

Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 1st May 2024

The meeting was attended by 20 of our volunteers.

Roger Tapping

Visitors to Roger at St Stephen's care home found him in good spirits. Changes to his medication have been beneficial and he is feeling settled and comfortable.

Bridge 17

CRT have repaired the bridge and it is now fully operational. Changes to the design of the supporting timbers have reportedly made it much easier to operate and it is now a one-man job.

Blacking and Painting at Marina

Blacking was completed in April but paintwork repairs to the upperworks are ongoing. Good progress has been made but additional help would be welcome to get the job finished. Contact Jo or John Smith to arrange a suitable time and supplies of paint.

While the boat was out of the water it was noticed that the sacrificial anodes were badly worn, probably due to local salinity. These have now been replaced with four new anodes.

Motor issues

While manoeuvring in windy conditions at the Marina the boat suffered a complete loss of power. A magnificent effort by the crew brought the boat onto the mooring through a mixture of poling and throw lines. Investigations revealed that the teeth on the motor drive belt had been completely worn away. The drive belt has been replaced and we now carry spares should this happen again. Checking and routine replacement of this item will now be included in the maintenance programme.

Coolbox

Following recent problems with the coolbox it has been suggested that it might be dispensed with altogether. A coolbag with ice packs could be used for cream teas and the portacabin fridge is available for overnight storage. This would also free up valuable cupboard space.

Solar Panels

We are still chasing Ortomarine to fit the replacement panels. Bearing in mind the length of time we have been waiting, it was suggested that we might approach another company to do the work. It was believed that Trinity Boats were fitting similar panels.

Gas – New Changeover Switch

This has been fitted. The pointer indicates the working cylinder. When this is empty, switch the pointer to the other cylinder and inform the maintenance team. The tap on the empty cylinder should always be screwed shut. We were reminded that even if the electric kettle is used for hot drinks, the gas boiler should still be turned on as it supplies hot water to the toilet area.

Lifejackets

Confirmation that our lifejackets inflate automatically when submerged in water but are not triggered by rainfall. They also have a pull chord for manual inflation as a backup, and this should be visible when worn. There are sufficient lifejackets for crew, and their use is mandatory around locks and highly recommended on all other trips.

Membership

Some membership forms are still outstanding, contact Russell for a form or download from the website.

Bookings

See spreadsheet on Dropbox. May and June are filling up fast. Let Jim know when you can crew.

Crewing

- Some of our volunteers appear to be more active than others. Encouragement of partially inactive volunteers.
- There is an expectation for all volunteers to become members.

St Richard's Festival

- Manning sheet has been issued, by email and in Volunteers section of the website.
- James has organised CRT helpers for Waitrose Bridge (WB).
- Discussion of where to moor; Cecilia will be moored opposite Waitrose leaving not much room for PM2. At Bridge 17 (B17) better communication is needed dealing with walk-on passengers who have no tickets:
 - o use of radios to liaise between boat and gazebo.
 - o accept cash payments.
- Overall consensus to moor at B17.
- Expected to erect the gazebos on Friday (as there will be overnight security); two by WB and one at B17.
- On the last day (Monday) help will be needed to dismantle and put away equipment, gazebos etc.
- Make use of the roving fender to protect the boat when unloading at WB.

Environment – Reed Cutting

The new CRT reed cutter team is working well, effectively widening the channel, making it much better for trips. Reed cutting is planned to take place every month on our section of the canal, next due at the end of May.

AOB

- Volunteers are needed to help clean the boat, paying special attention to the window gullies. A day will be chosen after St Richard's Festival. Steve Wyers and James have agreed to organise the cleaning.
- Statistics needed for Wychavon magazine – see Mike G

- It was suggested that the new footbridges were more hazardous, being lower than the old ones and darkly painted. Perhaps apply some white tape to improve clarity?
- Review of the What3Words (W3W) emergency procedure. Use the maps and references located in the blue folder, tab 3. These show the closest vehicular access points. When speaking to emergency services, use the references from the folder, NOT your current location from the W3W mobile app.