

Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 1st October 2025

The meeting was attended by 14 of our volunteers.

Boat Issues

- The lift batteries have been recharged off the boat and now appear to be holding their charge. The cratch cover has been in place during inclement weather so there has been no power loss caused by the bilge pumps removing rainwater.
- Please note that the heater fan in the passenger cabin is on the same circuit as was used by the cool box; if the fan appears not to be working, check that the Cool Box switch is on at the main panel.
- Next year, probably in March, it is planned to take the boat out of the water for maintenance including blacking, checking/replacing anodes and rust treatment.
- During the winter season when the electric heater is in use, the boat should be plugged in after every trip.
- Weed hatch. A 'Prop Mate' with a fitted blade has been purchased to assist in clearing the prop shaft through the weed hatch. This will be kept in the lower cupboard next to the tiller bar.



Container

Planning permission still pending.

Training

There is one new volunteer crew with potentially two more crew and a host interested in joining us.

Membership

Not all subscriptions have been paid this year; they should be in by the end of January at the latest. A small number of volunteers have relinquished crewing but remained members, and another has left the group.

A suggestion to reintroduce membership cards was felt to be unnecessary, but name badges would be useful for promoting contact with passengers. This will be brought up at the next trustees meeting.

Bookings

There are some bookings for October and Santa trips.

There was general agreement about providing free trips for charitable groups and several were suggested.

Santa trips. At present there are plenty of Saturday places available. Sunday has been earmarked for the Girl Guides although they have yet to confirm the booking. Presents are in hand and we have volunteers for Elf and Santa. St Andrews carpet shop will be approached for an off cut of red carpet. It was requested that the website form specify age in years and months for under 3 year olds. Santa A4 posters are to be distributed around the town. See Lynda if you can help.

Carol trips. Helpers are needed at 1.00pm on Monday 25th November to decorate the boat. Some bunting might need to be replaced.

Crewing

Trips are mostly crewed up to the end of October. Some volunteers appear to be confusing the 'snapshot' spreadsheet sent by email with the live Dropbox file.

Reeds

The overgrowth of reeds is as bad as ever rendering stretches of the canal virtually non-navigable. This is reducing the aesthetic appeal and causing safety issues for boaters and towpath users alike. Parts of the newly created Health Corridor from Droitwich to Salwarpe have become like a tunnel and there have been complaints from the boating community. The issue will be raised at the next CRT meeting and Margaret is to write to CRT and garner support from other interested parties.

Social

There is to be a members' social evening next year on Friday 6th February at Millfield Social Club in Bromsgrove. There will be a buffet and bar. An official announcement will be made in due course.

AOB

- An appeal was made to crews to keep a lookout for Andy Phillips who disappeared over 3 weeks ago. Part of his daily routine took him along stretches of the canal.
- CRT are leading the organisation of work parties for the Pamela May Reserve. Anyone interested will need to become a CRT volunteer and undergo the requisite training.
- The trip log folder has been renewed and the contents re-organised. Completed accident forms have been removed for GDPR purposes. Blank triplog forms are now in a separate section. Would skippers please contact Mike Griffiss for more triplog forms if they are running low.
- Our thanks to David Hatfield for providing a new banner at the yard.