

Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 4th March 2026

The meeting was attended by 17 of our volunteers.

Boat Issues

- Following a scheduled inspection of six lifejackets, three older ones need replacing, the other three passed. New lifejackets are on order.
- New lift batteries have been fitted and are working well, although the charging level is to be checked.
- A new motor has been ordered and is due to be fitted before the Easter festival. The existing propeller is already to the most efficient design so does not need to be replaced.
- 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 will be out of the water for one week in March. Opportunity will be taken to jet wash the sides and roof and touch up the paintwork, weather permitting.

Container

The new container has been delivered and is in place on the concrete hardstanding. Materials from the old containers will be transferred or disposed of in the coming weeks.

Bridge Repairs

CRT vehicles and workboat are on site during the bridge repairs. Waitrose bridge should be completed on Monday then work will begin on bridge 17. Although closed to pedestrians, boat traffic will be able to pass with care.

Training

There will be no formal training until Paul returns, probably in May. In the meantime, crew are encouraged to review the videos and training materials on the website. Crew are also welcome to take the boat out to refresh their skills, provided there is a skipper.

Bookings

We have started taking bookings for 2026, including some longer trips to Hawford and Astwood, where fish & chips and cream teas have been requested.

We have applied to be part of the Waitrose green token scheme, where shoppers are given tokens to select their preferred charity. Each week's charities will get a share of £2000.

The Eagle and Sun appears to be closed again.

Crewing

All trips are on the bookings sheet on Dropbox.

Membership

There are currently 32 paid-up members.

Easter Festival

Crewing requirements have been sent out; please reply to Steve if you are available. There will be one shift per day from 10.00am till 4.00pm. Skippers can be swapped if more are available on the day. Thanks to Tracy and Emma for organising tombola prizes.

As usual, meet at the yard on Friday @2.00pm to load the boat and erect gazebos as there will be overnight security in the park.

Reed Cutters

The original contractors are back after some disappointing results last year.

Rik Mayall Event

Pamela May has been made available for two days; so far there is one firm booking and two more enquiries.

AOB

- Margaret is administering Gift Aid for members' subscriptions.