

# Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026

The meeting was attended by 12 of our volunteers.

## Boat Issues

- The new motor is yet to be fitted; we are looking for a firm date from Ortomarine for this to be done by the end of April. In the meantime, there will be no trips to Salwarpe or Ladywood. It was felt that the overheating problem would not occur on festival and lock trips as there was ample time for the system to cool down. It was noted that the problem first occurred during a period of hot weather
- New solar panels are to be fitted. Two large framed panels will take the place of the existing ones with roughly the same power output.
- The boat has returned from blacking and attention to paintwork. Some touching up is to be done to the roof. Possibility of fitting non-slip matting to the rear deck was discussed. Anodes have been replaced.

## Container

We are coming under pressure from the authorities to remove the old containers. The old shelving will need to be replaced. The grey container can usefully be left where it is until the hole in the wall has been repaired.

## Training

There will be no formal training until Paul returns, probably at the end of May. In the meantime, crew are encouraged to review the videos and training materials on the website. Crew can also take the boat out for practice, provided there is a skipper. Some refresher trips will be organised.

## Environment

A work party is to be organised to clear the pathway on the Pamela May reserve.

## Crewing

Trips are covered so far but reminders will be sent after April, when the new motor has been fitted and Salwarpe/Ladywood trips are resumed. Current issues affecting crewing:

- There seems to be a shortage of skippers volunteering.
- Several festivals will need crewing.
- More trainers are needed.

## Membership

Only one or two subscriptions are still outstanding. It was agreed to ask the trustees about making patrons of longstanding volunteers who are no longer so active.

## Easter Festival

Crewing list is complete. Volunteers should be at the yard by 9.00am or in Vines Park by 10.00am. Last trip starts at 3.30pm. Gazebos to be erected on Friday. Card reader terminals are to be tested and a key code will be needed on the day. Margaret has the cash float. Both bridges have been repaired but are very heavy to operate. We have received two boxes of duck food.

St Richard's festival follows 4 weeks later. One gazebo pitch has been ordered.

## AOB

- A First Aid course will be run for those whose qualification is out of date. Training is valid for three years.
- We have been registered for the Waitrose charity bin scheme.