



Monmouthshire, Brecon &
Abergavenny Canals Trust

Canal Connections

AUTUMN 2019



CAN YOU SPOT THE WINNER?

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
MONMOUTHSHIRE, BRECON & ABERGAVENNY
CANALS TRUST**



Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

2019 DUCK RACE

The 2019 MBACT Duck Race was blessed with wonderful weather this year and there was a large crowd at the race site between the two lower locks at Llangynidr. At three o'clock precisely, the sacks of ducks were emptied into the canal off the road bridge outside "The Coach and Horses". At the same time, water was released from the next lock up by a volunteer from C.R.T., and the slight surge was all that was required to get the ducks moving. Many people walked along the towpath egging their ducks on, and a lone kayaker was kept busy freeing the stragglers from the shrubbery along the side of the canal. As the "field" got closer to the lower lock, the bottom paddles were opened to create a little more movement and also to discourage the ducks from going down the Bye Weir. Stewards were on hand to retrieve the winning ducks and then everyone helped to rescue the balance. Three escapees made a bid for freedom, (after all, they have been worked for at least 10 years!) and were last seen heading downstream towards Llangattock. They are wearing yellow "fatigues" with black markings on and should be considered dangerous, to the environment.



This has necessitated a "roll call" which we would like to do before winter, so the escapees can be replaced in good time before next year's race.

The winning numbers were:

353, 2227, 2336, 2305, 2333, 2169, 2836, 2344, 2620, 2140, and 1884.

Winners have been notified although some prizes are still at Fourteen Locks Centre waiting for collection. A total of **1,971** tickets were sold this year, slightly down on last year, but considering that we were unable to sell at the Llanover Fete this year, this was a fine effort.

Many thanks to all who sold tickets, helped, participated or just came to watch! And, of course, to all those, organisations and individuals, who so generously donated the prizes. Thank you to you all.

See you next year.

Bernard Illman



Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

2019 DUCK RACE



We are indebted to **Paula Thomas** and **Jan Butler** for the photographs reproduced on these pages and on the front cover. Thank you very much.





Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)

More information now on the Committee's proposal to alter the Trust's entity from that of a **Limited Company** and a **Registered Charity** to becoming a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**.

At next year's Annual General Meeting, or at a specially convened meeting for the purpose, the Committee intends to ask Trust members to approve a motion converting the Trust into a CIO. We have mentioned this idea in previous editions of the newsletter, and we would like to now make it clear to our membership why we are recommending this particular course of action.

The Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust Ltd (MBACT) was established in 1984 as a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. MBACT's governing documents forbid the Trust from engaging in permanent trading. However, to survive financially, the Trust requires income beyond relying solely on membership subscriptions and activities, both through sales at Fourteen Locks Canal Centre and also to profit from selling rights associated with its ground breaking invention, modular lock gates. As a result, it set up two separate companies, **Fourteen Locks Centre Ltd** and **MBACT Regeneration Ltd**. Both of these trading companies are wholly owned by **MBACT** and their profits are donated to the parent company, a legitimate device that is widely used by charities to enable them to trade.

The legal entity CIO first appeared in 2014. This year, for the first time, a new procedure came into being to allow charities like ours to convert to CIO. The main advantages would include: -

- a) Less administration – no longer would we have to be registered with or send documents to Companies House.
- b) We would not need to operate the two trading companies because the powers of the CIO would allow permanent trading. Staff, assets and liabilities could be transferred to the new body. This would simplify our administration and save on accountancy fees.
- c) Our constitution would be modern – trust members may recall that we had to make alterations at general meetings to adapt the existing governing documents to fit present day circumstances.

There is a model CIO constitution about 30 pages long which would have to be put to the general meeting, along with draft resolutions. One such resolution would be to align the benefits that, in theory, our trustees have with those permitted by the Charity Commission. The other would be to update the geographical description of the canal with current local authority areas.

If the resolutions, and then the model constitution were approved, we would have to ask for formal consent from the Charity Commission. We have been in touch with the Commission and the indications are that if we apply our application would be successful. We do not anticipate any significant costs in this process. We would hope to have the CIO up and running by **1st January 2021** to coincide with the accounting year.



Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

COMMUNITY BOAT – THE LORD RAGLAN – PROGRESS REPORT

We are pleased to report that the **Lord Raglan** has now had its **Search and Rescue Plan** approved by **Her Majesty's Coastguard (HMCG)**. In addition, our method of **Passenger Number** counting has also been approved. We are still awaiting final written confirmation that the latest **Heel Test** (see Summer Newsletter) met full approval before we can finally apply for our **Maritime and Coastguard (MCA)** licence to enable us to operate fully and carry a full load of passengers. That just leaves some final training for the personnel who are going to be involved in operating the boat and we should be ready to go at last.

Towards the end of the summer, the **Lord Raglan** embarked on two proving trips, one to **Llangynidr** for the **Duck Race** (see photo on the front cover) and one to **Gilwern**. Both trips were useful in that they enabled **Tony Pugh** and his team to check the electrical system and to balance the battery outputs.

Although we are still awaiting safety certificates to enable us to run the boat on the canal with a full compliment of passengers aboard, we have organised two events at **Goytre Wharf** in conjunction with the **Green Flute** café. Firstly, during half-term week – from **Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November** – we will be running '**Pirate Days**'. This will involve a Treasure Trail around **Goytre**, followed by activities on board the '**Lord Raglan**', finishing with a trip on the canal on board our smaller trip boat – the **Edith-Elizabeth**. The price is **£10** per adult including one child



Secondly, '**Christmas at Goytre Wharf**' will involve Father Christmas cruises with the '**Lord Raglan**' decked out with colourful yuletide lighting. The cruise will last approximately **two hours** and include a seasonal buffet laid on by the **Green Flute** café. It will depart from **Goytre** at **5pm** from **Tuesday 17th December** through to **Saturday 21st December**. We are limited to **12 passengers** for this unique event so please book early – price **£25** per person.

For further details of both these events, please contact the **Green Flute** café at **Goytre Wharf** on **01873 880899** during daytime opening hours.



Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FOURTEEN LOCKS CANAL CENTRE

HALLOWEEN TRAIL

The thigh bone's connected to the hip bone! The hip bone's connected to the back bone! Can you name all "dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones!?" Two trails are available on the day, both devised by a qualified teacher. One is for ages six years and older and the other for ages three to five. Running from **Saturday 26th October** though until **Sunday 3rd November, 10am – 3pm** each day. Everyone gets a prize upon completion. Only **£2.50** per child



Dem bones, dem bones, dem
dry bones !!

Halloween Trail

Saturday 26th Oct - Sunday 3rd Nov

Only £2.50 **On everyday !**
10am - 3pm

The hip bone's connected to the.....
How well do you know dem bones?

CANALS THROUGH TIME

In collaboration with "Tracks through Time", we are delighted to offer an afternoon of Living History talks during Autumn Half Term week. Come and discover how and why the three Gwent Canals were built during the 18th Century seen through the eyes of a real life Canal Engineer/Pioneer and a Canal Boatwoman. Limited spaces available, so book your place now to experience history being brought to life. Only **£5 per person** – please contact us either by email (fourteenlocks@mbact.org.uk) or telephone on the number at the bottom of the page.

CANALS THROUGH TIME

Discover the fascinating history of the three Gwent Canals in the company of 18th Century Canal Engineer Thomas Dadford Junior

FOURTEEN LOCKS CANAL CENTRE
ROGERSTONE NP10 9GN

from 2.00pm
FRIDAY 1ST NOV

TO BOOK
PLEASE CALL 01633 892167

a Living History talk presented by Tracks Through Time





Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FOURTEEN LOCKS CANAL CENTRE

CHRISTMAS FAYRE



FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

Friday 29th November

The Fourteen Locks Canal Centre and Cafe will be opening its doors at **6.30 p.m.** on **Friday 29th November** for a spectacular **Victorian Christmas Fayre!** Every room, including the cafe, will host a variety of beautiful handmade crafts and homemade gifts that will make the perfect presents.

Come and join us for a fun, festive atmosphere and a warm welcome from friends. All sales will help support the Centre and the local community.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR WINTER OPENING HOURS ARE 10 A.M TO 4 P.M.
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**

Please keep updated on all MBACT events by following us @fourteenlocks on



www.mbact.org.uk

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Tel: 01633 892167

Registered Charity No. 515897

Registered Office: Fourteen Locks Canal Centre, Cwm Lane, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9GN



Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

NEWS ITEMS

CRT WINTER MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2019-20

The **Canal & River Trust** have announced the following stoppages as part of their winter maintenance programme:

- **Bridges 88-96** – Post Code **NP7 9LE**. Llanfoist Castle Turn - Leakage Repair Works. Distance of de-watering to be determined nearer the time. **Monday 6th January to Friday 13th March.**
- **Bridge 102** – Post Code **NP7 0AU**. Gilwern Bridge – Bridge Strengthening Works. Distance of de-watering 100 metres. **Monday 6th January to Friday 13th March.**
- **Bridges 109-110** – Post Code **NP8 1HS**. Gilwern Herons Rest Bridges - Concrete Repair Works. Distance of de-watering 390 metres. **Monday 6th January to Friday 13th March.**
- **Bridges 114-115** - Post Code **NP8 1LE**. Llangattock Bridge – Leakage Repair Works. Distance of de-watering 125 metres. **Monday 6th January to Friday 13th March.**
- **Ashford Tunnel** – Post Code **LD3 7YP**. Leakage Repair Works. Distance of de-watering 473 metres. **Monday 4th November to Friday 13th December.**
- **Bridge 160** - Post Code **LD3 7LX**. Peterstone Woods - Embankment Stability Improvement Works. Distance of de-watering 2600 metres. **Monday 4th November to Friday 13th December.**

DREDGING OF SOUTHERN CANAL

In addition to the above work, CRT have also announced that they will be carrying out dredging work to a large part of the southern canal over the coming months. The planned section is a **6.2 kilometre** stretch of the canal between **Bridge 57 (Lower Wern Bridge)** and **Five Locks South**. Work began on **Monday 7th October** and it is planned to be completed by the **end of January**.

TORFAEN CANAL VOLUNTEER GROUP – FUTURE DATES

Sunday 10th November – Pontnewydd Park

Sunday 8th December – Cwmbran Retail Park

Sunday 12th January – Two Locks

All sessions start at **10 am**.

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