

## 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.

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.

## 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.

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

# S&N News



The quarterly newsletter of the  
Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust

Autumn 2018



*S&N News is  
sponsored by  
Taybar Security*

Clearing the stonework at Hadley Park Bridge  
on the Trench Arm, under the Silkin Way  
*Story on page 19*





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# what's in your S&N News

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Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust



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



## notes from the chair

In the previous edition I mentioned the wet, wet, wet weather – now it seems that Mother Nature is compensating for this as we bask in temperatures that are exceeding 30C on most days! But the sun was very welcome at our Norbury Festival after all that rain and made for another bumper event with over 8,000 people in attendance. Very many thanks to all those members that turned out in stifling conditions to help with the many tasks that are always needed to ensure the event runs as smoothly as possible.

We also had good weather for the AGM, (see a separate report on page 8) as well, but I was particularly pleased to see so many of you there.

I am very pleased to announce that the Trust will shortly enter into a strategic partnership with the Powerful Foundation, which is a group of people that want to see a greener, sustainable future that definitely includes restored canals. Work has already begun for us to be part of a new TV series in the making to be called “CUTTLE.” This will be made by Powerful Media, one of the companies under the Powerful Foundation’s umbrella. To kick things off, myself plus other Trustees and members, recently spent a very intense, but enjoyable weekend at a workshop for CUTTLE at Norbury Junction. See elsewhere in this edition for more about this exciting project.

Have you bought into the new Telford & Wrekin Council’s Community Lottery yet? If not can I please urge you to do so. For just a £1 stake you can win up to £25,000 every week with considerably better odds of winning than the National Lottery. But much better news is that up to 60p of every £1 stake comes back to the Trust! See further details of how to become involved in this on page 22.

*Bernie Jones chairman*

## SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

### NEWPORT

- **Wednesday 5th September**  
**Wednesday 7th November**  
7.30pm British Legion Club  
Audley Road, Newport TF10 7DP  
*Contact: John Myers 07711 858986*

### TELFORD

- **Monday 13th August**  
**Monday 8th October**  
7.30pm The Elephant & Castle  
1 High Street, Dawley TF4 2ET  
*Contact: Alan Harding 07944 753009*

### SHREWSBURY

- **Tuesday 11th September**  
**Tuesday 13th November.**  
7.30pm Meole Brace Bowling Club,  
Meole Rise, off Upper Road,  
Meole Brace, Shrewsbury SY3 9JT  
*Contact: Peter Cann 07985 046461*



Do, please, check the website for updates

- **Saturday 4th August**  
**2nd Balsam Bash**  
meet Black Shed, Newport TF10 7LD  
10am - 4pm  
*Contact John Myers Tel: 07711 858986*
- **Saturday and Sunday**  
**11th and 12th August**  
**Tern Valley Vintage Machine Show**  
Chetwynd Deer Park, Newport,  
Shropshire TF10 8AE  
*volunteers needed to man the stand*
- **Sunday 12th August**  
**Beer, Boats & Bands Day**  
at the Hartley Arms, Wheaton Aston  
Stafford, ST19 9NF
- **Saturday 1st September 2018,**  
**Mikron Theatre at Gnosall**  
See page 19
- **Sunday 9th September 2018,**  
**Tickethouse Garden Event,**  
Newport, adjacent to Tickethouse Lock  
Newport Canal lock 21  
*volunteers needed to man the stand*
- **6-9th or 13-16th September**  
**(which weekend to be confirmed),**  
**Open Weekend at the Ditherington**  
**Flaxmill, Shrewsbury SY1 2SZ**  
(part of the national Heritage Open Days).
- **13th & 14th October, IWA**  
**Showcase event**  
Liverpool Dock aboard the  
“Daniel Adamson”  
*volunteers needed to man the stand*



## A new editor required

I took over as editor of S&N News in 2011 and, over the years, my other commitments to the SNCT have expanded a lot, to more than fill the time I have available. So the time is right to pass on the baton to a new editor, so that I can concentrate on other projects for the Trust.

I have enjoyed editing S&N News and it has let me get involved in all sorts of interesting things and meet a lot of interesting people. A new editor can bring a fresh approach to the magazine, which it needs. If you would like to take it on then please contact me at [editor@sncanals.org.uk](mailto:editor@sncanals.org.uk) or give me a call on **07711 858986**.

I would like to take this opportunity to give my thanks to John Stevens for all his creative work in typesetting and designing the magazine, a role that he will be happy to continue with a new editor.

*John Myers*



# Flaxmill Visit

A group of SNCT members visited the Ditherington Flaxmill/Maltings Project on 25/4. After a very interesting update from Heritage England's resident Project Manager, Alistair Godfrey, he gave the visitors a guided tour of the main mill building where they saw the immense amount of work that has been done in the last few months. This part of the project is scheduled to be open by 2021 and will include a Visitor Centre and an interpretation of the site, plus a National Trust quality cafe.

Do remember to keep an eye open for the Heritage Open Days in September when members of the public will be able to see for themselves what the finished building will look like.



## New Members

*We welcome the following new members to the Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust*

**Nicola Park**, Shrewsbury

**Mel & Margaret Bamford**,  
Baschurch, Shropshire

**Angela Twyford**, Apley, Telford

**Roger & Angela Deason**, Aldershot

**Carol Crowe**, Nottingham

**Kenneth Durham**, Stone

**Wendy Hall**, Stafford

**Phil Tarrant**, Ivybridge, Devon

**Victoria & David Owens**, Bristol

**Michael Hendry**, Market Drayton

**Steve & Kath Bristow**, Shrewsbury

**Ken Ledbrook**, Telford

**Barbara & Robson Bolam**, Telford

**Andrew & Helen Lovatt**, Church Aston

**Chris Cain**, Newport

**Martin & Laura Dunn**, Newport

**Stephen Kearney & Julia Olsen**,  
Shrewsbury

**Adrian Abell**, Edgmond

**Ian & Anne Stevens**, Newport

**Roses & Castles Boaters**

**Masonic Lodge**, Newport



Phase 1 of our restoration, better known as Plan B, is now making good progress.

Through our Strategic Partnership with Powerful Media, we will save a considerable amount of money as they will now be supplying the café fittings and furniture for the small warehouse. We are in the process of obtaining several quotes for the re-roofing of the small warehouse and this will go ahead before the onset of Autumn. Although the replacement of roofing felt and slates



*Removing the floor tiles from the small warehouse at Wappenshall*

etc will be carried out by a contractor, all the timber work will be completed by member volunteers with the skills to do this work. As the roof replacement is classified as maintenance, because we will re-use more than 80% of the slates, this does not require Listed Building Consent or Planning Permission, both of which will be applied for early in 2019 to enable the remainder of the restoration to proceed. More good news is that our good friends Denso are funding the all-important soil sampling and analysis of the spoil that needs to be removed from the East Basin to enable it to be re-watered.

On the funding front we have managed to retain the £20,000 support of The Wolfson Foundation and have recently received over £17,000 from a legacy. In addition Denso also have donated £5,000 towards the project. Other match funding grants that were pledged for the HLF bid are being pursued as well. So, at present, Plan B looks to be in quite good shape financially.

# The SNCT's Annual General Meeting

Once again we gathered at Wappenshall for our Annual General Meeting which, in recent years, we have expanded to fill the day, with guest speakers and an outside visit.



*Jack Hegarty*

Our first speaker of the day was Jack Hegarty who talked to us about his experiences with the successful restoration of the Droitwich Canals, what he had learnt from that experience and the tips that he could pass on to the SNCT to help us with our own future plans. Jack is the CEO of Wychavon Council, the Lead Partner of the partnership behind the restoration of the Droitwich Canals.

The canals were abandoned in 1939 and there were some attempts to start their restoration. Then, in 1973, the Droitwich Canals Trust was formed, with the support of Wychavon Council, and restoration “proper” began. At that time roughly 80% of the canals was leased from British Waterways, the other 20% being in the hands of some twenty other landowners. But 2001 was the turning point for restoration, when the IWA said that it was “the most deliverable canal project in the UK”. That was a spur for the creation the same year of the Droitwich Canals Restoration Partnership with members from the Droitwich Canals Trust, Wychavon Council, British Waterways, the Waterways Trust and Worcestershire County Council. It investigated the feasibility, risks, funding and benefits of the restoration and then pushed ahead. In all it took ten years of Jack’s life but the route was finally opened in 2010 and it has been a great success. Jack said that this was “one of the best investments ever” from his and from Wychavon Council’s point of view. For those of us trying to restore our own canals the talk was inspirational and extremely thorough, with lots of useful advice and hints on how to get things done.

Jack’s talk was followed by the AGM. Our chairman took us through our achievements of the last year, the finances were reviewed and approved and then those trustees retiring by rote were re-elected. The meeting agreed new Articles of Association, which replaced and updated those from the formation of the Trust in 2000. A number of guest speakers then took the opportunity to update the meeting on various important items - and so to lunch!

After lunch we were privileged to be addressed by Neil Clarke on “Thomas Eyton and the Shropshire and Shrewsbury Canals”. Neil gave us a fascinating review of Thomas Eyton’s important place in the history of the East Shropshire tub boat canals and particularly in the Shropshire Canal and the Shrewsbury Canal both of which he promoted and held shares in. After they opened he became involved in their management, regularly chairing the AGM’s and the management committee meetings. The rise of the Eyton family was charted,

including the move by his father from Eyton on the Weald Moors (site of the two Eyton Locks, the only two locks between Wappenshall and Shrewsbury) to Shrewsbury. The fall came with their return to Eyton Hall after Thomas was found to have been embezzling funds from the Crown, committed suicide and had his assets seized and sold off.



*Neil Clarke*

Afterwards Alistair Price and Brian Nelson led a party of about 20 members to take a look at the increasingly important site at Berwick Tunnel, where our members and the Waterway Recovery group have spent well over 1000 volunteer hours over the last year clearing the area to reveal the watered canal and the North Portal of the tunnel.



*Mike Jones, one of our longest serving volunteers, was presented with a cake for his birthday at the AGM*



*A party of members visited the Berwick site after the AGM*

A big thank you to all our members who worked so hard behind the scenes to prepare the site, park cars, make tea and coffee and prepare lunch and more.

The canal route to Droitwich is via a turn from a junction off the main Birmingham to Worcester canal line then, over a distance of a few miles, down through a flight of locks (the Hanbury flight), under a major road (the M5) then into town via Vines Park to a mooring basin. If you substitute the Norbury flight for the Hanbury flight, the A41 for the M5, Strine and Victoria Parks for Vines Park and Newport Basin for Droitwich Basin then the similarities to the Norbury to Newport route are interestingly similar.





This year it is fifty years since Telford New Town was created. Earlier in the year Telford & Wrekin Council created a fund, as part of their Telford @ 50 celebrations, inviting applications and projects from community groups to bid for funding to help celebrate the event.

SNCT trustee John Freeman successfully applied to the fund for backing for a very innovative project to celebrate the achievements of Thomas Telford. This

has been done by creating a Thomas Telford Trail travelling exhibition to highlight his engineering achievements around Telford and Shropshire.

A large graphic display panel has been produced as well as an illustrative leaflet and these were launched at the SNCT AGM. People are able to go and see for themselves the genius of Thomas Telford by visiting some of his buildings, bridges, canals and other structures. Their position is marked on a large map and the postcode is given so that the various sites will be easy to find.

Over the next few months the exhibition will tour various sites around Telford and Shropshire, including all three of the churches that he designed as well as a visit to Addenbrooke House, the HQ of Telford & Wrekin Council. It will then be permanently on display at Wappenshall. The leaflet is being distributed very widely to help create interest in the project.



If any organisation would like to take part in the tour or anyone knows of a suitable site to put the display on show, please get in touch with John Freeman on **01952 586666** or at [john.freeman1@btconnect.com](mailto:john.freeman1@btconnect.com)

# THE SNCT AND TELFORD @ 50 PROUD SUPPORTERS OF



*Would you like to win*

**£25,000?**

**AND**

*Help raise funds for the restoration of Wappenshall Wharf*

**Well now you can**

Telford & Wrekin Council has just launched its own lottery to help good causes and Wappenshall is on the list. In fact we have our own dedicated page at:

<https://www.twincl.co.uk/support/shrewsbury-and-newport-canals-trust>.

This will take you directly to the webpage from where it is a simple task to choose your numbers then give your own details and sign up for regular credit card or direct debit payment. It's all explained clearly on the webpage.

Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week and you can have as many tickets as you like. Each weekly ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize, with a top prize of £25,000! That's a better chance of winning than the National Lottery or the Health Lottery!

Each ticket will have 6 numbers with each number between 0 and 9. There will be a draw every Saturday night when a 6 digit winning combination will be picked. Prizes will be won by players with tickets that match the first or last 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 numbers in sequence from the winning combination. Match all 6 and you win the JACKPOT!

The lottery and its prizes are a way of putting the fun into fundraising. The real winners are the good causes. From every £1 ticket sold, **using the link on the SNCT page**, up to 60p will go to Wappenshall, with the rest contributing to the prizes and the administration of the lottery. To put this in perspective, when you play the National Lottery only 28p in the pound goes to good causes.

Thank you one and all on behalf of the SNCT. We look forward to a bright future with your support.

*Alan Boney*

## First Aid Training Awards



At the moment SNCT runs monthly workparties at Newport, Wappenshall and Shrewsbury, as well as a number of other sites. These can only happen because we have a number of qualified volunteers who can provide first aid cover for those workparties.

First Aid certificates are valid for three years so, early in May, SNCT organised a First Aid training course at Meeting Point House in Telford to let some of our existing people renew their qualification and others to take it for the first time. Ten people undertook a full day's training and had a pleasant and interesting day. We were then assessed for a Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work certificate, which everyone was successful in achieving.

We are extremely grateful to the Waterways Recovery Group for a training grant, which paid for three quarters of the cost of the day. The balance has been claimed from the Section 106 funds which have been allocated for restoration work on the Trench Arm as workparties have just started there again, which will also need first aid cover.

*Sam Myers*





# The Norbury Canal Festival

What wonderful Early May Bank Holiday weather we had this year, after having to cancel the 2017 event and the windy, cold weather of 2016. It was warm, dry and sunny on the Saturday and then it just got better, and hotter, on Sunday and Monday. This really felt like the start of a wonderful summer and the crowds came out to enjoy it. The Air Training Corps (ATC), who help us by running the car park very efficiently each year, estimated that we had over 8,000 visitors over the three days.

We are very grateful to the Norbury Estate and to tenant farmer Arthur Palmer, for solving our parking problem by allowing us use of the land. The field was very well placed, as it had a path that led directly to the canal bridge, giving pedestrians easy access without having to walk on the road.

The mooring spaces for narrowboats were fully booked by the end of February and we had more trading boats at the event than ever before. Some were even moored north of the bridge and still reported good takings. The festival extended along over half a mile of canal bank, which meant that our harbourmaster, Ray Buss, was kept even busier than in past years.

The trade stalls along the towpath and in the field behind the pub were even more varied



*Stalls lined the towpath as well as the wharf and the pub garden*

than usual and the crowds had plenty to interest them. Again we were fully booked for stalls, most of whom came last year. "Like Nanna Made" did teas and cakes in the main marquee during the day and there were several more food stalls selling cakes, Asian food and ice creams. There were swing boats and jewellery stalls, a vintage stall, face painting and a specialist dog food stall. Amongst the charity stalls were both Staffordshire and Shropshire Wildlife Trusts, Staffordshire Bat Group, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, the Birmingham Institute for Forest Research (with its research facility at Norbury) and the RAF Association. Live radio was provided by Windmill Broadcasting who played some great music and made public address announcements for us too.



*Boat trips proved very popular with visitors*



*Visitors looking at goods on sale on the trade boats*

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Norbury Junction, Stafford, Staffordshire ST20 0PN Telephone: (01785) 284288





*The festival attracted traditional and modern narrowboats, some selling a wide range of goods from canal ware, beautifully illustrated cards and pictures to boats offering sweets and cheese.*

In the marquee, Saturday night's "Jammin at the Junction" session featured two bands, headline act Savannah, who were supported by Bon Accord, led by our member Harry Christian and a great night was had by the capacity crowd. On Sunday evening we experimented with a comedy act which had appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe, "This is Your Trial" which would have benefited from more support – those who did go had a fantastically amusing and entertaining evening.

I would like to thank the Junction Inn, Norbury Wharf, the Norbury Community, the ATC and, particularly, all the SNCT volunteers who turned out to do their bit. The event totally relies on these wonderful peoples' support, or it simply couldn't happen.

*Bernie Jones*

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2/4

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3/4



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3/4

# Memories of Old Shrewsbury Canal

*Reprinted with the kind permission of the Memories of Shropshire Facebook page*

In the last issue we covered the memories of the Shrewsbury canal from Mrs Woods and Mrs Bowers. Here we have some more of their memories of the area in the 1940's:

A Mrs Campbell lived at Pimley Manor in those days and just past the manor was an aqueduct that has sadly been destroyed for the new A49 (progress). Just before you get to the manor, if you look carefully you will be able to make out the arch and parapet of the old Pimley Bridge.

The old sewerage farm was managed by a Mr Brightwell and Mr Ellis. They always seemed to be smoking their pipes but when you were downwind of the works, you could understand why.

Some winters when it was extremely cold the canal would freeze over, but skating was dangerous because where a small stream entered the canal the ice was much thinner. In January 1940 the ice was very very thick. We used to leave school, walk down to the canal at Pimley and skate all the way home to daisy bank. The daisy bank lived up to its name in summer. Smothered in daisies, a great place for a picnic and a starting place for the foolhardy that swam in the Severn. In the winter it also provided us with a place to go sledging. We loved our childhood and still love our memories of this wonderful place. At the side of the daisy bank is "Jimmy Hood's Well". Our neighbour collected his fresh clear spring water every day from this well. He lived into his nineties so it must have been good for him.

The woods between the river and the canal is known as Pimley Rough and is part of the Sundorne Estate. In those days the Chatham brothers (they were animal dealers) used to keep ponies and cattle on the land. This kept the grass down and the bushes trimmed. It is sad to see how it has deteriorated.

During the war years a small aircraft crash landed by the canal at the rear of the Coracle Inn.

In 1947 we had one of the highest floods ever recorded. I remember that year also because they started to fill in our beautiful canal. Sad as we are about this and other damage that has been done since, we feel privileged to have spent so much of our lives in such an idyllic part of Shrewsbury.

## Trench Arm workparty

The Trench Arm is what we now call the section of the Shrewsbury Canal that ran from the Trench Incline Plane to Wappenshall. Today it passes through land belonging to local farmers, to Telford & Wrekin Council (T&W) and to GKN (Now part of Melrose PLC). In its heyday it was a very important commercial canal, with daily boats carrying cargo to Shrewsbury and all the way to Ellesmere Port via Newport and Norbury Junction. This ended in 1944 when it was closed and it subsequently fell into disrepair.



*View under the bridge to the remains of the lock gate*

To help preservation of the canal adjacent to Hadley Park Lock, it was necessary to carry out some basic de-vegetation of the adjacent canal bridge and this was done on the 9th June. A small team of volunteers cleared the side of Silkin Way Bridge, which belongs to T&W, of ivy, weeds and tree saplings to prevent further structural damage. The work was completed using hand tools to minimise any potential public safety issues and rubbish was all bagged and removed from site.

As the day was quite warm, there were numerous members of the public walking over and along the canal section. Many of them enquired about the work being carried out and were all very complimentary about the benefits for the locality. Telford and Wrekin Council had renewed the fence prior to us starting work to ensure that the public could not get too close to the canal.

After the work was completed we were able to see the full structure and brickwork of the bridge. It was pleasing to see that there was no evidence of further damage. In September a tree surgeon has been booked to clear dead trees, overhanging boughs and rotten wood. This will enable clear views from the Silkin Way Bridge to the A442, where the canal now ends.

*Phil Jones*

### stamps make money for the Trust

Over £140 was raised last year from collecting and selling used stamps. Please collect stamps from your letters, friends and relations and send them to Elaine or bring them to any Trust function.

**Elaine Evans,  
231 Monkmoor Road,  
Shrewsbury SY2 5SW.**





A press cutting located for S&N News by Jan Johnstone. From the Shrewsbury Chronicle dated 28th June 1839

## Dastardly Deeds on the Shrewsbury Canal!

### SHROPSHIRE IRON-MASTERS –

An Association has been formed for the discovery and prosecution of Stealers of Iron, and the other Felons, viz. – the Receivers of Iron that has been

stolen. This association is most Judicious; and its members, as will be seen by the advertisement, are the best friends of the honest working classes: - Robberies of this description having long and extensively been practiced.

A few weeks ago, a case was brought before the Magistrates of this town (Shrewsbury) by Mr Hazledine. It appeared by the evidence, that many pigs of iron, from the Lilleshall Company, had been lost in transit to Mr Hazledine; that, after the announced stoppage of the canal, near Shrewsbury, (for the purpose of cleaning it) these pigs had been plunged into the canal near Shrewsbury, that certain workmen in cleaning the canal, found the said pigs, with the iron-masters' names defaced upon the said pigs; that the said iron had been sold to a person in Shrewsbury, at about 20 per cent below the price of the Lilleshall Company's price, &c, &c. The identity of the iron could not be proved, and the stealers and receiver could not be convicted.

**Note:** William Hazledine (1763-1840) was a pioneering English Ironmaster whose ability for casting structural ironwork helped to realise the designs of engineers such as Thomas Telford and architects including Henry Goodridge and Charles Bage. In 1787 Hazledine began a life-long friendship with Thomas Telford when the latter moved to Shrewsbury and became County Surveyor. Hazledine's expertise in manufacturing and testing large iron castings was critical to the success of many pioneering projects.

In 1800 William Hazledine leased Upton Forge, Upton Magna. This is where the massive chain links for the Menai Bridge, built in 1818, and the Conway Bridges, built 1822, were cast. The forge was not far from the canal, approximately 400 metres north. Possibly the pigs mentioned were destined for Upton Forge for another of Hazledine's projects or maybe they could have been on their way to his ironworks in Coleham, Shrewsbury.

# Mikron

Theatre Company *present*

**Come and see the Mikron Theatre Company**  
on Saturday 1st September at 7.30pm  
at Coton Mill, Newport Road, Gnosall, ST20 0BN.  
Mikron are the only company to tour professional theatre  
to canal and riverside venues by inland waterways.  
A collection will be taken after the show. See all about them at <http://mikron.org.uk/>

All is not well at St Monica's Hospital. They're on life support, facing bugs,  
bed-blockers and a battle to save A and E.

70 years ago, Nye Bevan gave us free healthcare for all.  
Can his dream survive the demands and pressures of the 21st century?  
Can Nurse Danuta save the day with her Polish pastries and proverbs?

*With tunes, transfusions and titters,  
join Mikron as they make a surgical strike on the state of our NHS.*

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# It was that day again

-- the annual Newport Paddle Day and Litter Pick, the fifth such event!!!



*1st Lilleshall & Muxton Scout troop with their litter pickers*

So on Sunday April 29th, our intrepid canoeists and a group from the 1st Lilleshall & Muxton Scouts set out from the Black Shed on a dull and rather cold day along with some eager Trust members. This year there were 3 canoes - Barry Witts, who organised the event, with Nikki as crew, Dave Torrens and John Myers in another and the third with the dynamic duo Ruth and Terry Otter.

The canoes were carried along the tow-path and only launched when we were well past the nesting swans. The party proceeded west with the boys and girls on the bank, armed with litter grabbers loaned by Peter Scott from Newport Town Council, doing an admirable job of excitedly searching in the hedgerows for litter. Meanwhile the canoeists were pulling all sorts of stuff from the canal including the inevitable traffic cone!

Once we got to the end of the canal we turned back to Town Lock. Again the canoes were carried around the nesting sites and re-launched near Fishers Lock to clean up the eastern section.



*One canoe with a fine litter collection!*

We met many lovely people (and dogs!) who were impressed by our efforts. In fact one couple come regularly on a Sunday from Wolverhampton to walk along the canal with their dog and then go to Norbury for lunch and love it! How good is that? It is really good to see how well used the canal towpath is by walkers, joggers, cyclists and families.

Meanwhile the boats were filling up with cans, bottles, rubbish bags and the teams had even battled with a tree trunk. Eventually we all returned with lots of full rubbish bags to the Black Shed where hot soup was provided by Mary Witts.

A very successful day so well done to all who were involved in the organisation.

*Cindy Jones*

# CUTTLE

**Cuttle is going to be a new fictional TV series** made by Powerful Foundation, soon to become strategic partner for the Trust, that will feature the S&N canals, our Trust and our members. There has been a lot of work done already to write scripts, cast actors in the various roles, appoint a Director, raise the necessary funds to make the series, etc and there will now be a series of events to raise the profile of this exciting project. Stephen Kearney, who plays the main character, Benjamin Cuttle, describes it thus: "Benjamin Cuttle is a great story about a perfumer who has been disinherited - he's had his whole estate taken away from him. From the canals and rivers and waterways of beautiful Britain, he fights to get it back. It's exciting, full of adventure, murder, drama, love and intrigue. Cuttle's a great story."

To really kick things off, some Trustees and members were part of a whole weekend workshop held at Norbury Junction at the end of June that included all the cast being professionally videoed acting out various scenes from the first episode. This will then be used to "pitch" to various backers and sponsors to help raise the £20M+ required. The output of the workshop was presented to key Trustees from the Powerful Foundation who were very impressed and will now use this to take the project forward. Our own John Stevens worked to some tight deadlines to get artwork completed so it could be sent to the printer in time to get the magnetic prints back to adorn Stephen Kearney and Julia Olsen's (scriptwriters) narrowboat.



*Stephen and Julia's narrow boat as nb Benjamin Cuttle*



*Setting up for a Cuttle 'take'*

Not only was the boat used in the clips that were shot over the weekend workshop, but Stephen and Julia will also shortly be taking the boat from Norbury to London and stopping at over 30 locations to promote the series. Watch the website and Facebook for updates. It is expected that production will start in July 2019.