



The Batchworth Telegraph

Newsletter of the Friends, Summer 2015

**You've played spot
the ball.....
Now try spotting Mark!**



INSIDE:

**Our
Chairman
Speaks....**



**Roger at
Braunston**



Festival 2015



Photo by Greg Townsend Photography



Call 01923 778382 for more details or visit www.rwt.org.uk



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Hertfordshire, WD3 1JJ
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Chairman's Chat....

Welcome to the summer issue of Batchworth Telegraph for 2015, the twice yearly magazine from Rickmansworth Waterways Trust. We have a great article from Fabian in this issue regarding the journey of Roger to the Braunston Historic boat show which was a major expedition involving many volunteers and also excellent support from Mark. There are reports on our education programme, boats and all the hours of volunteer time that have been given to further the Trust's activities so I will leave these articles to talk to these areas and focus on our other achievements.

Financial position

We have had a second very successful Festival in a row and together with improved returns from our other activities this means for the first time in the Trust's history we are able to put aside some funds as a financial reserve. As many of you who have been long standing supporters of the Trust our financial position since our formation has been anything but stable. We have often only been kept afloat by very generous donations from individuals and major unplanned expenses have sometimes put our actual future as a charity at risk. This year the Trustees have been able to put aside funds into a strategic reserve which will be used to support projects

such as an eventual replacement for the Pride of Batchworth. This improved financial position is a significant development as it allows us to better plan our activities and be less reactive as our circumstances change.

Batchworth & Cafe@ Lock 81

You are probably aware that David and Christa, who have looked after the Cafe at Batchworth for several years, have decided to give up running the cafe. We thank them for all their support for the Trust and the community at Batchworth and hope that they enjoy their new adventure moving onto dry land (well dryish.....they do plan a move to Wales!).

Claire and Warren who took over the Cafe@Lock81 in early May have worked extremely hard to transform the area and the customer seating, cabin and the surrounding area have had a "Ground Force" style makeover. The area between the two locks has been revived with a new look for the building and very attractive planting. The transformation has already made a big difference to the footfall at Batchworth and Claire and Warren are planning other events to attract people to the area so please give them your support.

The rest of the area around

Chairman's Chat... (Continued)

Batchworth is looking very smart with work from many hours of volunteering doing painting, repairing and refurbishing the Little Union Canal, replacing brickwork and generally ensuring the whole area is clean, safe and welcoming. This is so important as the area is our "front door" and it reflects on our charity so well done to all those who have supported this work and helped make a great first impression for our visitors.

Roger's Journeys this year

Roger has been out and about with the journey to Braunston reported later but we also exhibited Roger at Canal Cavalcade in Little Venice on the early May Bank Holiday weekend. We had teams of volunteers helping with crewing Roger to and from Little Venice, running our stall and hosting visits to Roger's cabin over the weekend. The overall event was very successful and Roger even won a prize!

This is now a regular event for us and really helps raise the profile of the Trust as well as providing a good financial return from donations and sales of canal ware. We also introduced the excellent booklet and leaflet at Little Venice, both written by Fabian, covering the history and the recent conservation work on Roger. These are fantastic records of the work the Trust has completed and also provide background information on the history of the boat. If you want to know more about Roger, the work the Trust has done over the years and Roger's history I encourage you to pick one up when you are next in the lock centre.

Boat Training

Earlier this year Mark completed his training with the National Community Boat Association (NCBA) and is now a fully qualified trainer under this umbrella organisation. This significantly increases our training capability and means there is further opportunity for volunteers to receive training to achieve the Certificate in Community Boat Management (CCBM). We have several people who have the CCBM and also others who hold the RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman qualification. If you would like to take advantage of the opportunity to get this formal training in running a community boat then please contact Mark so he can schedule the appropriate time with you.

Our Events

Our second ceilidh and supper at Mill End Sports and Social Club was held on Valentine's Day and was a great success. We will be planning to hold the event again in February 2016 so watch out for further information on the exact date. We ran a stall at the Croxley Revels again this year and ran again the treasure hunt designed by Pat and Fabian. We have also run open weekends at Batchworth Lock over the summer where we have moored Roger in the Chess Lock and shown the boat and cabin. The first of these days was on

Father's day and the second was on the Saturday of the Rickmansworth Folk Festival when we also ran the Little Union Canal. These have been very successful and we are planning a further day on August 31st, the August Bank Holiday Monday and we may also plan another date later in September to be confirmed.

Volunteers

We are still occasionally short of volunteers to support our activities and so please watch out for the emails from Mark when he is looking for volunteers to help with Learning at the Lock and also from Joanna when she is looking for volunteers to help during weekends at the Lock Centre. We really need a minimum of two people to run the Lock Centre at the weekend so we can run the shop and also offer boat trips. We obviously can use two people on the boat so if you want to get further experience and help with crewing and hosting our passengers please look out for Joanna's emails. If you are not currently on the volunteer email distribution list for these please let me know and we will ensure you find out when we are looking for help.

Many thanks for all your help and support for the work of Rickmansworth Waterways Trust.

Best regards, David

Lock Centre, Boats and Volunteering

First and foremost a few stats for your digestion.

Up to the end of June the Lock Centre has been open for 176 out of a possible 181 days. Some 5637 visitors have come through the door and 820 hours have been provided by the weekday and weekend volunteers staffing the Centre.

This is a wonderful achievement by all involved.

A new storage ice cream freezer has been installed so that we can ensure our supply of delicious treats can meet demand. Both Jillian and Jenny have done wonders keeping the centre supplied with stock.

Learning at the Lock started on the 5th February and so far some 580 children have been through the programme. Almost 600 hours of volunteer time has been provided to this element of the Trust's work and once again my heartfelt thanks go to all of the presenters who make this such a wonderful and memorable school visit.

Martin Stokes has been busy getting the Little Union Canal renovated and with new lock gates, gravel and brickwork in place it is now looking fantastic.

We are however, still looking for a volunteer who could

open the facility over a few weekends in the summer. Any takers?

You will of course have to beware of the rarely seen Batchworth Gnome spotted here just before the fishing rod came out!



The Pride of Batchworth has been quite reliable although a hitch with the throttle control on a Charter left Chris Flaherty in reverse and the throttle control in bits.

However a new one was sourced quickly and normal service was resumed within 24 hours.

The persistent leak through the port side front window was investigated and rectified ensuring the boat remains dry internally.

Here's a photo of Chris praying to the great god 'Isuzu' asking for the engine to behave itself!



A welcome goes out to some new volunteers joining us, Barrie Jervis, Steve Mander, Nick Ford, Peach Beaumont, Ian Wilson and a welcome back to Jeff Osler and Peter Sloper.

The 8th April saw a number of volunteers, together with the Canal & River Trust undertake another of our Lock clear up days. Batchworth Lock and the surrounding area was painted and made presentable ready for the Festival. Although they couldn't make it, Skanska provided the Trust with a fantastic donation to our funds. Here's a picture of the cheque being handed over.

Well done to Roger Fairbairn and Graham Cooper for passing a first aid course in March.



Thanks also go to John Hawkins for undertaking some remedial brick work not only on the LU Canal but also on the flower bed along the towpath and outside the lock centre.

The area in and around Batchworth is always a hive of activity especially as both the Lock Centre and the Cafe @ Lock 81 are open on a regular basis. If you're in the area then come down and say 'Hi' it's always good to see you.

Mark



Arts and Crafts Day at Learning at the Lock

St Peter's School, Rickmansworth run an Arts and Crafts club every Friday lunchtime. Their teacher decided to reward their enthusiastic attendance by bringing them along to "Learning at the Lock" and she and Mark devised a special timetable for the day.

Thirteen children walked round to the Mill at Batchworth, boys and girls from years 3 and 4, plus one year 6 girl who was very pleased to be missing her SATs practice exam!

The morning was spent in a

history session with special attention to anything artistic. Much admired were the knitted fish and vegetables for the boatman's stew, for example! It was also a luxury for the RWT volunteers to have so few children and not feel rushed as can happen with a larger group.

After the history lesson the children went on a trip on the Pride of Batchworth which filled up the morning.

The afternoon was packed with brass rubbing, bridge building in the Mill, rag rug

making in the Canal Centre garden followed by lace plate decoration on the Pride.

Their teacher wanted them to learn about local crafts and the children loved it all. They even squeezed in a short visit to Roger's cabin, but they had to find time to paint their wooden spoons back at school.

It helped to have a beautiful day and a heron under the bridge in the garden just before they left.

We must do more bespoke programmes like this.

Festival 2015—another fantastic year!

Earlier in March this year I reported that our Festival is now so popular that within two months of opening for bookings we sold out of trading space, which we have never done before. We had to run a waiting list of people wanting to get a place to trade at the event and soon after that we also ran out of boat mooring space. If only we have the space on the site we could run an even bigger event, so it is probably good for the team's sanity that we are constrained! We have built a very successful event all down to the efforts of the whole team that work to plan and support the event by volunteering over the weekend. As you know many people work for months to ensure all our trade and boat bookings are processed correctly, all the entertainment acts are booked and all the plans to build and run the site are in place. All of you who either helped or came along to enjoy the weekend know how valued the event is by all those who attend each year to enjoy the results of our labours.

We were very lucky again with the weekend weather, however the marquee company got soaked on Thursday and on Monday installing and removing all the marquees, but the actual event was blessed by ideal weather. So whoever was putting in a few words with their deity please continue to do so for next year! I must admit I did not get much sleep on Thursday night with concerns over the ground conditions for the car park and getting the larger catering units in. However the sun and warmth on Friday meant by lunchtime the site was dry enough to get everything positioned and no

one got stuck in mud and had to be pulled out – which is a first!

Rather than quote statistics to show you how well the event went I want to again relate the words of Richard Parry, Chief Executive of the Canal and River Trust, who spoke at our opening ceremony. He stated that the Rickmansworth Festival is now the Premier Waterways event in the UK. He made this statement not on the number of boats attending, as there are other Festivals that are bigger than Rickmansworth in this regard, but of the total scope of the event. He made this statement on the basis of the magnitude and variety of everything else that is on offer for visitors over the weekend. This is a great testimony to all the work that we put in each year to bring the event together and real recognition of what we have achieved with our small team of volunteers.

Our final figures show we have raised over £35,000 to support the work of the Trust. This is a fantastic result and allows the Trustees to put aside funds to secure our education programme, for further major conservation work on Roger, or eventually replace our trip boat the Pride of Batchworth. I am always acutely aware that this financial position could have been very different if the weather had been unkind. The cost of setting up the event (nearly £40,000 in 2015) is financed partly from catering and trade sales and the other revenue we can raise in advance of the weekend. The other key element is sponsorship from key partners such as Warner Bros Studios, Carillion,

Travis Perkins, John Lewis and our long standing support from Three Rivers District Council and the team at the Aquadrome. We are exceedingly grateful for this support and without it we could not run the event and ensure we can cover all our costs before we start to collect donations. Even if it pours with rain all weekend and no-one comes to enjoy the fruits of our year's labour and make a donation we cannot risk the financial viability of the Trust. We have been incredibly fortunate and had several very good years, helped by the weather, but I can remember years in the past when we have just broken even and did not raise any funds to support our operations for the year ahead. I am sure we will get such events in the future so this finance strategy and support from our partners is essential if the event is not to put the future of the Trust in jeopardy.

Many thanks again to all of you who worked on the team or over the weekend helping run the event. We will be starting to plan for our 2016 Festival (and my 15th as Festival Director) in late September, so if you would like to join the team or know of any others who would like to get involved please let me know.

David Montague

Roger's Visit to Braunston

22nd June to 2nd July 2015

by Fabian Hiscock

The Historic Narrow boat Rally has been hosted by the Braunston Marina for over 10 years. It's the largest, but by no means the only, gathering of historic canal boats in the country, and we've had an eye on taking *Roger* for several years: it's always held over the last weekend of June, and takes 5 days each way, so we've never been able to take the boat away from the peak time for Learning at the Lock.

But last year the Trustees agreed, with Mark's support, that we would try again. There were several aims: to establish ourselves as serious owners of a serious historic boat, to see how it felt to the participants in such a high

profile event, to introduce that environment to RWT volunteers not familiar with it, and to give more of our boating volunteers a chance to get some really good experience of handling our heavy, deep-draughted boat over a distance. And we'd also give *Roger* herself a really good test.

So Mark put a pen through the LatL programme for two weeks, and we got down to some planning. I booked us in at Braunston (The Brays are held in particular regard there, and Tim Coghlan, the owner of the Marina, was delighted with the idea of having *Roger* there), and Mark Saxon put together the crewing list and the transport

plan, which involved the Montague's 7-seat SEAT being insured for him to drive it. Various other preparations were needed and we set off as planned at 9 on Monday 22nd.

The schedule for each day was unequal: three long days to start, a shorter day to provide some slack in case of delays, then a final few hours to get to Braunston at about mid-day on Friday to allow time to settle in to "display" mode - Pat had already removed many of the cabin fittings and furnishings to be cleaned at home, and repositioning them was just one of the tasks we expected.

During Monday we were in



*Roger being crewed by
Joanna Watts and
David Whittaker on
route to Braunston*

very familiar water as we went up to Berkhamsted. Mark joined Kay Fearn and Jillian Christensen, and did the lion's share of the lock wheeling, so vital to keep up the rate of progress (we now have a lock-wheeling bike for Roger, which I recovered from a neighbour's skip). We had no real problems, and stopped right outside the Crystal Palace pub (no, really, it was a fluke, honest) in Berkhamsted at 6 – 9 hours' boating. Pat picked up Jillian, Kay and Mark, and I stayed on board overnight to progress some cleaning and "sorting".

On Tuesday, Mark drove Joanna Watts and Martin Stokes to join me, and Martin's brother Michael came independently. We set off at 0830 (Mark returned to base), and made good progress up to Cowroast without problems. I hoped to get a can of grease, a smart chimney chain and a couple of other things at the marina there, but only managed the grease (so romantic, boating); but we were able to use their staff loo, which was helpful, and we went on to Bulbourne – a quick visit to Jem Bates's team in the dry dock, and on down the flight in good order.

Until the bottom lock! There were as usual a number of boats moored in that long and slightly shallow pound, and I cut one bend a bit tight.

It took us over half an hour, with some running-down of water and strategic use of one of our scaffold planks with the help of nearby boaters, to get off (note: don't let them just pull a wooden boat off sideways – the tinsplate chine guard won't like it). But we were soon finishing off the flight, having lost an hour on what was otherwise a well-running schedule, and went on to Leighton Buzzard, where we arrived an hour later than planned but ready to be picked up by Mark.

So far so good. Next day Ian Wilson, Roger Fairbairn and David Whittaker formed an experienced crew, leaving Batchworth at 7 and setting off at 0815. Shallow water between Leighton Lock and Stoke Hammond made the boat quite reluctant to turn on several bends, and they were aground several times; but undaunted they pressed on, and got to Stoke Bruerne bottom lock at 1915. Time for a drink at the Navigation before Mark took them back, weary but satisfied, to return on the Thursday, 25th June. Ian Wilson again as captain, with David Whittaker, Jillian Christensen, Joanna Watts and Kay Fearn, went on up the flight and through Blisworth tunnel without incident, Ian's lighting scheme for the tunnel working pretty well. There was the occasional reminder that

Roger doesn't turn well in shallow water, and a stop to use the facilities at Gayton Junction which allowed me, having materialised from our own boat nearby, to spend 20 minutes practising backing down onto a boat already on the mooring; but the rest of the afternoon went well enough, and they got to the pound just below Whilton Top Lock at 1700, although the water depth required breasting up.

That left only a few hours across the summit and through Braunston tunnel next day, Friday, and to come down the flight to Braunston. That was expected to take several hours, with many boats in each direction, but with the C&RT volunteer lock keepers and helpful traffic flows it only took an hour: so *Roger* arrived at 1130, and was safe on the allocated mooring by 1230, just as I arrived to set up during the afternoon. Mark arrived after much "Friday afternoon hassle" on the motorway, and the crew departed just after 3 – a good job well done! I, joined by Pat, then had a happy afternoon setting up the boat to be on show, with the brass cleaned and the decorative ropework rigged at the fore-end. By 1830 we were (roughly) ready, on the towpath between the other boats "open to visitors" – *Raymond* ahead with *Nutfield*, *Brighton*



*Roger and Raymond in
the marina –
a picture not possible
since October 1968.
(Lynn Bassett)*



with *Nuneaton* of the Narrow Boat Trust astern. On a fine afternoon we withdrew.

On the first day of the rally, Saturday 27th June, I arrived at 9, just ahead of the crew from Rickmansworth (David Montague, Jillian, Ian Wilson and Roger Fairbairn) to find that the plan agreed for parading with *Raymond* had been changed by Friends of Raymond in view of the weather forecast for Sunday – and we were off at 10! So we stopped setting up for the day and got ready for the parade. It turned out that a

condition of *Raymond's* insurance is that she is towed only by one of their skippers, which was a bit annoying but probably as well, since this was the first parade we'd been in. Various boats around us moved away to join the parade as well, and *Roger* took up the tow of *Raymond* for the first time since October 1968.

The Parade is, for good reasons, a well-respected shambles, and we all made our way in a queue rather than a parade at ½ mph down to the junction. There

we winded, with the butty being pushed backwards by the motor while Alice Lapworth steering the butty shafted the stern round – this manoeuvre, of course, is one of the reasons for the queue! We then “processed” back to the marina entrance, which we entered (now definitely Parading) in fine style.

At the turn inside the marina our on-loan steerer found that *Roger* is a much heavier boat than *Nutfield*, *Raymond's* usual partner – but we shafted round, and queued our way out of the



marina and back to our mooring at 1330. Then we took up the “on show” role, and were visited by about 50 people during the rest of the afternoon.

The show began to close a little after 1700, so we packed up progressively and prepared to return. One feature of Braunston, of course, is the number of people who want to talk about “boats”, and ours in particular – so even shutting

the shop took a little time!

But Pat and I were back at about 9 next day, which was as forecast wet but clearing. So we got set up, and were joined by a pretty mob-handed RWT “crew” – the Montagues, the Barzilays, Joanna Watts, Jillian once again (what a performance by her this all was), the Patersons, Chris Burrige – and John Hawkins dropped in as well, along with other old friends like Lynn and Phil

Bassett. We didn’t try to “parade”, but I started off by fixing an annoying leak on the fuel tank supply line, and finished with a chimney chain and a new oil lamp (with properly fitting glass) for the cabin. And we were visited by over 50 people, in addition to those who just peer in and “take interest” – very good, considering the dampness of the day and the fact that most of those attending have a boating background of some sort.



*After the Show - The boats together
(Pat Hiscock)*

So again we packed up at about 5 as the show closed, and began to prepare for the return. That included joining *Raymond* and *Nutfield* for a photo-shoot stage-managed by the Friends of Raymond under the towpath bridge: that alone took over an hour, but it did end up with us turned and ready to move off.

And so on Monday 29th June I came back at about 0830 to get going. We started by taking 100 litres of fuel from Mike Askin in *Victoria*, and once again Mark delivered

the crew at 9 – “Peach” Beaumont, David Montague, Chris Burrige and Jillian, still keen after her efforts the previous week. We set off at 0930 and went up the locks with a single-handing New Zealander – very well at first, but held up a bit as we moved up. But Jillian steered us through the tunnel (quite a challenge, even with the improved lights we had by now rigged), and we got to Whilton top lock at 1200. A queue then formed going down, and we didn’t get to

the bottom until 1430: then we made rather slow progress to Gayton junction, with a couple of minor mishaps on the way but safely enough in the end. We moored at the end of the Northampton arm at 1830 and came home in my car, which had been left with our own boat at the marina nearby.

The next day it was David Montague’s birthday, and Cas came to enjoy it with him, with Peach, John Hawkins and Jillian. Setting off at

about 0830 once again they met no boats in Blisworth Tunnel (unheard of), then paired with another boat to go quickly down Stoke Bruerne flight.

At Cosgrove they came up with Jan Knox in *Storm* setting off from the water point, but generally met few other boats all day – perhaps due to the heat? That was certainly one of the factors in stopping early, tried and hot, at the Black Horse at 1600 – just time for a drink before heading home with Mark. On Wednesday, leaving at 0820 with Roger Fairbairn, David Montague, Chris Burridge, Jeff Osler and Chris Noctor, they had real problems with the depth of water, and probably lost an hour's time because of it. But they persevered to 1900 just above Seabrook, and met Mark for yet another drink (anyone see a pattern developing here?) before coming home.

The Thursday had Jeff Osler, Chris Burridge and Jillian with David Montague once again – an experienced crew developing here. They left at 8, got to Marsworth Top Lock just after 10 with few boats moving, and crossed the summit with some rain beginning to show. They paused at Cowroast Marina to try unsuccessfully to replace fraying ropes, and kept on down the descent from Cow Roast to get to Red Lion Lock (Nash Mills) by

1800. The log doesn't record whether they went for a drink.... (yes we did, David!).

Friday 3rd July was the last day, and a short one. Jillian, Peach Beaumont and Jeff Osler joined David Montague and were moving not long after 0730, making good progress with a good "road" (locks already set for them) through King's Langley and Cassiobury Park. I joined in at Common Moor (nothing like timing these things well), and we began the pack-up before getting back to the mooring at Batchworth at 1240.

And so we ended *Roger's* longest trip for about 30 years. Did we achieve the aims? Yes, I think we did. Was it worth it? Yes, I'd say it was. Did we learn anything? Oh, yes - mainly about what we don't, as a group, know, or know well enough, about boating a heavy boat like *Roger*. But we got there and back without a major mishap, and have given ourselves the basis on which to build, over a period, the further experience we need to do such a trip in style. We also need to study the heritage rather better, and understand why, in a historic boat, things are done as they are. But that's for the next few months: we now know what we have to do, and can get ready to do it.

Will we go again? I hope so – but not every year. The Rally

features the Blue Line Fleet, which included *Roger*, every fourth year, and the next occasion is – next year! That has those boats moored in the "prime location" in the Arm, and also being at the head of the Parade rather than in the queue. So there's a good reason to go in 2016, but perhaps not again for a while. But there are several organisational lessons that we want to learn, in particular how we best move people to change the crew without one person doing all the driving (and then not even getting to the show itself – real devotion to duty by Mark). The Trustees will decide over the next few months.

And perhaps we'll write it all up again next year!





Spot the celebrity!

*Roger and Raymond
returning from the
Parade*



*Where's our mooring
gone!*

THE KAY MENDELSSOHN MEMORIAL CUP

Kay Mendelssohn was the Chairman of the Rickmansworth Society for 44 years until her death in 2005. It was subsequently agreed to commemorate her services to the local community in the form of a cup to be awarded annually for services to the community of Rickmansworth, for which all organizations, groups or individuals in the community would be eligible (the only exception for obvious reasons being members of the Society's Executive Committee).

The first recipient of the cup, in 2007, was Mike Purdy, the former Chairman of the Rickmansworth Chamber of Business and former

proprietor of the Serves U Rite shop in the High Street.

Amongst more recent awards that in 2012 was to Brian Morgan, the then Chairman of the Rickmansworth Waterways Trust and President of the Rickmansworth and District Residents' Association.

As the Treasurer of the Rickmansworth Society since 1986 and as a Trustee of the RWT it is my double pleasure to record the congratulations of both parties on the unanimous decision of the Society's Executive Committee to award the cup this year to the present RWT Chairman and Festival Director, David Montague, for all his work in

both connexions, which needs no elaboration here.

The cup was presented to David at the Society A.G.M. by Chairman of Three Rivers District Council Chris Lloyd on the 25th March, as seen in the accompanying photograph by Les Mead, and will be his until the 2016 A.G.M.

Once again, well done David, for with out your drive and achievements (while holding down a responsible full-time job, it must be added) the Trust as a whole and the Festival in particular would be immeasurably the poorer.

Peter Waters



Rickmansworth Waterways Trust and the Stratford to Stratford Project

Twenty six performing arts and media students from Chobham Academy School in Stratford East London, have spent eight days navigating the Grand Union Canal in a convoy of 5 narrow boats, starting from their school and finishing at Stratford-Upon-Avon. Along the way, in various different locations, they rehearsed a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which they performed at Stratford-Upon-Avon on the 4/5th July.

The project, a partnership between the Canal & River Trust's "Arts on the Waterways" programme, The Rubbish Shakespeare Company and the Academy School, aimed to create an exciting arts project for young people to give them an opportunity to explore the canals, explore Shakespeare and to develop their confidence and skills.

On Monday 29th June, the youngsters aged 16 to 19 years, together with two

teachers and four members of the Shakespeare company stopped off at Batchworth and joined Pam Paterson and Jenny Barzilay, Trustees of RWT, for a creative and interactive "history lesson" about life and work in past times on the canals. The aim was to enable young people to set the production in those times and



integrate their learning into the adaptation of the play as well as learning about canals, why they were built and what life was like for those who lived and worked on the canals in the past.

The group were fascinated by the input, enthralled in the stories of life on the canals, they dressed up in period clothes, handled and photographed the wide range of artefacts on display, took part in a range of activities adapted from the "Learning at the Lock" programme, interacted with each other and asked many questions, clearly very engaged in the short programme, prior to getting on with their rehearsals for the big stage!

A great time was had by all and there is no doubt that this was a very creative way to introduce young people who had never had any experience of the canals, their history, why they were built and what they were used for, the canal environment and all they have to offer. A very worthwhile activity and one the Trust was delighted to be involved with.

Jenny Barzilay

Fund Raising

You can use the Internet to raise funds for RWT without any cost to yourself. We have an account at the fundraising website www.everyclick.com. This is a Search Engine which takes a small commission from every mouse click made to search for another internet presence, and distributes that commission to the good causes declared to it by those who use it. Our page is at —

<http://www.everyclick.com/rickmansworth-waterways-trust-limited/ct22131>.

If you go to that page you can set it up easily as your "home page", and never have to make a conscious decision about it! You can also make (or get others to make) donations so please sign up to the everyclick page, it costs nothing.

We can also use The Giving Machine — www.thegivingmachine.com. This works by taking in, and then handing out the commission from online purchases made through the Giving Machine website. If you use the internet for shopping do try to go through these free facilities.



Upcoming Events

Monday 31st August 2015 - Open day at Batchworth

Saturday 12th December (TBC) - Batchworth Carol Concert

Planning to hold our annual Ceilidh on a Saturday evening February 2016 at Mill End Sports and Social Club with a licensed bar.

Saturday and Sunday 21st and 22nd May 2016 - The Rickmansworth Festival

Saturday and Sunday 20th and 21st May 2017 - The Rickmansworth Festival

Please refer to rwt.org.uk

Batchworth Lock Canal Centre
99 Church Street,
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire, WD3 1JD
T: 01923 778382

www.rwt.org.uk

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