

Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 6th May 2026

The meeting was attended by 17 of our volunteers.

Boat Issues

- The new motor will be fitted by 15th May. It has a good reputation and is guaranteed to be problem-free, but as it is much bigger than the old one, there will be significant changes to the steelwork in the engine compartment. Concern was expressed that the extra work might cause delays and interfere with trips; publicity and advertising are on hold until the work is done. After the delays we have experienced with Ortomarine it was felt that we should seek an alternative in the longer term.
- New solar panels are to be fitted, although the old ones are still providing some useful power.

Membership

There are currently 35 members. There was a good response to the January deadline, although a few are still undecided.

Training

While formal training is temporarily on hold, crew are encouraged to make use of the training materials on the website. The boat is also available for practice sessions, provided there is a skipper.

Bookings

Bookings are coming in steadily. Public fish & chips trips are very popular, especially the Saturday lunchtime and 3 hour trips. Cream Tea trips are also in demand. Two 8 hour trips have been booked to Hawford and Astwood locks in June and July. Although financially beneficial they make heavy demands on the crew. The possibility was discussed of organising relief crew at strategic points on the route.

Crewing

Drop box is up to date. There has been a good response to the email for crewing to the end of May.

Festival

St Richards festival went well with total receipts of around £800. The newly restored bridges were very heavy to operate, needing at least two people. Passenger trips tended to start at 10.30 or 11.00 then demand was steady for the rest of the day. Two new gazebo frames were in use, held down with extra sandbags, but on this occasion the weather was kind to us! One table is still in the canal and with some chairs will need to be replaced.

Container

The old shelving has been reinstalled in the new container. New plastic boxes will replace those lost or damaged at the Easter festival. Sunday 10th May starting at 9.00am has been nominated to sort materials from the old containers prior to their removal.

Environment

Work on the Pamela May reserve will be planned around DB availability. The litter picking group have discovered an encampment in the wood, putting any work in this area on hold.

AOB

- A reminder that festival gazebos should be zipped together when assembled, for increased security.
- Many thanks to all those who helped in the festivals.