

Canal Connections

Summer 2022



**THE NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE
MONMOUTHSHIRE, BRECON & ABERGAVENNY
CANALS TRUST (MBACT)**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by REVD. JOHN COLLIER



Recent months have been difficult for many of us. The ongoing COVID pandemic hasn't gone away, and both Jayne and I have been recovering from a nasty bout of Covid, as indeed are so many others.

We have also heard of the ongoing war in Ukraine, and watch with sadness the atrocities being committed.

The effects of climate change meanwhile continue to affect many people throughout the world.

These global issues may be concerning, and each one of us may be doing what we can to help. But there are also local issues with effects which are not as far reaching, or dramatic, but which can have major effects on our local communities. It is some of these issues which we as MBACT try to identify and address. This newsletter is being sent to all members and volunteers of MBACT, and so by supporting us each one of you is helping to address some of the local issues.

Council funding is being squeezed, and this manifests in lack of funding for leisure and heritage, and the canals fall into this category. We are working with all the councils which have responsibility for maintenance of the Mon and Brec to ensure that the importance of the canal to local communities remains high on their priority list. To this end, MBACT is leading the re-introduction of partnership meetings with councils and CRT.

There is so much going on, the Trust isn't able to do everything as well as we would like, so the Directors have agreed that we need to identify our priorities, and key individuals within the Trust are meeting to talk about just that and to come up with a strategy document which will be on the website in a couple of months' time. This will be reviewed regularly so that we can respond to any issues which arise or change priority.

This is where the membership and volunteers can be helpful, if anyone knows of issues which you feel the Trust need to be involved with, please feel free to raise it through the website or to one of the Directors. In this way we can continue to have influence in areas relevant to all of the membership and volunteers.

This work is at a strategic level, but we also work locally to bring people to the canal to appreciate all that it offers. Examples of this are the maintenance being carried out week in week out at Ty Coch, and the trips on the boats from Goytre Wharf, and also more recently at the Open Hearth craft day. Local work extends to working with other groups such as Torfaen volunteers, and Bridge 46 to 5 locks.

We are opening conversations with groups interested in other parts of the canal to promote this essential collaboration.

You will read in this edition about some of the work done by our volunteers, you will also read some of the regeneration initiatives we are supporting and facilitating.

Can I thank everyone who gives their time and expertise in whatever field they are working in – without you we couldn't consider being involved in as much as we are.

I also must acknowledge the work done over the years by our friend and colleague Richard Dommett MBE. There is more information about Richard's work later in this newsletter. Richard will be changing his role to allow more time with his family, but the good news is that he will be continuing as Regeneration Consultant to the Trust so that his amazing knowledge and experience will be available to us, especially on the Ty Coch project.

Richard's moving on will indeed leave a huge hole in the management of MBACT in general, and regeneration in particular. The strategy meeting we are planning to hold will hopefully come up with ways in which we can ensure that Richard's work is carried on. As I have said, these plans will be communicated widely, but it is my hope that the Directors and others will approach this exercise with an open mind and a heart filled with love of the canal and all the richness it brings.

May God bless you

John.

A HUGE 'THANK YOU' TO ALL THE MBACT VOLUNTEERS

In our Trust we are lucky to have the support of so many really excellent volunteers: from those who help in our Fourteen Locks Canal Centre; to towpath volunteers; community boat volunteers; our Trustees and Directors; as well as others working on admin functions; and on our website and social media. Our Trust only exists and functions because of the dedication of our volunteers. In this edition of our newsletter, some of our volunteers describe the work they are involved in and the reasons why they volunteer for MBACT.



OUR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

The Canal and Countryside Volunteer Group: Fourteen Locks and Allt-yr-Yn

With “seed corn” funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, this group was set up as a partnership between our Trust and Newport City Council. The project has proven to be a great success.

The group normally meet every Thursday, from 10am till 3.30pm, and share their time between working around the Fourteen Locks Flight and the Allt yr Yn Nature Reserve, clearing undergrowth and invasive species, maintaining paths and fences, whilst creating wildlife habitats. Cenydd is one of these volunteers.

Cenydd - Countryside Volunteer at Fourteen Locks and Allt-yr-Yn

When I retired from full-time employment in 2019, I knew that I wanted to spend some of my new found spare time volunteering. A friend suggested I try the volunteer group that work on conservation around 14 Locks and Allt-yr-Yn.

I went along for my first session and thoroughly enjoyed working with the group. Working outdoors in all weathers and completing physical tasks whilst giving something back to the community ticked all of the boxes for me.

The group quickly made me feel welcome, even if I was the butt of a few jokes taking advantage of my lack of knowledge of the flora and fauna of north Newport. I have picked up a few new skills and am now learning to spot some of the wildlife and wild flowers that can be seen in the woods and parklands just outside my front door.

The work is varied and there’s something for everyone whether it’s litter picking, clearing invasive plant species, fixing fences or making trees safe. The conversation is always interesting and amusing with discussions ranging from the history of the Monmouthshire canal through to which supermarket makes the best Jaffa cakes!

If you are looking to help improve the countryside around 14 Locks and want to join a friendly and hardworking team I would thoroughly recommend coming along.





THE WORK OF MBACT VOLUNTEERS AT TY COCH

During 2012 down at Ty Coch, between Pentre Lane and Hollybush road, the Ty Coch volunteers began restoring that section of the canal with the help from Torfaen council and Heritage lottery. Over the past 10 years we have worked up to Rachel's lock which is the lock chamber below Hollybush road bypass.

Volunteers have been going down to Ty Coch to maintain the area that they have built for families and people to enjoy. There are a variety of people who come visit the area, including families to enjoy a picnic, anglers who go down to Ty Coch to try their luck where it is peaceful and quiet.

The work that the volunteers do here involves repainting the wooden gates and modular gates, cleaning up rubbish from around the area, cutting back the hedging in autumn, and maintaining the grass cutting down on the site.

Luke

I have been with MBACT since the start of the project in 2012 at Ty Coch. I have learned valuable skills such as carpentry and stone masonry, when MBACT and Torfaen council asked if I would like to volunteer down at Ty Coch and use my skills to maintain the site for future development plans that they are trying to get money for, I was more than happy to help then.

I am in charge of the site and we have four other volunteers down at Ty Coch who now help maintain the area.

I have walked the canal when I was younger with my family. When I heard that they were doing restoration on the canal I was happy to come and help out as much as I could.

The thing about working outside and restoring the canal is that you get the satisfaction and pride from knowing future generations can enjoy the canal as much as I did when I was growing up. The canal is a beautiful and relaxing place to take a leisurely walk, bike ride or going on a canal barge holiday along the canal. It connects Newport to Brecon without going on the road system, the boats can only go down to Five Locks in Cwmbran at moment but if more people get more interested in restoring the canal one day boats can go all the way down to Newport City Centre.

Michael

I remember in the school holidays as a teen always looking forward to getting up early and grabbing my buddy to spend every day of the holidays fishing on the canal at Ty Coch.

I'm now a grown man and have lived in Cwmbran for 30 years and in Pontypool for the last 9 and a half years.

I have lived with anxiety and depression on and off for most of my young and adult life. One of the main tools in my fight against it is getting out in nature as this enables me to be mindful and more in the present.

I have previously volunteered for the Trust when I was 25, working on the Crumlin arm down at Malpas. I found it to be very therapeutic. After experiencing a dark, rough time a few years back I remembered how good and enriched my life felt grafting out in nature and decided to contact the Trust again.

Volunteering with the Trust continues to be a source of therapy and direction for me whilst learning and applying new skills, of course so does fishing.



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Photos of some of the Ty Coch volunteers at work and on a break!

David

I use to be a pharmacist and once I retired, I wanted a change of pace. When I heard about MBACT doing restoration on the canal I offered my services to do my bit so my grandchildren and future generations can enjoy the canal as much as I have in the past.

I requested that if we could go back down to Ty Coch after we finished all the lock chambers on the Ty Coch stretch.

I get enjoyment out of knowing that I am doing something for future generations to enjoy. The place is quiet and picturesque, you are outside in nature with the birds and other types of wildlife on the canal.

Martyn

Volunteering is an excellent way of making use of your free time, but it should always be something that you can enjoy, something that feels worthwhile.

In this case, growing up in Cwmbran near to the canal, it was always seen as a major thoroughfare. We walked along the canal to church on Sundays, to visit friends, pretty much for anything that didn't need the roads.

It was always a great shame to watch it deteriorate over the years and to see sections of it disappear. So, when I retired and learned what MBACT were doing, I was very glad to get involved, both here at Ty Coch and crewing the boat rides at Goytre Wharf.

The canal is such a great asset to any town, whether as a leisure activity, or as a place of beauty and of course, it has become so important as part of the environment. A real asset to the health and diversity of the local ecology.

So, yes, it feels worthwhile to be here helping this project. I get to meet people, get involved in something I believe in, and preserve a really valuable asset for future generations. What could be better?



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Louise

I started volunteering with MBACT not long after obtaining my Helmsman's licence. I thought that volunteering as crew on the trip boat would be a great opportunity to practice my newly acquired skills. I very much enjoyed being a voluntary crew member and I was super impressed by the wide-ranging skill set of the other volunteers who seemed to be able to turn their hands to all sorts of practical work – painting, electrics, boat repairs. A real wealth of knowledge and some really interesting characters. I was also delighted that they were so welcoming to a complete novice and were keen to freely share their knowledge and skills.

During lockdown I missed the volunteering on the crew boat, so took to litter picking along the towpath before (like many others) acquiring a companion dog – in my case a troubled and reactive rescue with separation anxiety. My new 4-legged companion was of an unsuitable temperament to accompany me whilst volunteering on the trip boat, but, as always with the MBACT, other volunteer work was available which suits a lot better now I have a small dog as a permanent shadow.

So, myself and the troubled terrier join a small group of regeneration volunteers that look after a patch of the canal around Ty Coch each Saturday – grass cutting, cutting back brambles, clearing water overflows, repairing fencing and painting locks. The group is easy company, and the work gets us more active in the fresh air, nicely balancing out with the other part of my week where work keeps me stuck behind the screen of a computer most days.

VOLUNTEERING AT THE FOURTEEN LOCKS CANAL CENTRE

Mike

I've been volunteering for MBACT at Fourteen Locks for over ten years.

I've been taking holidays on narrow boats since the 80s, over the last twenty years on Hotel Narrowboats travelling all over our canal system. This interest led me to Fourteen Locks which was close to where I grew up in Rogerstone.

My job is to greet customers as they enter to look at the museum, to shop, and some just to chat. This is good because when they start the conversation with "I live by the.....canal, I've probably been past their area and can chat out that canal.

I feel that this helps to bring more people into the centre whether they are local or from elsewhere.

Together with staff and other volunteers, the Centre is thriving but more help is always gratefully received.





VOLUNTEERING ON THE COMMUNITY BOATS

Peter

Ahoy there!!

I joined the MBACT as a volunteer after seeing the poster looking for volunteers on the boat "Lord Raglan" from visiting Goytre Wharf. The reason why I volunteered was to meet other people who like canals and boats. As well, to help in a UNESCO World Heritage site - the Brecon and Monmouth Canal is just wonderful.



You do not need any experience to join MBACT, all you need is to muck in. Don't worry, you do not have to steer the boats, there are plenty of other opportunities I found from meeting various members - such as selling tickets, telling people about MBACT, selling raffle tickets, helping with the website, painting the boats, and most importantly making cups of tea either for guests on the trips or to keep the staff going!

Since joining last May last year I got know many of the lovely volunteers, and I have helped out at 2 craft fair events on the canal with the boats – the Lord Raglan and Edith-Elizabeth at the Open Heath pub and at Goytre Wharf. Both events were well attended and many trips were done in the boats. Edith-Elizabeth is a day boat that takes up to 10 people, and Lord Raglan is a covered boat that can take up to 25 people.

If you see us zooming down the Brecon and Monmouth Canal at 2mph - give us a wave, and do come on come on a trip later - who knows, you might just get hooked!!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN MBACT VOLUNTEER?

As you've read, there is a whole host of volunteering work that we need help with and you will be able to find a role that fits your interests and experience; your available spare time; or will teach you new skills in a friendly and supportive environment.

We welcome all offers of assistance whether you: enjoy nature and the outdoors; are passionate about canals and canal restoration; enjoy boats; enjoy talking to the public in a community centre; can undertake admin. work remotely from your home; or simply willing to lend your voice to our campaigns or help us to run a professional canal charity.

You will find us a very friendly and welcoming group of canal enthusiasts.

If you can spare some time, please visit the MBACT website at: <https://mbact.org.uk/volunteering-opportunities/> and fill in our Volunteer Registration form. Or scan this QR code which will also take you to the volunteering part of our website. Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.



Laura Thomas, MBACT volunteer co-ordinator and Manager of the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre

THE FOURTEEN LOCKS CANAL CENTRE

News from the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre

The Fourteen Locks Canal Centre continues to provide a valuable resource on the Crumlin Arm to the local community, and visitors to the canal in Rogerstone. It is also the administrative centre of our Trust and an income source for our work. We are open 7 days a week from 10am until 5pm. Laura, Jodie and Huong manage the Centre along with some enthusiastic volunteers.

Some highlights since the last newsletter:

- We have been selling raffle tickets organised by The Rotary Club of Newport Uskmouth. All proceeds from tickets sold at the Centre come in to support the Centre. We sold £315 worth of tickets. So a great success for us.
- Visits to the Centre is getting back to levels before the pandemic. Throughout the month of April over 6,000 people visited the Centre, with 394 children taking part in our fun Easter Trail and 16 children taking part in our organised Craft Activities, which was a sell-out weekend.



- We applied for support from the Newport Participatory Budgeting fund. The purpose of the fund is to support community wellbeing. We had to make a short video explaining how we would use the funding. With votes from Newport residents we secured the money. The video



Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

was made with help from the Camcorder Club who use our Meeting Room every Thursday, and are very supportive of the Centre.

- Our Meeting Room is now available for hire again, and things are really starting to pick up again, which is great news.
- We were a Polling Station for the local elections on May 5th which brought more people to the Centre who may have not been out so much recently.



We are very lucky we have great support from locals, who love the Centre and everything we do.

Restoration and Regeneration News

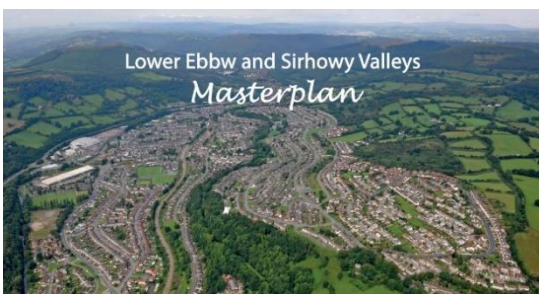
Since the end of the pandemic we have been dealing with a number of initiatives and issues.

- It was heartening news to see that Torfaen County Borough Council have appointed a new Canal Officer. We have been working closely with Alice since her appointment. Our Regeneration Director Richard Dommett MBE has been taking Alice on an inspection tour of the canal bringing her up to speed on its features and the issues that need to be addressed.
- Our Chairman Revd. John Collier and Richard have been our representatives on the newly formed Torfaen CBC Canal Working Group. This group consists of Torfaen CBC Officers and also representatives from other bodies such as the Bridge 46 to Five Locks Group. This group has been looking at possible options to improve facilities at the Five Locks basin area.
- We are working to re-establish the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canals Regeneration Partnership Group to facilitate cross boundary coordination and restoration. This comprises a core group of MBACT, Newport, Torfaen, and Caerphilly Councils, together with wider representation from the Canal and River Trust, Monmouthshire, Powys County Council and Brecon Beacons National Park. We have a new volunteer, Dianne who will help us with this. We are continuing to work with Torfaen and other bodies to find initial funding for a potential Waterways Park at the Ty Coch locks.
- We continue to respond to planning applications which have a potential impact on the canal corridor. One recent application concerns a new towpath access bridge adjacent to lock 34 Gwasted Mawr Lock in Malpas, where we have been providing feedback on the design of the new bridge, ensuring that it is a moveable type to allow boats through passage. We have recently renewed our request to local Councils that MBACT are consulted on planning applications falling within the canal corridor.
- We have also been advising Newport CC & Torfaen CBC on a programme to replace lock gates fitted during the first phase of restoration.



Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

- Richard represents the Trust as vice-chairman of the Caerphilly CBC canal members working group.
- Innovative, long lasting galvanised steel modular lock gates have been fitted to most locks at Ty Coch. Due to their ease of installation and long design life we will recommend and encourage their deployment in future restoration. We are looking for a new local potential manufacturer of these gates so that the gates can be easily sourced in the future. You can find out more about the modular lock gates on our website - <https://mbact.org.uk/modular-lock-gates/>
- One of the major ongoing issues on the canal has been the lack of water. We raised the issue in May 2021 and again recently in May 2022. Although the main line from Cwmbran to Newport is affected, the problem is critical on the Crumlin Arm above Fourteen Locks. After our publicity the issue has been reported on by the local press, and we have had a large amount of support and feedback from local residents and MBACT members. We are working with Councillors and Officers from Newport City Council and Caerphilly County Borough Council who as owners of the Crumlin Arm are responsible for the upkeep of the canal. We are especially grateful for specific local knowledge from residents who walk the canal daily and are informing us where they think the water is going. The Crumlin Arm has some long standing water issues that date back decades. Unfortunately there isn't an easy fix to the water shortage issue. You can read more about the water shortage and why it's happening on our website at <https://mbact.org.uk/news/>.



- We also responded recently to the Caerphilly CBC Draft Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan. Our response can also be found on our website under the News section.

As our Chairman John Collier mentioned in his introduction, Richard Dommatt MBE is changing role within MBACT but will continue to provide his extensive knowledge and expertise to us as Regeneration Consultant. We are extremely grateful to Richard's knowledge and hard work over the years to the upkeep and restoration of the canal.



MBACT COMMUNITY BOATS

News from the Community Boats

- The Edith Elizabeth continues as our smaller passenger boat carrying 10 passengers. Over the winter we performed basic maintenance and also replaced the side curtains which are used to protect the interior of the boat from the weather when the boat is moored up. We do have a few ongoing issues with the electric motor and associated batteries. The range of the batteries is not as long as we wish and we are exploring options on how to solve this.

We have increased our passenger charges slightly on the boat but the boat continues to provide a really cheap way for the public to have a short trip on the canal. The boat is loved by our younger passengers, and also our furry four-footed friends!



The boat was motored from Goytre Wharf down to the Open Hearth pub for a craft fair on the 1st of May. The boat was then operated on the electric motor carrying passengers down towards Crown Bridge 48 and back.

- The Lord Raglan has only recently started taking paying passengers. Our use of the Lord Raglan was severely restricted during the Covid pandemic due to the fact that the vessel is enclosed.

We also had a number of regulatory pieces of work to complete for the annual Maritime and Coastguard Agency inspection as well as the upgrade of the electronic control systems. We had previously replaced the propellers for a different size / pitch to try and improve the boat's performance but this wasn't successful. They were too big for the boat, so we have reverted back to the original propellers.



Following a successful hull inspection on the 11th May at Herons Rest Marina the boat was returned to Goytre Wharf and the first fee paying passengers were carried as part of the Goytre Wharf Craft Fair on Sunday 15th May.



Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

We plan to run the Lord Raglan on Saturdays and Sundays when we have sufficient crew. We also have a number of private bookings in June and later in the year. If you would like to charter the boat for a work event, meeting or family gathering then contact Glyn our Bookings Manager via email or phone - boats@mbact.org.uk - 01633 892167.

- We have a pool of about 30 volunteers who help operate the 2 boats but we are always looking for more help as we need 8 volunteers available to run both boats at the same time.

Three of our volunteers attended the RYA Inland Waterway Helmsman Course at the Somerset Boat Centre in April and passed with flying colours!

- Our boats continue to be based at Goytre Wharf, but we are looking at expanding our trips to other areas of the canal where it is safe and practical to do so.



A Focus on Richard J Dommatt MBE, Regeneration Consultant

As John said in his “Chairman’s Update” Richard Dommatt MBE will be changing his role within MBACT and will be continuing as Regeneration Consultant to the Trust. Richard has many, many years’ experience and knowledge of working and volunteering on projects which have helped to protect and regenerate parts of the Mon and Brec. Here are some of Richard’s varied projects and experiences (in his own words):

Richard

It is now 60 years since I visited the MBC on a cycling family holiday, with a lunch time break alongside Llangynidr Lock No 64. I next canoed the canal with my wife Monica, whilst working as a carpenter ship right at Fareham Hampshire, before becoming interested in the work underway to restore the Kennett & Avon Canal.

Having taken on the role of volunteer lock keeper at Sulhampstead near Reading for the Kennett and Avon Canal Trust, I was persuaded by the local BW lengths man to join the restoration team.

My first job was to work on derelict locks in the Hungerford area. During 1975 I supervised the first Waterway Recovery Group of Volunteers Work Camp in constructing and fitting a set of gates at Bulls Lock Newbury.

During 1976, I ended up moving to the River Severn based at Diglis Locks Worcester. During a period of 12 years I spent a great deal of time working on restoration projects on the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal in Somerset, fitting new lock gates new swing bridges and undertaking general maintenance on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canals especially during the winter months.



Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust



In 1989 British Waterways reorganised the waterway units and I became waterway manager for the South Wales and Somerset Section of the South West Region of British Waterways. I was aware it was now 36 years since a number of Authorities thought it was desirable to prepare a plan for the future of the canal for the following reasons:

British Waterways (CRT) were preparing a nationwide series of canal plans as an aid to the management and development of abandoned waterways for recreation.

A joint Policy Committee had previously been formed including the Brecon Beacon National Park and the Local Authorities who were aware to how the canal should be managed.

The Policy Committee were aware that the canal was an important as a recreation resource and irreplaceable as an environmental asset.

With these new responsibilities and challenges it was important that I became engaged in the work of the Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust volunteers who were already undertaking restoration projects on canal structures in partnership with the local

authorities and Waterway Recovery Group. British Waterway supported the idea of the authority providing a supervisor to oversee the development and training of local members of the community/ volunteers, the restoration team was formed.

During the next 12 years with the support of funding from the Local Authorities and additional grants, 4 locks were restored, leaks from the Gwasted Mawr aqueduct were repaired along with extensive offside control of tree growth.

The long standing canal steering group chaired by the Trust was replaced by the Regeneration Council Steering Group following talks between Newport's Head of Planning Wyn Mitchell, BW Regional Director John Lancaster and me. The local Authorities provided 2 councillors supported by an officer made up the membership and met quarterly through the year. The Council Steering group was supported by a working group made up of officers from each of the partners.

Within this period the IWA National Trail Boat Festival was arranged a number of times by the Trust, the first at Pontymoile with the most successful at Kimberly Park Newport in 2010 when the canal was opened to navigation over a 3 miles section to Pentre Lane Cwmbran. Sadly there were insufficient funds to maintain these restoration works.

An additional problem identified in the C M Marsh Report (1965) was the total lack of water feed from the Torfaen section below Drapers Lock combined with residual problems of porous banks. This leaves long lengths depleted of water and even dry, over dredging on the Newport section in the past has created additional challenges. The Welsh Government Joint Committee for Land Reclamation had addressed this problem in some areas, unfortunately were disbanded before the project could be completed.

In 2011 Torfaen CBC in partnership with the Trust managed to secure (£1,405,000) from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the aim to restore 1.5km of waterway at Ty Coch in Llantarnam, South Cwmbran, into an important visitor destination and recreational resource which would significantly contribute to the regeneration of an area of high unemployment and help to enhance personal, community and social well-being. Within the



Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

waterway corridor were eight derelict locks, three listed bridges and various other heritage and landscape structures.

An outstanding feature of the scheme was the extensive use of volunteers, harnessing the enthusiasm of local community members/volunteers and providing opportunities for training and skills development. Several volunteers gained valuable NVQ accredited skills and experience, one in particular received a diploma in Environmental Management.

The Waterway project was presented the Preservation & Rejuvenation Award in 2017 by Constructing Excellence in Wales. 274 community volunteers participated in activities including masonry repairs, carpentry, use of lime mortar, landscaping and habitat improvements,

During the 'Waterworks' project, a special team was formed by the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust whose chairman had approached Swansea University Engineer Department. With 84 locks to re-gate they were looking for a design which would be far more durable than the existing timber traditional gate. They were also aware that the Waterworks team were building a traditional timber gate for the locks at Ty Coch. I agreed to assist with the project. SUEd assessed the design of a timber gate against a design I produced in steel and timber, a trial top gate was produced which used similar construction techniques to the timber gate and was a mirror image of the original.



Have received an excellent report from the University that the new design of Modular Gate would be far more durability, ease of construction, transport to site and installation by volunteers under supervision. Support from Cadw and the Heritage Lottery, 6 complete sets were installed on the Ty Coch flight.

In 2017 the Waterway Project funding became exhausted so activities were closed down in favour of the Trust Regeneration Manager with an employed trainee taking on the task of fitting out the newly purchased abandoned Community Trip Boat the Lord Raglan. The smaller 10 seat Trip Boat 'Edith – Elizabeth' is being operated by the Trust volunteers. It was intended that the Trip Boats would earn much needed income into the regeneration budget for investment into canal projects.

Since 2017 Richard has continued to lead and support many of MBACT's regeneration activities and we are grateful that he is continuing with MBACT as our Regeneration Consultant.

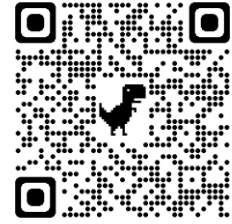
A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

We are always grateful for the support of our Members. As a Member of the Trust you are helping to ensure that the canal is cherished and restored for the enjoyment and benefit of the local community. We welcome your views and feedback.



Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

We also need more Members in order to have a louder voice when campaigning for more resources for the canals maintenance and restoration. Do you know of others who would be interested in joining us? New members can sign up on our membership portal at <https://membermojo.co.uk/mbact/>



BUSINESS MEMBERS

We are always extremely grateful to all supporters of our Trust and especially those who provide financial or service support.

Our business supporters . . .

BEACON PARK BOATS

Luxury canal holidays in the Brecon Beacons

Beacon Park Boat, Llangattock



Road House
Narrowboats,
Gilwern



Govilon Boat
Club



Cooper Marine, Herons
Rest Marina



Newport and Usk Vale Lions



Penelope's Café,
Goytre Wharf

Newport Angling
Association

The Lord Raglan Community Boat project also benefitted greatly with a considerable amount of support from local and international companies via donations of equipment and services. We are extremely grateful to all those companies and people who helped on this long project. You can see all of the companies and people who supported this community boat project on our website page for the boat at <https://mbact.org.uk/our-community-boat-project-the-lord-raglan/>

Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust (MBACT) Registered Charity No. 515879

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