and carry out offside vegetation control.

If there are any local volunteers who would like to join in this work please Contact Richard Domett or Chris Annetts. *Tel. nos inside front cover-Ed.*





The Marina Tearoom at Pontymoile has been refurbished over the winter with increased seating capacity inside. Steve and Sue lent two of their day boats to help with the Five Locks clean up.



Volunteers cleaning and painting the lock gates and paddle gear at Llangynidr during the National Canal Clean Up Week in March

Photograph Richard Dommett



The Regeneration Team working on Gwasted Lock 1. See full report on page 9.



Photograph Richard Dommett

“Young Mon and Breckers”  
Lewys and Owen Morgan help at the Annual Birmingham Canal clean up week end.



# The Monmouthshire Brecon and Abergavenny Canals

