

## Volunteers Needed



Getting involved is a great way to meet people and to make new friends. We do need volunteers to join our workparties but there are lots of other things you can do to lend a hand. Volunteering is fun and there are many different ways you could help the canal trust. Here are some of them:

**Help man our exhibition stand.** Over the summer we take our stand to all sorts of rallies and events in Shropshire and Staffordshire. We always need help to man the stand and to talk to interested visitors.

Training is given and you won't be abandoned on your own!

**Help our Oral Archive team.** This team are talking to, and recording the memories of, the people who can remember when our canals were in use. They need interviewers and also people to transcribe the recordings.

**Are you good with paperwork?** We always need help with applying for grants.

Apart from these examples there are plenty of other jobs that we need help with including things like updating our website and our Facebook pages, fundraising, scrap metal recycling, stamp collecting, proof reading and event planning

## Regular Work Parties

Come along and get some fresh air and exercise and perhaps learn new skills. You don't even have to be a member to take part in one of our work parties.

Our regular work parties take place on three Saturdays each month:

**Newport:** Every 1st Saturday of the month, 10am - 4.00pm.

**Wappenshall:** Every 3rd Saturday of the month, 10.00am - 4.00pm.

**Shrewsbury:** Every last Saturday of the month, 10am - 4.00pm.

If you want to find out more or to enquire about how you can help, then email [volunteering@sncanal.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@sncanal.org.uk) with your details and what you are interested in doing or take a look at the Volunteering page on our web site.

[www.sncanal.org.uk](http://www.sncanal.org.uk)

# S&N News



The quarterly newsletter of the  
Shrewsbury and Newport Canal Trust

Autumn 2017



**Wappenshall project put on hold,  
see page 8 for the latest position**

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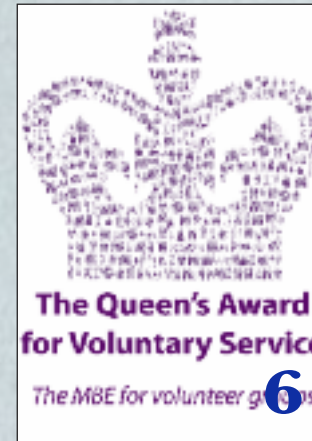
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# what's in your **S&N News**

The quarterly newsletter of the  
Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust



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Working to restore the canals in partnership with The Norbury to Newport Canal Restoration CIC

*The views expressed by contributors to S&N News do not necessarily represent the views or policies of The Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust*

### COPY FOR S&N NEWS

S&N News is published four times each year in February, May, August and November. The copy deadline is first of the previous month i.e.

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**COPY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THESE DATES**

*send your copy to the editor*

*email: editor@sncanal.org.uk Telephone: 07711 858986*

*The Editor reserves the right to edit copy supplied to the newsletter*

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# notes from the chair

The last couple of months have been a roller coaster of highs and lows as far as the Trust is concerned. Firstly, in June we were given the amazing news that we were to be presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The presentation ceremony will take place at Wappenshall on Monday, 14th August (see pages 6 and 7 for more details). I would like to thank all our volunteers for the work they have done which has led to us being given this prestigious award, the equivalent of a volunteers' MBE. I hope as many members as possible will attend.

This was closely followed by the news that we had failed to get the HLF Grant we have been working towards for so long (see page 8). I am obviously very disappointed as, behind the scenes, people have put in so much work. A meeting was held with representatives of the HLF on Friday, 7th July to explain where we had failed to meet their criteria and discuss the way forward.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those Trustees that stood down after the recent AGM for the service they have given over the years. These are *Alistair Price, Julie Harris, Tony Forrester and Leon Murray.*

*Bernie Jones*  
Chairman



## Dates for your Diary

Do, please, check the website for updates

- **Saturday 5th August  
Newport Balsam Bash**  
10am - 4pm  
meet Black Shed, Newport TF10 7LD  
*Contact John Myers Tel: 07711 858986  
email: editor@sncanal.org.uk*
- **Saturday and Sunday  
12th and 13th August  
Tern Valley Vintage  
Machine Show**  
10am - 4pm  
Chetwynd Deer Park, Newport,  
Shropshire TF10 8AE  
*volunteers wanted to man our stand.  
Contact Ruth Otter Tel: 07746 411963  
email: ruth@tickhouse.plus.com*
- **Saturday & Sunday 12th, 13th August  
Ellesmere Festival.**  
Ellesmere, Shropshire  
*Volunteers wanted to help man the stand  
Contact Chris Chambers Tel: 07891 208191  
email: chrischambers2@sky.com*
- **Monday 14th August  
Queen's Award for Voluntary  
Service presentation 6.30pm**  
*See details on page 7*
- **Saturday to Sunday  
20th - 26th August  
WRGs week at Newport**  
10am- 4pm See details on page 9  
*Let Ian Gaston know if you intend coming to  
work Tel: 07960 317388  
email iandgaston@gmail.com*

- **2nd & 3rd September 2017  
Whitchurch Boat Rally**  
Whitchurch Arm of Llangollen Canal  
Chemistry Bridge. 11am - 4pm  
*Volunteers wanted to man the stand.  
Contact John Myers. Tel: 07711 858986  
email: editor@sncanal.org.uk*
- **Sunday 10th September  
Tea & Cakes at Tickethouse Lock  
west of Town Bridge,  
Newport TF10 7PW**  
10pm-4pm  
Come and see our plans for the  
canals
- **Monday 11th September  
Wellington Walking Festival**  
*Alistair Price will be leading a walk from  
Wappenshall TF6 6 DE. See:  
www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.  
org.uk/Festival.html for details*
- **Friday - Sunday  
15th - 17th September 2017  
Maesbury Canal Fayre**  
Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry SY10 8JG  
10am - 5pm  
*Volunteers wanted to man our stand.  
Contact Alistair Price Tel: 07980 123444  
email: aprice@sncanal.org.uk*
- **Saturday and Sunday  
14th and 15th October  
WRGs at Shrewsbury**  
10am - 4pm  
Work will either be at Berwick  
Tunnel or at Uffington, but watch the  
website and FaceBook for further  
information and details  
*Volunteers needed. Contact Bernie Jones  
Tel: 01743 709601  
email: bjones@sncanal.org.uk*

## SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

### NEWPORT

- **Wednesday 6th September  
Wednesday 1st November**  
7.30pm British Legion Club  
Audley Road, Newport TF10 7DP  
*Contact: John Myers 07711 858986*

### TELFORD

- **Monday 4th September**  
7.30pm The Elephant & Castle  
1 High Street, Dawley TF4 2ET  
*Contact: Alan Harding 07944 753009*

### SHREWSBURY

- **Tuesday 5th September**  
7.30pm Meole Brace Bowling Club,  
Meole Rise, off Upper Road,  
Meole Brace, Shrewsbury SY3 9JT  
*Contact: Peter Cann 07985 046461*

## WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

- Richard, Myfanwy, Jack & Lily  
Rhodes,** Crewe, Cheshire  
**Alan Oliver,** Jackfield, Telford  
**Laurence & Diane Cooper,** Telford  
**Geoff & Sylvia Searson** Newport  
**Jim, Margaret & Dave Mateer,**  
Telford  
**Anthony Minor,** Shrewsbury  
**Ronald Gardner,** Newport, Shropshire  
**Trish & Derek Harris-McNee,**  
Preston, Shropshire  
**Susan Jackson,** Wellington, Telford  
**David & Blanche Dakin,** Newport  
**Bernard & Susan Blundell,** Telford  
**David & Nicole Brown,** Telford  
**Alan & Joy Walker,** Telford

# SNCT awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service



**We are proud to announce that the SNCT has been honoured with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2017.**

The Queens Award for Voluntary Service is the highest mark of distinction that can be given to a local volunteer group in the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of The Queen's Coronation. It is the MBE for voluntary groups.

In making the announcement a spokesperson from The Queens Award for Voluntary Groups Team said "The work your group does for the community was very much admired by the independent Assessment Committee, chaired by *Sir Martyn Lewis CBE* and I am delighted to inform you that your group has been selected as a recipient for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) 2017"

They went on to say "The award of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2017 represents a tremendous achievement for your organisation. We hope that everyone involved, and particularly your volunteers, feel immensely proud of the recognition that this Award represents."

*Bernie Jones* said "This award was a fantastic surprise and we are delighted to have been nominated. It is testimony to the hard work and dedication of all our volunteers who give so much to help the Trust in its restoration work on these wonderful canals, whether contributing to our social media, helping out at our stalls at local events, baking cakes and other fundraising, helping with administration and, of course, actually digging at our workparties"

We now look forward to an official presentation of the award by the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire on Monday 14th August at 6.30pm to which all members are invited.

The presentation ceremony for

*The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service*

Monday 14 August at 6.30pm

*Please try to come along, the more members the merrier!*

The Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, as the Queen's personal representative in the county, will present the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust at a ceremony at Wappenshall at 6.30 on Monday 14 August. The citation will read **"for Restoring part of our Industrial Heritage, providing volunteering, education and recreation for all."**

The award, consisting of the Queen's Award Trophy and a certificate signed by HM The Queen will be presented formally to the Trust.

The presentation will be followed by a barbeque (plus a request for donations to cover this). Bring your own glasses and drinks.

So that we know how much food, etc to provide, can you please let *Alan Harding* know if you are planning to attend at [aharding@sncanal.org.uk](mailto:aharding@sncanal.org.uk)



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# WAPPENSHALL WHARF PROGRESS REPORT

## Wappenshall Wharf project on hold

The Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust (SNCT) regrets to announce that its Thomas Telford @ Wappenshall Wharf project is on hold for now whilst it regroups and decides how to proceed. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has decided that, for the moment, it cannot support the project with the significant grant that it needs.

The SNCT originally bid for a £1 million grant from the HLF for the project in 2014 and was awarded a £72,100 Round 1 grant to work up its proposals, ready for a Round 2 bid for the balance. The SNCT raised some £500,000 in matched funding but, because the submission of the Round 2 bid had been deferred twice, by the time it was submitted in February 2017 the costs had increased due to inflation and the worked up plans for the project had revealed that more restoration of the two warehouses was needed than was originally been estimated. Jointly these two cost increases meant that the SNCT had to increase its grant request to the HLF to £1.3 million.

In its letter informing the SNCT of the result, the HLF advised that the Committee recognised the rarity and significance of the site and its buildings. They noted the need to conserve this nationally significant example of our industrial heritage and to find a long term beneficial use. They also noted the commitment, knowledge, experience and skills of the Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust. They understood the progress the Trust has made to raise funds and build partnerships so far. However there remained a large uplift request and some aspects of, particularly, the business plan were high risk and felt to be overly optimistic.

The SNCT has had a subsequent meeting with the HLF to explore its future options, including the possibility of a new bid with a strengthened business plan.

At its next trustees meeting the issues will be fully debated and the future direction of the project will be decided.

## Thanks to Newport Town Council

The SNCT would like to give special thanks to Newport Town Council (NTC) for its continuing strong support in our quest to restore the canal.

Recently NTC gave us a grant of nearly £1,000 to buy tools to help with our activities. These included a professional grade brush cutter; a Bosch rechargeable electric trimmer (for keeping the Meretown Lock area tidy), waders (for use particularly in the Strine Brook for balsam bashing), a four wheeled trolley (that will be very useful for moving equipment up and down the towpath), special hole digging shovels and crowbars (recently very useful for installing the Tickethouse Lock sign), a professional spray pack and much more.

The canal restoration features very strongly in the draft Newport Neighbourhood Plan and the canal is prominent throughout the planning document.

In appreciation, the SNCT trustees recently voted to make Newport Town Council the very first honorary members of the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust.

*The WRGies are  
coming again....*

*Come and join them for a day or  
two (or more!)*

For the last few years we have had regular Waterway Recovery Group weeks and weekends and they have made a fantastic difference to our restoration at Shrewsbury, Newport and Norbury Junction. Now the WRG are back again...

**19-26 August** – a week long workcamp at **Newport**, creating about 300 metres of towpath and other work in the area. **All SNCT members are welcome** to come along and work with the WRGies. If you are planning on doing this it would be good if you can come for the Health and Safety briefing on Saturday 19th August at Burton Borough School, Newport TF10 7DS at 7pm. This will ensure your safety on site and will let you meet the WRG volunteers from all over the country

**14-15 October** – a weekend camp at the **Shrewsbury** end working either at the Berwick tunnel or at Uffington. Keep an eye on the website for updates

# Shrewsbury Canal Re-watering Group



*WRG and SNCT volunteers removing a tree at Sundorne, October 2016*

Over the last few years the Shrewsbury Support Group has spent a lot of effort at their work parties clearing about 1.1 miles of canal at Sundorne, on the west side of Shrewsbury, between Telford Way and Pimley Bridge. In early 2016 they produced a document which looked at the possible re-watering of this stretch of canal. They concluded that it should be possible to re-water the stretch and proposed to the SNCT trustees that the group should work up the idea. The trustees agreed and the Shrewsbury Canal Re-watering Group (SCRG) was created as a part of the Shrewsbury Support Group.

Since their first meeting in the autumn of 2016 the group has worked very hard to identify the problems which need to be solved and the work needed to make a start on returning this length to water and, eventually, to full navigation. They recognise that the project is too large for just one or two people to manage and have therefore formed a team with small groups taking responsibility for various areas of work. These smaller groups, of two or more people, are concentrating on areas like fund raising, planning, public relations, ecology and construction and then reporting back to the SCRG.

Eventually a blueprint document will be produced outlining all aspects of what the group aims to achieve and how it will get there, for agreement with the trustees. It will be a living document, meaning that it can evolve as restoration progresses and in the light of experience. The document will also contain summary information to help explain the plans to partners, funding suppliers, contractors, SNCT members, etc.



*More tree removal at Lesley Owen Way. The line of the canal is clearly visible.*

If you are an SNCT member and want to get involved or think you have skills to offer the SCRG please contact *Alistair Price* or *Peter Cann* for more information or a chat. As long as approval for the work can be agreed with both town and county councils, planning permission will be sought as soon as possible for the first section.

# New sign for Tickethouse Lock, No.21



At the Newport workparty in May, *Terry Otter* and *David Cant* installed a new SNCT sign in the area adjacent to Tickethouse Lock. When this was a working canal, the boatmen had to collect tickets at intervals along the canal to be presented to their owners for payment. The toll collectors lived in adjacent houses, which were known as 'tickethouses', hence the name of the lock and the nearby Thomas Telford designed toll house.

The Lock House was bought in 2013 by members *Ruth and Terry Otter*, who are restoring it faithfully whilst also modernising the interior and introducing environmentally friendly modern technology.

Tickethouse Lock is the westernmost of the three locks that divide the 1½ mile length of canal which is in water at Newport. Like the others, it was filled in but is otherwise undamaged. However it does have a water main passing through it which will add to the challenges and cost of restoring it.



*The new information board installed adjacent to Tickethouse Lock No. 21*

# AGM Report

This year's AGM was again held at Wappenshall and, as in previous years, we added to the day with two extremely interesting speakers

Our first speaker of the day was *Professor Timothy Peters* who gave us a fascinating insight into 'The life and times of George Jebb (1838-1927), chief engineer of the Shropshire Union & Birmingham Canal Navigation Companies'. George Jebb was a civil engineer and unusual in that he worked on both canals and railways. He was the Chief Engineer of the Shropshire Union Railways and Canal Company designing many of the docks and warehouses at Ellesmere Port. Although he became Vice-President of the Institute of Civil Engineers, he declined to be nominated as President and stepped down in 1912.

The AGM started promptly at 12.15pm and our chairman took us through our achievements of the last year, mentioning many highlights, thanking various people for their contributions and commenting on the challenges of the coming year. He then emphasised the amazing amount of work that Trust volunteers do. This was especially apt, since he could now announce that the Trust has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for volunteer groups. This is a truly outstanding achievement! He warmly thanked all those that had made it possible. The financial report and other business was quickly completed. When it came to the election of Trustees, as the SNCT's officers were all standing for re-election, *John Heather* took the chair. A third of the Trust's 12 elected Trustees retire by rotation at each AGM and this year they were *Steve Bean*, *Sherrel Fikeis*, *Bernie Jones* and *Brian Nelson*, who were all willing to stand for re-election. *Alistair Price* was standing down and one nomination had been received from *Vaughan Welch*. There were therefore five vacancies and five candidates and these were elected en bloc by a show of hands. And so to lunch, organized by *Alan Harding* and his team.

After lunch we were privileged to be addressed by *Julian Glover* on his research and experiences writing his recently published 'Man of Iron: Thomas Telford and the building of Britain'. He kept everyone totally engaged, speaking without notes or any IT backup. He told us about travelling to research Telford's humble origins and home village in the remote Scottish Borders and finding that a lot of the locals are still called Telford! He covered the amazing range of roads, buildings, canals (including 'our' Shrewsbury and Newport canals) and structures that Telford designed all over the UK, much of which original infrastructure is still in use. He then answered questions from the floor for another half hour. All in all one of the most fascinating speakers that we have had over the years at our AGM.

# New Trustees

## Alan Boney

Most of my career was spent in retail starting as a salesman with Curry's (they sold bikes then) working my way up to management and eventually ending my retail life with 15 years at the MEB. I joined GKN in 2004 and became a Parts Analyst with Chassis Systems Ltd whose contract expired in August 2016. Now I concentrate my time on my grandchildren and trying to raise funds for SNCT. My wife Sue and myself took over as chief fundraisers for the SNCT earlier this year.

My love of canals started as a boy fishing the Grand Union in Rickmansworth. On leaving school in 1969 I joined the Merchant Navy and discovered a love of the sea. Now living in Telford, almost the farthest point inland from any coastline it was time to find water elsewhere. The SNCT gives me a chance to put water back where it belongs and a chance to do something for the community at large. The well being created by this project will be monumental.



## Kevin Taylor

I grew up in the Black Country which meant that a canal was never too far away and a great deal of my time was spent on my bike using the towpaths to explore the area.

After University, a corporate career followed, working for the likes of Mars and Kellogg's in various parts of the country. Since 2002 we've run our own business focussing on training and typically work with larger organisations.

I'm also a director of the Norbury to Newport CIC and have really enjoyed seeing the sections we've worked on over the years come to life.

With my wife and daughter, I now live in Oulton near Norbury right on the line of the canal and have gone full circle since I still spend much time exploring canals in the wider area on my bike.....

For relaxation I work on clearing and restoring the lock next to my house, Number 5 on the Norbury flight.



## Philip Jones

On completion of my engineering apprenticeship, I went into the Merchant Navy as an engineer. This was a fantastic experience that indulged my love of travelling and the sea. When I married, I moved to Telford and was employed at Ironbridge Power Station. Whilst there, I gained my B.Sc. degree with the Open University. I moved from there to the defence industry in Donnington.

I have had a lifelong interest in our cultural heritage and have always endeavoured to support any local projects. This enabled me to come close to one of my heroes, Richard Trevithick. I was privileged to be involved in the reconstruction of his steam engine which led to involvement with Chasewater Light Railway.

Thomas Telford, it goes without saying, is another hero of mine. Working with the Wappensall Wharf Project and helping to get his canals in working order, is a fantastic experience

It has become a passion to see the development unfold to completion. My role as Team Leader at Wappenshall is hugely fulfilling and the volunteers that I work with are a constant inspiration.



## Vaughan Welch

Vaughan Welch is a retired public sector Procurement Officer, specialising in civil and electrical engineering materials and services contracts, trained in contract and Health & Safety law (ISOH Managing Safety accredited)

A boat owner, first cruising in the early 60's, he is one of the four elected boaters representatives on the Canal & River Trust Governing Council and an observer on its Operations Navigation Advisory Group.

Formerly an SNCT Trustee from January 2001 until April 2006 working with W S Atkins to develop the Feasibility Study. He retired last year as the chairman of IWA's National Restoration Committee, being an IWA Trustee for 14 years. He has recently become a trustee of the Avon Navigation Trust and been invited to join the board of the Ashby Canal Trust, he is also a Director of the Norbury to Newport CIC.

He joined the Board of Droitwich Canals Trust in the late 1990's when the project was in the doldrums, helping to turn it round and then remained on the Board, most recently as its Chairman, until it was finally wound up after the successful completion of the restoration five years ago.

He now hopes to bring his experience to help develop and progress our important waterway restoration project towards achieving its ultimate goal of a buoyant self sufficient operational navigation.







## Dinghy Paddle and Litter Collection on the Newport Canal

### *The flotilla and helpers*

On Sunday 7 May a small band of Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust enthusiasts gathered at the Black Shed in Newport for the fourth year running, to canoe along the watered sections of the Newport Canal. The Newport Canal is divided into four sections by the three filled in locks and there are other obstructions, so they knew that they would need to manhandle the canoes from section to section. At the same time they planned to clean up the bank and the canal by collecting rubbish and litter and removing anything that should not be there. These parts of the Newport Canal that are in water are a Site of Special Scientific Interest, so permission for the trip had to be obtained from Natural England as well as the owners, Telford & Wrekin Council.

The six canoes started off eastwards towards the A41 then turned around and headed back west, passing the Black Shed on the way. Particular attention was paid to not disturbing the wildlife. They picnicked in the garden of Tickethouse Lock House and then went for a guided walk to explore some of the dry canal section beyond the end of the section in water. Afterwards they returned to the Black Shed and re-loaded their boats, ready for next year maybe...

The equivalent of about 8 bin bags of rubbish were collected, mainly bottles, cans and crisp and sweet packets. A small group of SNCT volunteers helped the crews transport the boats from section to section and a good time was had by all.

It was fantastic to see boats on the canal again, many local residents commenting positively on the good work done.



*Marion could not make up her mind which one to wear - a quantity of new safety helmets have been bought to replace ones that have passed their use by date*

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## The Shropshire Union Fly-Boat Saturn

*Saturn* is the only surviving example of a horse-drawn Shropshire Union fly-boat in the world. She was built for the Shropshire Union Canal Carrying Company in 1906 at the company's dock – which still exists – at Tower Wharf, Chester and was registered on 15 January 1907. She was allocated Shropshire Union fleet number 598.



Kidderminster Carpet Museum

Unloading bales of wool at Kidderminster Wharf for carpet manufacturing in the 1940's

*Saturn* was a 'cheese fly'. That is, she was built primarily for the fast carriage of cheese from the producing towns of Cheshire and Shropshire to major markets such as Manchester. She would have carried return loads of perishable goods. She would have also worked to other destinations on the Shropshire Union network and other waterways throughout the North West, the Midlands and Wales. For instance, the boat is recorded loading corn and soda at Preston Brook for Mills & Co. of Wolverhampton in August 1917.

Following the end of fly-boat services after the First World War, the Shropshire Union's owners – the London & North Western Railway Company – was acquired by the London Midland & Scottish Railway Company in 1923. She remained in their ownership but was moved to the Birmingham Canal Navigations and based at Mill Street Basin, becoming LMS Fleet No.102 and BCN Registration No.1103 on 9 October 1925. We know that she then worked extensively around Birmingham and the Midlands canal network.

William Statham was skipper of *Saturn* during the early part of World War II, with his brother Reginald as mate. Reginald was born on the ex. Shroppie fly *Reynolds* in 1931 whilst moored outside The Boat Inn, Gnosall. They worked on the Staffs & Worcester run from

Wolverhampton to Stourport, carrying coal one way on the Shropshire Union, presumably to Cadbury's at Knighton as the return load was chocolate products to Bournville. On the Stourport run, they left Wolverhampton at 7am, changed horses at Kinver then unloaded at Kidderminster. Presumably loading again next morning, they carried on to Stourport and unloaded again. At Stourport they loaded barrels of vinegar, changing horses again at Kinver and negotiated the Wolverhampton 21 locks in complete darkness, because of wartime blackout regulations.

This run carried on after the nationalization of the waterways in 1948 and *Saturn* is recorded on film around 1950 travelling empty up the Staffs & Worcester Canal, still in LMS style black & white livery, horse-drawn and fully rigged for carrying dry goods. A photograph also exists of *Saturn* in a lock on the Staffs & Worcester, loaded with barrels of vinegar. Sometime later she was sold to independent carrier Frank Matty, still displaying the lettering 'B.R. (L.M.R.)' and the fleet number '102' on her cabin sides.

In December 1955 *Saturn* was purchased by pioneer waterway campaigner Peter Froud (later one of the co-founders of what is now The National Waterways Museum). Peter converted her with a full-length cabin and fitted an Austin 7 car engine, then later a Ford Model B engine running on paraffin. Peter was heavily involved in the early campaigns of the Inland Waterways Association and became a friend of Robert Aickman, who travelled with him aboard *Saturn* on many campaigning cruises including those to Llangollen, Whaley Bridge, Coventry, Froghall, Toll End Locks and the Dudley Tunnel Protest - on this cruise the boat got stuck in the tunnel with 45 people aboard!

In 1958 Peter decided to go into hotel boating, running *Saturn* as a single motor boat under the company name Canal Voyagers. During 1963, she was paired with the ex. Fellows, Morton & Clayton motor boat *Hawk*; renamed *Jupiter* by Peter. The engine unit was initially



Waterway Images

Launch of Saturn's restored hull at Malkins Bank Canal Services on 26 May 2005

retained and – as *Jupiter's* Bolinder engine was somewhat unreliable – the butty was sometimes seen towing the motor. *Saturn's* engine was later removed and fitted in sister SU fly-boat *Symbol*. Eventually *Saturn* was retired from commercial work in 1987 and was sold into private hands.

Waterway Images



*Saturn, towed by Dane, at Fradley Junction on the way to the 2017 Boat Gathering at the National Waterways Museum*

*Saturn* was purchased for preservation by British Waterways in 2000 and came into joint-ownership with the Shropshire Union Fly-Boat Restoration Society (SUFBRS). Complete restoration was undertaken by Malkins Bank Canal Services and society volunteers – funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, WREN (Landfill Tax), The Waterways Trust, the Shropshire Union Canal Society, The Manifold Trust, the Chester & District Branch of the Inland Waterways Association, the society and others. Complete ownership was recently transferred to SUFBRS by the Canal & River Trust (CRT).

For the last 11 years since restoration, *Saturn* has travelled the waterways of the North West, North Wales and the Midlands as an educational resource. Attending events - when possible horse-drawn – and manned by volunteers of SUFBRS who teach visitors of all ages about the traditional craft of the canals, their history, the boating families and their horses, and the techniques of working Shropshire Union fly-boats.

*Harry Arnold*

**Harry Arnold** has been involved, in one way or another, with the canals (including the S&N) all his life. He has had a varied career as a waterway writer, photographer and owner of the Waterway Images photographic library, been involved in three horse-drawn boat businesses, learned horse-boating working with Jack Roberts and has been researching the working boats on the Shroppie ever since. He worked at Norbury Junction as manager of Shropshire Union Cruises in the 1960s, and lived in the original top lock cottage of the Norbury-Newport flight.

# New Trust Gazebo



*The new gazebo at Newport Carnival, outside Newport Guildhall*

The trust has invested in a new gazebo – as the old one was starting to disintegrate, we really had little choice.

The new gazebo is a professional grade structure that's very convenient and easy to transport. With a 40mm aluminium framework and 100% waterproof and fire-resistant canopy and walls, it is very strong and robust. The legs are made in three sections so that it will fold down small enough to fit into most cars. It has been printed with the trust's logo and name on all four sides of the valance (the narrow strip of fabric just below the roof) so the trust's name can be seen from any angle.

Our plan now is to use it at as many local events as we can. To make this possible we do need more people to volunteer to man the stand but, if you volunteer, you will not be "thrown in at the deep end". There will be other trust members on the stand and training will be available.

The new gazebo has already had a couple of outings at Newport Carnival and at Withington Fête. See Dates for Your Diary on page 4 for future planned events that we need help with.

Contact *John Myers* at [editor@sncanal.org.uk](mailto:editor@sncanal.org.uk) if you want to discuss volunteering to man the trust's stand.



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## The value of old post cards

In 1894, British publishers were given permission by the Royal Mail to manufacture and distribute picture cards which could be sent through the post. Early postcards were pictures of landmarks, scenic views, photographs or drawings of celebrities and so on. Those cards which have survived are some of the best early pictures of our canals that are available and often reveal scenes and detail that have since been lost.



Above is a postcard showing Wappenshall taken from the far side of the west basin. It was franked at Shrewsbury in August 1907, and addressed to a *Mrs Cartwright* of Brown Heath, near Ellesmere. The message was "Shall be coming over all being well on Sunday hope you are quite well I shall stay with you with love A E K". The postcard was sent by *Ray Farlow*.

*Do you have any old postcards of the Shrewsbury & Newport canals? If so we would very much like to see them and add a digitised version to our archives returning any original to you, Editor*