

Canal Connections

Autumn 2023



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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by REVD. JOHN COLLIER



Dear Friends

The theme of this welcome is gratitude.

Firstly, thanks to Anne who took over as MBACT Secretary earlier this year. She is the one who has done all the hard work in bringing this Newsletter to you. She also is the person who gets meetings up and running, not an easy task to juggle all of our diaries to actually get us together. I would also like to express our thanks to Dianne who had been our previous Secretary for a short period.

On the subject of meetings we continue to hold Director / Trustee meetings but have replaced the old "Committee" meetings with an internal Operations Meeting involving our team leaders, and an MBACT Canal Liaison Forum meeting involving more people from other organisations and businesses who have an interest in the canal.

At a more strategic level we have hosted the Regeneration Partnership of Council Officers, officers from the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority and CRT which will now become a regular meeting where canal owners and other authorities involved with the canal get together to discuss issues of common interest.

My next thanks go to the other directors of MBACT, Regeneration and Fourteen Locks Centre who have worked so hard in their respective areas to keep the work of MBACT on track.

Thanks also to our paid staff at the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre, Laura and Jodie as well as the staff of the café.

Many of you will know that in April we took over the management of the café, and the staff have worked hard to gain a five star "scores on the doors" accreditation, and maintain the income from the café. There is more information in articles in this edition of the Newsletter, but I can announce that we will be introducing a discount system for volunteers who use the café. We are working on how staff can recognise volunteers and confirm their credentials – it may be that we issue some sort of identity card – watch this space.

My next thanks go to all of our volunteers – we are working towards an accreditation by Investing in Volunteers, and as part of this we have identified that we need to consult more with our volunteers, and communicate how important they are to the Trust. We all know this but don't tell people often enough how well they are doing and how their work affects what we achieve. We have also identified that there is good practice in all our areas of volunteering, and the organisation will benefit from sharing these good practices. This includes training and accreditation, and Laura our Centre Manager is working with AGORED to make us an accredited training Centre in the same way that our boat training is currently. So lots of work to be doing.

Lastly to our Members, people who sign up to support us. We really do appreciate your support. Thank you. We have also recently introduced a free MBACT Membership for our volunteers. Clearly everyone who volunteers is supporting the Trust, but by signing up as a Volunteer Member you are added to our list of supporters and this is used to support grant applications, and to show how important our canal is to so many people.

So as well as thanking you all, can I ask you to promote Membership and Volunteering with your friends and family! It would really help our aims to have more Members and Volunteers.

It would be remiss of me not to thank Richard and the team who worked so hard with Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC), Rougemont School and the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG) recently. The plan to clear and improve the canal south of Pentre Lane in south Cwmbran at the beginning of November was thwarted by a series of events outside our control, including problematic invasive species of Himalayan Balsam and the fact that the area is designated as possibly suitable for rare newts. So there is a need to do more ecological survey work before undertaking this major piece of regeneration work. This work is postponed and not abandoned, and we look forward to working with WRG and Rougemont School next year to complete the project. Thankfully all the work Laura and Richard has done in preparation will not be in vain, it can be transferred to when the work will be carried out.

I am looking forward to next year when we can get the Pentre lane site cleared and the Regeneration Partnership group consolidated, as well as clearing work on the Cwmbran town centre section of the canal. Becoming an accredited training centre for canal related training and recognition as an Investor in Volunteers Trust will also be something to celebrate in our 40th year as an incorporated Trust.

John.

RESTORATION AND REGENERATION NEWS

Working together

Since our last newsletter in January we have continued to work closely with the canal owners Glyndŵr Cymru, (the Canal & River Trust in Wales) (CRT), Newport City Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council and Torfaen County Borough Council.

We have worked hard this year to resurrect the “Monmouthshire and Brecon Canals Regeneration Partnership Group” to facilitate cross boundary coordination and restoration between the canal owners, other local authorities and public organisations that have the canal within their boundary. Previously we have worked closely with individual Councils, Councillors and Council Officers and we continue to do so. However, we believe that a more strategic, higher level, partnership will bring benefits to the whole canal. After much work by John our Chair, Wyn Mitchell our Vice-President, and Anne Thomas our new



Secretary, we hosted and chaired the first new meeting of the “Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Regeneration Partnership Officers Working Group” on the 18th October 2023 at the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre. We had a great turnout of officers from all of the canal owning authorities, from CRT, Monmouthshire and Powys County Councils, and also from the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority. All agreed that the meeting was really useful in aligning objectives and work on the canal between all of the authorities and the officers. Another meeting is planned for February 2024 and we hope to set up a similar meeting of Councillors to get aligned direction between the authorities at a higher level.

We have in the past hosted a meeting known as the “MBACT Committee”. This had become an informal meeting of people who had an interest in the canal. We decided this year to formalise this meeting into the “MBACT Canal Liaison Forum” which reflects more of its real purpose. Given that CRT is especially under pressure this year we asked CRT to give 2 presentations to the Forum in August - on CRT’s Water Abstraction issues, and also on “The UK Government Grant Review of CRT’s Funding”. Attendees at the meeting included representatives from the boat hire companies, from boat clubs on the canal, from the IWA, as well as Mark Sullivan as a representative of the Bridge 46 to Five Locks Canal Group. We were also grateful to our President Lord German who also attended the meeting.

To support CRT and to help raise awareness of the financial pressure and impact that The UK Government Grant Review of CRT’s Funding is having we joined the IWA’s Fund Britain’s Waterways (FBW) campaign group as a member. Through our normal ongoing contacts with MPs, Senedd Members and local Councillors we are continuing to raise the awareness of what impact the UK Government’s funding review will have on our canal.



We also arranged for Adam Comerford, the National Hydrology Manager for CRT to give a presentation to our Trustees as well as invited officers from the canal owning local authorities. We felt it was vital that the officers understood the water abstraction issues that CRT is having. CRT’s knowledge and experience is now helping the local authorities with their own water abstraction licence process. We are grateful to Adam who travelled to South Wales to give his presentation.

We firmly believe that we have a coordinating role in bringing together all of the many organisations involved with the canal. Although each organisation has a specific purpose and direction, the future of the canal is only going to be assured by everyone working together.

Canal Restoration and Regeneration Activity

The following is a summary of activity on the canal that we have been involved in over the past few months:

In March, **Caerphilly County Borough Council** engineers set about tackling some water flow problems. The lack of water and water flow problems on the Crumlin Arm was something that we

have raised multiple times with Newport City Council and Caerphilly County Borough Council. In the summer of 2022 we identified a problem where the canal is culverted at The Darren Road, Risca. The culvert was partially-blocked causing a significant volume of water to be discharged down the Medarts Place “Dragons Teeth” overflow weir; thereby substantially reducing water flows east towards Newport. Upon investigation, Caerphilly County Borough Council engineers found that the long section of culverted canal at this location had settled due to subsidence and, as a consequence, had a 70% flow restriction. Caerphilly CBC repaired the culvert and a new trash grill and a penstock valve was also fitted to help prevent any future blockages and better manage water levels. Caerphilly CBC also removed silt at problem locations on this same section which meant that water flow was improved towards Newport.



The finished slipway at Pontywaun

Canal relining works by Caerphilly County Borough Council in 2021/2022 at Pontywaun required the removal of a slipway at Hall’s Road Terrace, Pontywaun. The slipway, built by MBACT volunteers in 2001, allowed boats to be launched into the canal and has been used extensively in the past for popular boat rallies. Since its removal, we have been actively involved in discussions with officers at the Council to explore options for its replacement, including the possible involvement of the IWA Waterways

Recovery Group. Following these discussions, Caerphilly County Borough Council decided to engage contractors to undertake the work. The new slipway was completed in August.

In May, **Torfaen County Borough Council** published their Draft Strategy and Action Plan for the Mon & Brecon canal through Cwmbran. We had previously advised Torfaen on a very early draft of the strategy. Once the Draft Strategy and Action Plan was formally published for public consultation we encouraged the public to respond through our social media channels and also provided further extensive feedback on the document ourselves. As the Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals restoration charity we warmly welcome the initiative that Torfaen County Borough Council (“TCBC”) has started. The appointment of a full-time Canal Officer and now this 10 year Strategic document provides a template for neighbouring canal owning authorities to follow. Given the limited resources that the Council has, and the fact that there is only one dedicated Canal Officer, we recognise the thought, effort and time that has gone into the Strategy document.

We are also grateful that TCBC recognised in the document the skill and experience of MBACT as part of the Torfaen Canal Partnership, and as a partner working with volunteers. We will work very closely at all levels with the Council, and with partners, to actively support Torfaen CBC in its vision for the canal. Whilst supporting the core aims of the document, we had some concerns regarding specific details. In particular we commented on overall approach and methodology, stakeholder support, programme phasing and funding, governance structure and council support, and we had

concerns about possible detriment to ongoing maintenance and wider objectives. We understand that our feedback and that of the wider public meant that the Draft document was amended.

The Torfaen CBC Cabinet will consider the final Strategy and Plan in November 2023.

Also in May, we were delighted with the news that **Newport City Council** has secured £1.9m in funding from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund to tackle the very long-standing

problems on the Mon & Brecon Canal Crumlin Arm above the Fourteen Locks Centre at Newport.

The grant will allow the Council to clear silt and vegetation from the currently blocked canal channel from Cwm Lane Bridge to the City boundary at Harry Roberts Bridge No 10, reline it to make it watertight, and to restore the Cefn Wharf lock (lock 21) at the top of the Fourteen Locks flight to full working order.

The grant will also allow for better disabled access to the Canal Centre via a new footbridge and modified access ramp. The project will also



The old gates being removed on lock 21 adjacent to the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre

investigate ways that our Canal Centre can be improved as a leisure and tourist resource. The works will be undertaken over the next two years. We are hopeful that once the work is completed we will once again be able to run our small trip boat from Fourteen Locks to Ruskin Avenue bridge.

Work has now started - surveying and preparatory work has been completed. The old wooden lock gates on lock 21 by the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre have been removed. The new footbridge at the bottom of lock 21 was lifted into place at the beginning of November.

We also understand from our regular meetings with Newport City Council engineers that the grant will also be used to cover work on the pound alongside the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre.



The new footbridge being lifted into place adjacent to the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre. Photo by "Court Above the Cut".

In June, our Chair the Revd. John Collier welcomed Julie Sharman from **Glandŵr Cymru, (the Canal & River Trust (CRT) in Wales)** to the Crumlin Arm and Centre at Fourteen Locks. Julie is the Chief Operating Officer for CRT, and was joined by Hannah Booth who was CRT's Area Operating Manager for the navigable part of the Mon & Brecon canal from Brecon to Sebastopol.



Hannah Booth CRT, Julie Sharman CRT, Revd. John Collier MBACT and Phil Evans NCC at lock 21

They were also joined by Phil Evans who is a Team Manager with Newport City Council (NCC). Phil is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the part of the Mon and Brecon canal through Newport, including the Crumlin Arm.

Several aspects of the upcoming Crumlin Arm work were discussed with Julie and Hannah, including dredging and lining of the canal. CRT have extensive experience of work such as this and were able to provide invaluable advice to Phil. We also discussed the ongoing water shortage issues in the canal.

We also used the opportunity to discuss future plans that Torfaen County Borough Council has for the canal at Five Locks, as well as operational aspects of the canal from Cwmbran to Brecon.

In July, CRT announced that it was putting Junction Cottage in Pontymoile up for auction. Although expected, the news caused a lot of concern in the local community. We wrote to Richard Parry, Chief Executive of the Canal and River Trust as we felt that CRT itself was best placed to renovate this historic building. Although there was a large local campaign, the sale went ahead. We wait to see how the building will be used in the future.

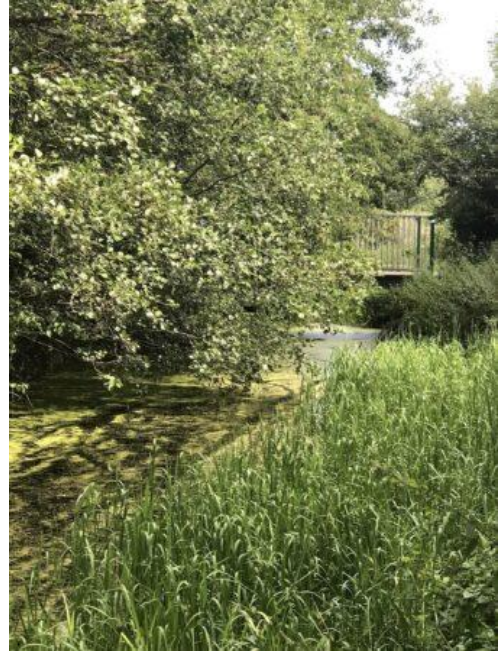


Junction Cottage, Pontymoile for sale

Also in July, **Newport City Council** decided that MBACT's steel composite lock gate design would be used for the new lock gates for Lock 21 - Cefn Top Lock adjacent to the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre. NCC also asked MBACT to assist in the detailed design, and to help manage the fabrication of the new lock gates. The existing damaged wooden gates were removed at the end of July to allow detailed measurements to be made.

At the end of August Newport City Council announced that they intended to remove as much weed as possible from the navigation of the canal sometime during the autumn / winter.

The weed removal work covers the section of the canal from the bottom of the Fourteen Locks (Cefn) lock flight where the canal goes under the M4, to Barrack Hill tunnel, and then north from Brynglas up to the City boundary in north Malpas. The work wasn't planned to cover the Fourteen Locks flight as the flight of locks is dry of water. The work also won't cover the section north west of the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre in Rogerstone to Harry Robert's bridge. This section of the canal will be cleared as part of the £1.9m project that Newport City Council announced in May 2023.



*The canal overgrown with weed and duckweed near Bettws, north Newport.
Photo by Tania Dando*

Waterways Recovery Group Reunion Camp 3rd – 5th November 2023

Report by Richard Dommatt MBE

In September, the **Inland Waterways Association's Waterways Recovery Group (WRG)** asked for proposals for a location to hold its Volunteers Reunion Weekend on the 3rd – 5th November. We put forward 2 locations on the Mon & Brecon as candidate sites. Other Canal Societies also bid for the weekend. After long discussions and site visits WRG decided to hold its Reunion weekend at Pentre Lane, north of Newport.

The WRG Reunion Weekend was subsequently postponed following advice from Torfaen County Borough Council's ecologist that Himalayan Balsam, an invasive plant, was in flower and needed to be removed from the site before volunteer activities started in clearing the navigation. Additionally, the ecologist said that a survey of Great Crested Newts is required to identify whether they are established on the site. As the possible presence of newts and Himalayan Balsam could have an effect on the work it was found necessary to look at rearranging this year's Reunion weekend. This was very disappointing as it affected the people attending, as well as having to cancel the accommodation, welfare facilities and catering all of which would have been provided by the adjacent Rougemont School.

Existing legislation protects the Great Crested Newt if their habitat is disturbed. They can be identified by their white warts and bright orange belly with black spots. During the breeding season, April till July, the males have a wavy crest along their back and a White and Blue tail stripe. They take 2-4 years to reach maturity and commence hibernation in September. They can be best seen from mid-March until mid-June by carrying out overnight surveys by torchlight.



The canal full of weeds, and overhanging trees at Pentre Lane, north Newport

Some people argue that Himalayan Balsam benefits bees and pollinators, which is true, but there is a cost to other native species. However, there is one benefit that balsam has that other invasive plants generally don't have - it is edible! As long as the balsam hasn't been treated with herbicide it can be eaten: its leaves can be used in curries, in salad, soups and stews. The flowers can be used in gin!

Collecting the balsam does raise the problem of transporting plant material to another site, a bit more thought might be needed on this site to deal with it.

Whilst the issues of the newts and balsam are being dealt with the trees affecting the navigation can continue to be managed effectively. With agreement from the staff at Rougemont School we are considering 3 or even 4 work activities. In preparing the next stage of the project we are planning to involve the students in constructing a top gate for Tamplin Lock. Training is an essential activity particularly with regard to ecological issues.

If there is any Trust member or volunteer wishing to be involved please contact Laura or Richard at the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre.

TORFAEN CANAL VOLUNTEER GROUP - TY COCH PROJECT

Torfaen Canal Volunteer Group – Ty Coch Project - by Hugh Woodford

Background – the Torfaen Canal Volunteer Group is not part of MBACT, but we work closely together and support each other where possible.

In May 2022, Richard Domett from MBACT asked if we would be prepared to take over management of the 200 yard stretch of canal between Ty Coch Lane and Hollybush Way in south Cwmbran. After a group discussion we agreed, and the following month I met with Alice Rees, Torfaen’s Canal Co-ordinator, and Steve Williams, Torfaen’s Senior Ecologist, to discuss what we

could and shouldn’t do. The 200 yard stretch was becoming overgrown and needed some tender loving care.



Tidying up at the top of the Ty Coch locks

In August 2022 we began by scraping the 2006 paint off the gate by Ty Coch Lane and the railings alongside Ty Coch top lock, before re-painting both in black and white. Most of this work was done during the unbearably hot spell so progress was slower than anticipated, but the paint did dry quicker as a result.

In November 2022 the group’s monthly meetup tackled vegetation around the top and walls of Ty Coch top lock as well as strimming the grass on the offside. By this

stage, the top section looked much tidier and plans for the whole 200 yard stretch began to be formulated.

In February of this year, two of us met with Sian Watkins, Torfaen Council’s head of Streetscene, and Alice Rees, Canal Officer to discuss our plans. Sian agreed we could go ahead with installing planters alongside Ty Coch top lock and take on responsibility for looking after the offside, while Torfaen would look after the towpath side. A major part of our plan was to pay for a bench to be installed between the 2 planters so the public could sit and enjoy the fruits of our labours and the canal in general. Unfortunately, this was not agreed as it was deemed too close to a large drop and the Council were not prepared to pay for railings to be installed on the offside of the lock.

Next, a couple of us started clearing the well-overgrown offside at Cabin lock by Hollybush Way. As a group, we had not worked in this section for more than 10 years, since MBACT’s regeneration work commenced in the Ty Coch section. Over the next few weeks three of us worked our way along, cutting out loads of laurel, until everything was clear and looking tidy.

In April we put up three bird boxes and I helped Tony to construct and install the two planters alongside Ty Coch top lock. After a long day’s hard work Tony was exhausted and the planters were

finished the following day. Heather had been busy buying bulbs and plants for pollinators to fill the planters and also to plant above the tunnels and planted them all a few days later to give the section a splash of colour. Since then, Dave and Alan have regularly mowed and strimmed the area to keep it looking tidy, while Heather keeps an eye on the plants and bulbs. With the summer colours having gone, Heather has recently put in more plants to provide some autumn and winter colour.

The question of a bench seems to have been resolved. Torfaen offered a choice of three locations – one in Ty Coch, the other side of Ty Coch Lane from where we wanted, and two near to Two Locks. We opted for Ty Coch, plus a second near Llandowlais Street, Two Locks. At the time of writing, an installation date has not been decided upon.

It is surprising and pleasing how much of a difference we have made in a relatively short time. The hardest part has been achieved, so as long as we are able to keep on top of things, future management should be a lot easier. Our efforts are well appreciated by passers-by, as many of them stop to chat when any of us are working there.

Although some of us do some work there on a regular basis, our next group meet there will be on 11th February 2024.



Heather working on a new planter at Ty Coch locks

MBACT COMMUNITY BOATS

News from the Community Boats by Glyn Williams, Operations Director

Whilst not accounting for the inclement weather during the early part of the year, both our MBACT electric Community Boats had another successful year.

The introduction of a new electric motor and ancillary equipment for the “Edith Elizabeth”, saw her running throughout the summer with a record number of journeys and passengers and a very happy crew.



Catherine being presented with her NCBA Boat Handling Certificate by our NCBA Trainer Steve Wride

“The Lord Raglan”, after its survey last year, performed extremely well with a record number of charters, we were delighted to welcome back old friends from many associations and also made some new friends along the way.

This year the Monmouth Brecon and Abergavenny Canal Trust based at Goytre put their new training accreditation into practice. As we mentioned in our last newsletter we now have a dedicated National Community Boat Association Trainer based at Goytre Wharf – Steve Wride. This year Steve was able to put nearly all our volunteers through practical and theoretical training and tests to reach either Boat

Handling or Boat Management Level. All our volunteers are now competent to helm the Edith Elizabeth or The Lord Raglan.

Some of the training sessions involved Man over Board, First Aid and fire drills which the crews took a very enthusiastic part.

It has been decided that this year during the winter period that the Edith Elizabeth will come out of the water to have a complete refit and paint, but never fear she will be back on the Canal for the start of the next season in April 2024, looking better than ever. Work continues to improve and maintain The Lord Raglan at the same time.

This year we were delighted to welcome several new volunteers who have proved to be invaluable to the Trust, but as always, we are on the lookout for new volunteers.



Michael Sheen steering The Lord Raglan watched over by Alan, one of our qualified helms

The Lord Raglan received visits from some VIPs during the year - The Secretary of State for Wales David TC Davies, and Michael Sheen the actor. Michael's visit was in conjunction with filming a drama at Goytre Wharf.

We also welcomed the Canal and River Trust Board - Trustees and Directors, including CEO Richard Parry, to the canal in May, and they enjoyed a trip on the Lord Raglan on a gloriously sunny day. We took the opportunity to discuss various issues with the CRT Board.



The Board of CRT, including Richard Parry (left of centre), on our electric boat The Lord Raglan in May 2023

We would have liked to run our winter illuminated charters again this year but due to Canal River Trust (CRT) remedial work on the canal it just isn't possible, but hopefully next year we can reintroduce this special event and let everyone see the beauty of the canal illuminated by the Lord Raglan...

Glyn Williams
Boats Operations Director

Charter the Lord Raglan

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Fourteen Locks Canal Centre and Dadford Tearoom

Fourteen Locks Canal Centre update by Jayne Collier, Fourteen Locks Canal Centre Director

The Centre at Fourteen Locks has been managed by MBACT since 2005, with the café being sub-let. In April of this year the café's lease was vacated, and it was decided that MBACT through the Fourteen Locks Centre should manage the café alongside the Centre.

We have now been running the café for over 8 months, and have been pleased with the progress, although it has been a very steep learning curve.

In the first week of opening, we were inspected and retained the five star food hygiene rating. Some minor suggestions were made by the Inspector which have been addressed. I need to thank the staff of the café most sincerely for their hard work, particularly when we were short staffed and extremely busy over the spring and summer.

Wherever possible we have used local suppliers, and their knowledge and support has been second to none. Bakery, coffee, greengrocer and butcher are all within a couple of miles. Our ice-cream supplier and main supplier are both South Wales based.

The menu is being updated fairly regularly with specials and seasonal fare on offer. The major change is the improvements to the children’s menu, and the food and drink offers we can now link into the trails in school holiday times.



Two of our fantastic team in the Dadford Tearoom

We have started to offer a discounted rate on a limited menu for Trust Volunteers.

The café opens late on Tuesdays and Thursdays during term time when the meeting room is let for Kumon tutoring.

The Centre continues to promote local crafters, and the main items for sale in the shop are supplied by them. We are also in partnership with Finlay Chivers, a local photographer who is exhibiting some photographs on the Crumlin Arm at the Centre.

Our volunteers look after the main desk and are very helpful and welcoming. We are introducing a new Zettle system to streamline the payments system and make it easier for the volunteers to use. As always we are

grateful for their time and commitment, without them running the Centre would not be viable.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme students from Coleg Gwent have started their work again, and we have seen an increase in numbers. They complained recently that there wasn’t enough litter to keep them busy!! I must say I thought that was a very nice complaint to have, and maybe we can find other sites where they can do this important work.

The “Thursday Volunteer Group” also work very hard keeping the area around the Centre clear of rubbish.

The museum has been restructured, and we gratefully took receipt of a donated mile marker which had been sitting in someone’s garden for many years.

I have kept the biggest item until last – the works improving the area around the Centre are well underway as I write this. The new footbridge has been installed, (watch a video of it by using this link <https://bit.ly/14Locks-Bridge>) and it is formally open to the public, although as I write the road is still closed because the weather and recent storms have delayed their work – hopefully it is reopened by the time you read this.



Some of our visitors at the end of the Halloween Trail

The lock gates on Lock 21 above the Centre has been removed, and hopefully the new modular gate will be replaced in the New Year. Accessibility around the pond and to the Centre has been improved and is almost complete.

The dredging and repairing of the canal is the next phase, and we are looking forward to the canal being navigable through the replaced lock gates so that we can offer trips from the Centre hopefully next year.

In the pipeline is a scheme to use the Centre and Ty Coch as an accredited training centre, but more details of that will emerge in the New Year as the plan unfolds.

As you can see the Centre is a vibrant testimony to the work of MBACT, and a commendable flagship for the Trust. A big thank you to Laura and Jodie with their staff and volunteer support which has made it all possible.

Social Evening for MBACT Volunteers, November 2023

MBACT volunteers are what keep our Trust running. MBACT Directors recently held a social evening in the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre to thank all our volunteers for the amazing work that they do.

Many thanks to Laura, Jodie and the staff of the Dadford Tearoom for an excellent buffet. Also, many thanks to Glyn for an entertaining quiz.

We also had a chance to see photos from the photo exhibition of The Crumlin Arm by Finley Chivers. The photos capture both key features, the people, and the atmosphere of the canal.



John, our Chair, thanking the volunteers at the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN MBACT VOLUNTEER?

There is an extensive list of volunteering work that we need help with and you will be able to find a role that fits your interests, experience and your available spare time. You will also have the opportunity to learn new skills in a friendly and supportive environment.

We welcome all offers of assistance if 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 administrative work remotely from your home, or simply are 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 Contact form. Alternatively scan this QR code which will also take you to the volunteering part of our website. We look forward to hearing from you.



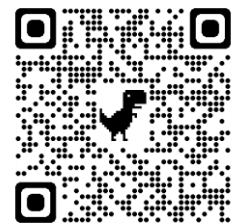
A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

We are also very 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.

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://mbact.org.uk/support-us/#membership> and select the blue button "Join us/Renew". Alternatively scan this QR code which will take you to the membership part of our website.



MBACT AGM – WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER, 5PM

This year's AGM will be held at the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre on Wednesday 29th November at 5pm. Please email membership@mbact.org.uk if you wish to join by Zoom.

BUSINESS MEMBERS

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

Our business supporters are:

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Beacon Park Boats, Llangattock

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LLANGATTOCK BOAT CLUB *Clwb Cychod Llangatwg*



Penelope's Café,
Goytre Wharf



Brecknock Boat
Services

The Lord Raglan Community Boat project has 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
Registered Office: Fourteen Locks Canal Centre, Cwm Lane, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9GN

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Membership Portal: <https://membermojo.co.uk/mbact/>