



The Batchworth Telegraph

Newsletter of the Friends, Summer 2017

RWT Awarded!



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

INSIDE:

Our
Chairman
Speaks...



New
Education
Centre



Clean up
Days



Festival
2017



Charter
season!



Roger
aground



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



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RWT is a Company Limited by Guarantee
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Chairman's Chat...



Welcome to the Summer 2017
Batchworth Telegraph, the twice
yearly magazine from
Rickmansworth Waterways Trust,
and what a year it has been so far!

As I reported in the last issue, the
year 2017 is the 25th anniversary
since the formation of our charity.
We had been scratching our heads
about how we could celebrate this
milestone, but I can think of no
better recognition of all the work
our volunteers have given to
Rickmansworth Waterways Trust
since its formation than to receive
the Queen's Award for Voluntary
Service.



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The MBE for volunteer groups

This is a tremendous achievement
and one that everyone who has
worked for the Trust can take pride
in. It also helps with our recognition
as a charity and hopefully means
that others will want to work with
us and be part of our successful
organisation. There is more about
the award and actual presentation
ceremony later in this issue.

Since losing the classroom at the
Mill in April 2016 we have not stood
still. We have just gained planning
permission for our new education
facility and confirmed the decision
to go ahead with the building –
again, more later in this issue. We
also have welcomed Rob Moore,
who was previously head of History
at St Martin's School, as our new
Education Programme Manager.
Rob has come up to speed very
quickly and Learning at the Lock
continues to run successfully from
Room 1 in St Mary's Church Hall.
You can read more from Rob later
in this issue, but by the middle of
July we will have already completed
22 school visits this year. Special
thanks to Mark for helping bring
Rob on board quickly and also to



everyone else who has made Rob feel welcome and supported the programme with their time this year. I always take time to talk to the teachers at any session I am helping at and always hear it is the professional enthusiasm of the volunteers and the course leader that makes Learning at the Lock a unique and very special visit on their schedule.

So far in 2017 we have also: run another very successful Festival; we have kept the Lock Centre manned and provided hundreds of visitors with short trips or longer charters on the Pride of Batchworth; we have taken Roger to Little Venice to showcase the boat and our work as a charity; we have given many hours of volunteer time to keep the area around Batchworth Lock welcoming for visitors; we will have run our treasure hunt and stall at the Croxley Revels and later in July Roger will also be making the journey up to Jem Bates workshop for further conservation work on the cabin so there will be further boating opportunities around this journey.

These are just a few of the things all our volunteers have made possible so far this year. We are now in our busiest time of year at

the moment with a continual stream of people coming to Batchworth to enjoy the canal. Keeping the ice cream stocked is a challenge for Jillian, especially as it is so hot while I write this, but a very nice one to have as it is a very good revenue earner for the Lock Centre!

Thank you for your continued support of all that we do. We will have regular updates via our website newsletter system as we continue through the year, especially around our fundraising for the new Education Centre. Please take the time to read these as this is the best way of keeping you up to date with everything that is going on, and at the moment there is a lot!

Looking forward to a successful summer, and I hope to see as many of you as possible at Batchworth on August 17th when our Queen's Award for Voluntary Service will be presented.

Best regards,

David

Don't ignore it, report it!



Emergency Hotline

If you see:

- Damage or danger to the natural environment
- Pollution
- Poaching
- Risks to wildlife
- Fish in distress
- Illegal dumping of hazardous waste
- Flooding incidents

**Ring
0800 80 70 60**

Call free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This number is for emergencies only, not for general enquiries. Prompt action can help the environment.

Rickmansworth Waterways Trust Awarded!

The volunteers of Rickmansworth Waterways Trust are recognised for their outstanding contribution to their local community

We were delighted to announce on June 2nd 2017 that the Rickmansworth Waterways Trust had been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of the work our charity does in the community.

Our nomination was made by the previous leader of Three Rivers District Council, Cllr Andrew Scarth, and we made it through the initial selection and on to the assessment process. We had an assessment visit in October 2016 from David Cansdale and Stuart Nagler, Deputy Lieutenants for Hertfordshire, who looked at all that our volunteers achieve. They were able to attend on a day when we had a "Learning at the Lock" visit. They were therefore able to see the dedication and engagement of our volunteers, the enjoyment of the children and praise of their teachers and helpers as they went through the day's activities. Learning at the Lock however was just one aspect they looked at in detail.

They looked at the way our charity was organised, set up and administered to enable us to achieve all that we do. They looked at how we run our operation at Batchworth, how we engage with the public,

provide the services we do and how we maintain and run our boats. They looked at the impact we have in our community in terms of the scale and success of the Rickmansworth Festival. After their visit, where they spent several hours talking about all these areas, we provided a lot of documentation as evidence to support the requirements of our nomination being progressed. Earlier this year we found out we were one of about 10 organisations in Hertfordshire that had been assessed and had made it through to the final stages. All the information collected by our assessors was sent to the National Award Committee and this committee makes recommendations to the Cabinet Office, which then sends a final list to the Queen for her approval. In early May we were delighted to hear that we were just one of five charities in Hertfordshire to receive the award this year. We then had to keep the news very quiet until the winners were announced nationally on 2nd June; otherwise we risked losing the award!

This is a tremendous accolade for the Trust. The award is all about volunteering and so it reflects on all the volunteers who have worked since our foundation over 25 years



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

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ago who have developed and improved all that we do. Very well done to all of you!

We have had confirmation that Richard Beazley, the Vice Lord-Lieutenant for Hertfordshire, will come to **Batchworth Lock** at **2.00pm** on **Thursday 17th August** to **present our Queens Award for Voluntary Service**. We hope to get as many of our volunteers, both past and present, along to help celebrate and we will have a drinks reception in the Lock Centre garden by the river Chess at Batchworth after the presentation. I will be sending out a separate invitation to all our volunteers and partners, but if you miss that message hopefully you will see this and be able to come along. **Please RSVP to david.montague@btinternet.com** so we have an idea of numbers attending. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Mark Reports

would just like to take this opportunity at the beginning of my piece to say a big well done and thank you to all the volunteers who have provided their time in keeping the Lock Centre, the Boats and Batchworth in such good condition. As a group, we should be proud of all our achievements, and the winning of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is well deserved.

I would like to welcome Roy Rosenthal, Marie Gillen and Ben Tomlinson as new volunteers and welcome back Monica Gilmour who is covering some Saturday mornings in the Lock Centre.

The lock centre has been staffed for all bar one day and over 5,000 visitors have been recorded as coming through the doors. This does not include those just using the loo! Almost 900 volunteer hours have been recorded in keeping the lock centre running and my thanks go to everyone for this amazing record. I am delighted to say that we now have cover for most Saturday mornings, but we can still do with some more resilience at weekends when the shop and boat rides appear to be at their busiest.

If you fancy giving the lock centre a go then please just let me know and we can get you trained up. It's a real sense of achievement knowing the price of all the ice creams off by heart!

At this point in time we seem to have taken a great deal more money through the till than at this point last year, and this must be in part to the continued fact that we are open for seven days a week.

The Pride of Batchworth continues to be a major income asset to the Trust with regular maintenance helping to keep it running. The boat is being used particularly hard at the moment



for ferry trips, Learning at the Lock and Charters and everyone associated with the Pride needs to ensure that it's treated carefully for a boat of its age.

I am delighted that we are recruiting new volunteers who wish to learn how to skipper the boat and this increases our capabilities to run a better service for our visitors.

The 'Roger' is being used more and our trips to Cavalcade and later on to Marsworth provide an excellent opportunity to get some unique boating experiences.

We had a very wet pre-Festival clear up day, but nevertheless the lovely volunteers from Vocalink came along and helped us get the area between Batchworth and Stockers Lock looking great. We also had 15 older pupils from St Martin's School come along on the 8th June and they collected six bags of rubbish from the towpath between Lot Mead and Stockers. They also had a go at painting the bollards around Batchworth and Chess Lock. All this

work, combined with our regular Friday maintenance, ensures that the area keeps on looking inviting and welcoming for anyone walking the towpath.

The Canal & River Trust (C&RT) have supported us on these clear up days by providing the tools and paint. My thanks go to Lucy and Ian from C&RT for their continued support of our activities.

We are a small charity, but we have a big presence in Batchworth and the wider Rickmansworth community. Our ability to host volunteer work days and events such as the 'Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways'; help during Rickmansworth Week, Morris Dancing at the Lock (Wed 12th July at 7.30pm) and Rickmansworth Folk Festival (Saturday 22nd July) and our stewarding of the Christmas evening shows our strength in depth. Long may that continue and expand.

Rob Reports

Retirement is a wonderful state to achieve: long hours of freedom stretch out in front of you as you have escaped the daily grind. Well, that is fine for the first few weeks, but after a while those long hours begin to drag, and you feel that you need to do something useful. The best plan is to find an activity that is not too taxing, something worthwhile and, above all, something that you will enjoy. This is where Learning at the Lock came in for me.

The school I worked in had always visited Batchworth Lock and one teacher mentioned that volunteers were needed. I went on to the website and found the contact details, as I had done with other organisations too. The great thing about this enquiry was that I had a quick reply and I was soon being interviewed and finally given a role in the school visits, while other organisations were still not responding to my initial enquiry. My first role was to work with another volunteer to explain about the working of a lock. As I was a typical teacher, I have seen diagrams about how a lock works, shown videos to children and generally bluffed my way to give explanations about these technological devices. The only thing I lacked was any practical experience in operating the said device. Luckily my colleague was well prepared with a 'windlass' and a ready knowledge of which 'paddles' to open and which side of the 'beam' that the children should be on to either open or close the gates. I was not too sure about the relevancy of the 1,000 bath-loads of water, but statistics seem to fill all areas of our modern existence.

The next stage of my development was to respond to an open invitation to the Coffee Morning in November, which I felt a little cheeky for me to



attend, as I had only been a volunteer for a short time. I soon suddenly became aware that I was being surrounded by a group of people – to begin with I thought they had come to check out the rather large cake that I had ordered once I felt I was part of this group. No, it was not the cake – I was being asked to take on the role of Education Programme Manager. Well, I had heard that the post was being advertised, but I had not thought about applying myself, but a free cake and coffee softens the thought process, and soon the idea seemed like a good one.

The first work experience was in the shared office in Rickmansworth. My predecessor, Mark, went through the procedure for booking in the schools for Learning at the Lock, which took about an hour. After this Mark said that I had received an hour's longer training than he had had. I felt reasonably confident and waited for my next booking. The wait went on for several weeks, but there were some minor enquiries to deal with from the schools that were already booked in, as well as some practical guidance, again from Mark, on how to open 'Roger', find the life jackets and prepare the classroom at St Mary's. All of these daunting tasks are part of a routine when

preparing for a Learning at the Lock visit.

The new role has come at an exciting time. The Rickmansworth Waterways Trust is financing a new classroom and there have been new developments in the requirements for GCSE History. I am hoping to move the education programme into the older age group, which will extend the visit season further. My previous school St Martin's has also become involved in the Trust by adopting our learning programme as their charity, and we have been able to offer them a taste of the new secondary programme and give the pupils at the school a chance to do some voluntary work.

I can finish by saying a big 'thank you' to all the volunteers who have given support to me as the manager, with humour, willingness and teamwork. I also say 'thank you' to Mark, who must dread the 'Hi Mark' texts, emails and voicemails that I send him. The sun has shone on all our visits so far this summer – so I hope this is a sign for the future, too.

Best wishes,

Rob Moore

Education Programme Manager

Clean up Days at Batchworth

We have had many volunteers helping out at Batchworth this spring working with Mark to keep the area we have adopted looking clean, tidy and inviting for visitors.

Back in January Mark and Paul Kendall filled four large bags full of litter – I just keep wondering where it all comes from and thinking just how many people do not care for their environment!



As well as many of our own volunteers a large number of people from other organisations came along

to help us.

On Wednesday 18th May we had a large number of staff volunteering with us from Vocalink in Rickmansworth. Despite the very wet weather they worked hard to prepare the site ready for the Festival the following weekend.

We have also had local school children volunteer such as pupils from Rob Moore's previous school, St Martin's. Below are a few boys from the school who came along to Batchworth Lock to help litter pick and paint on Thursday 8th June. They contributed 45 hours of volunteer time litter picking between Lot Mead and Stockers Lock collecting six bags of rubbish, painting the bollards on both Batchworth and Chess Lock and painting and removing graffiti under Batchworth Bridge. Well done – it certainly looks like they enjoyed it!



To finish we have a caption competition. Firstly what is Marie

trying to do? Could she be tickling crayfish..... Secondly what has Mark done to Simon?! Answers on a postcard!



Many thanks for all your efforts to keep the area we have adopted clean. Our visitors really appreciate all your hard work.

Thoughts from a Newbie

It was just over a year ago that I found myself at Batchworth lock with a view to taking a few

promotional pictures featuring a musician friend of mine for his new album cover. Somehow or other I got talking to this Mark bloke and the next thing I knew, I was all signed up and being trained toward my Royal Yachting Association qualification as a volunteer skipper. How did that happen?

A year on and I can say that it is one of the nicest and most pleasant

things I have done, made even better by an equally great set of people who involve themselves in all manner of voluntary tasks for this great award winning charity.

Helping preserve a piece of English Heritage is very important to me and to do so with a group of genuine and welcoming people is a privilege.

Nick Dower

New Education Centre: Building

Just after the Festival, on 25th May, I attended the planning meeting at Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) where our application for a new education facility at Batchworth was approved. After sitting through over an hour of discussions on the new hotel and smaller builder's yard on the Travis Perkins site, our application, which was seventh on the list, went through in about five minutes with universal support from the councillors for our plans. However it has taken a lot of work and been a long process to get to this milestone!

The initial plans, which we shared some details of in the last Batchworth Telegraph, did attract some concern from the Canal & River Trust (C&RT). As a result of their initial feedback our architect drew up a further design for the building and then we met again with their team at Milton Keynes. Their key concern was that the building fitted in with the heritage architecture at Batchworth and they either wanted a very striking modern design or a traditional brick building sympathetic to its neighbours. We therefore simplified the building to a single rectangular design, rather than an L shape as originally proposed, and set it back slightly so the

perspective of the building complemented that of the existing buildings by the lock. The style remained the same with a synthetic slate roof and a white finish to the timber. The outcome of the meeting with C&RT to review this design was that they agreed the new proposal would work well in the area and so we gained their support for our application.

Our next challenge was to address questions from the Environment Agency regarding provision of appropriate mitigation on flood risk. This required our architect to do a significant update to our Flood Risk assessment and after review and discussion they agreed that they would remove any objection to the building at Batchworth. We also had to withdraw our application and resubmit to show our plans with the correct boundaries with respect to the adjoining buildings. All this work did delay us slightly, but it was very worthwhile as it has led to this successful approval.

At our Trustee meeting held on the 1st of June we took the formal decision to proceed with a building rather than a floating classroom. This was always our plan as we did not know if there would be any

constraints around a building that would mean a boat was a better option. Below are a few of the pictures showing the final design and interior layout. We obtained planning permission for the largest building we could fit onto the site that met our requirements. This design was based on working with C&RT on their plans to include a Discovery Centre in the foyer of the building and this is dependent on them helping raise a proportion of the funds required. If these plans do not come to fruition then we may have a slightly smaller building but we are very confident this collaboration will succeed.

We now move into the next stage of the project which is to complete the detailed building plans so we can get more exact quotes from contractors and, in parallel, complete our fundraising. We are making good progress—see opposite for another article on where we are with raising the money we need and also ideas of how you can help. We hope to be building in 2018 and, if at all possible, have the building complete by the end of next year. An ambitious target but one I am sure we all want to help succeed.



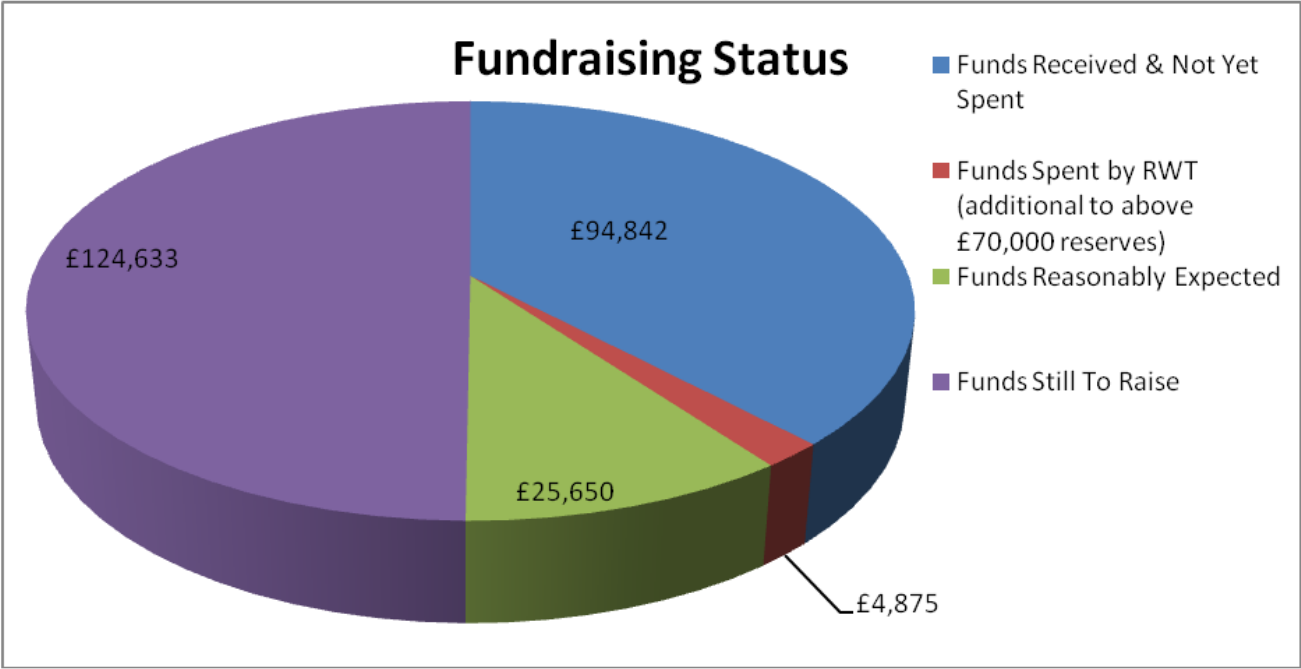
Plans and Fundraising Drive

This is the largest project that the Trust has ever undertaken in its history and our largest until this point in time was the restoration of Roger. We are naturally very concerned about our ability as a small charity to raise the amount of money needed

to allow the building to be completed.

Our initial estimates of the total build cost, including planning and architect fees, are about £250,000 and this figure will possibly change as we get

further detailed quotes from contractors. This seems an unachievable amount however we are already making very good progress towards this target. The diagram below shows where we are as of today with our fundraising.



We have already committed £70,000 from our reserves to the building and spent £5,000 on drawing up the initial plans and obtaining planning permission. We have been able to commit this amount from reserves as we have had several very successful festivals. We have also already had some very generous donations from individuals and other organisations amounting to about £25,000. This makes nearly £100,000 we have spent or have available to spend.

In the funds "reasonably expected" category we have had a capital grant from TRDC which we will call in once we start building. We also have gift aid to receive on some of the other donations and Rob Moore's old school, St Martin's, have nominated us as their charity for this school year and are making great progress raising funds for the building. These funds together with what we already have mean we are just over half way to our target.

We have several other applications in progress and also a detailed list of other organisations to approach to apply for funding, and the fundraising team is working hard to bring in the remaining funds. Many grant awarding bodies want to see plans for any building approved and also for the applicant to have a significant sum already raised before they will consider an application. Therefore we have now reached the point where we can apply to more organisations with this type of constraint.

We are also launching a sponsorship scheme whereby for a minimum of £10 anyone can buy a share in a log for the building. If you are a UK tax payer we can also claim back the gift aid so a £10 share is worth £12.50 towards the building; if you would like to help in this way please get in touch. Kay Fearn, our treasurer, is also in the process of setting up a separate bank account so we can keep all the building funds separate from our existing account. Once this

is done I will issue a newsletter with instructions on how to make a donation direct to this account and record your details so we can credit your donation and claim the gift aid.

If you have any other ideas of how we can raise funds to reach our target please pass them on. Pam Paterson is already working on an idea for a charity event at Batchworth Lock and we have booked 10th Feb 2018 for a further Ceilidh to help with fundraising so although the date is a long way away please put make a note in your diaries.

I hope by the next issue to be able to report significant progress towards our target and where we are with actually starting the build!

David



Rickmansworth Festival 2017

Our 24th Rickmansworth Festival proved as popular as ever with the sun shining on Sunday and 1,000's of people attending. We had a few showers Saturday but the weather was glorious on Sunday. However Steve Mander and myself got extremely wet on the Wednesday before when setting up the site when it seemed all of the missing spring rain arrived in one day! We went to the White Bear for a break for lunch to dry out a little and they had to get the mop out to dry the floor as we left a large pool of water where we were standing at the bar!

We again had waiting lists for both trading space and boat moorings within just a few months of opening the booking process. Many thanks are due to Janet Billing and Rachel Jacobs who took on the onerous task of managing the trade and boat bookings for the first time this year. We will be having a debrief meeting later in July to catch up with all the team and look to how we can improve as we plan next year's event.

We continued with the improvements to our collection gates implemented last year and we collected over £25,000 in donations from members of the public. Many people are very generous, however some still think that the event should be free and refuse to give even a small donation. This is absolutely their right as we cannot charge admission but we did have one driver in the Stockers Farm car park who drove their car at our car park team because they did not want to pay £3 to park for the day. The members of Chess Valley Rugby club were so shocked and too busy diving out of the way that they did not get the car number plate before they disappeared into the field! We make a charge to cover the costs of paying the farm to use the field, to make a donation to Chess Valley Rugby Club and also to pay for AA signs and donation stickers. Fortunately incidents like this are very much in the minority and the community really appreciate what we achieve.

We had comments from several of the new traders as they left the site saying how much they had enjoyed it and wanted to come back next year. Many commented on how well it was organised, how helpful

everyone was and particularly complemented us on how we kept the site clear of rubbish and litter by comparison with other venues. Many sites start looking pristine but then it goes rapidly downhill over the weekend. We had positive comments after the event on Facebook when a local dog walker commented on how clean the Aquadrome looked later on Monday after we had finished clearing the site – it looked like there had never been a festival! I am sure the Waterway Recovery Group and our other volunteers picked up rubbish that has been hidden in the longer grass for a while!

Our final figures show we have again raised over £35,000 to support the work of the Trust. As you know this is very important as it allows us to commit funds from our reserves to support our new education building for Learning at the Lock. You will have read more about this on pages six and seven.

We again attracted new sponsors to the event and were very grateful to Hosted-IT and Lookers for their contributions this year. Steve Mander displayed a large number of banners from many local companies

who wanted to see their brand associated with the event and we continue to be supported by Carillion and Travis Perkins with the site infrastructure build, clear up and equipment.

Three Rivers District Council's team at the Aquadrome worked hard in the run up to the event to prepare the site for us and were a pleasure to work with as usual.

Thank you to all of you who volunteered over the weekend to help run the festival and collect donations. I know this weekend stretches us to the limit as a small charity, and without all your efforts we would not be able to succeed.

You have such an impact in all areas of the event and you have the ability to influence how our charity is seen by the thousands of local residents who visit us over the weekend. We know many people, having come to the Festival, come back and visit Batchworth Lock throughout the year so your friendly and professional approach makes a real difference when people have their first contact with RWT. So when answering the questions from all our visitors smile and provide the information they need never mind how odd some of the requests are – yes the advertised half hour boat trip really does take 30 minutes...

If you would like to get involved in the overall organisation then do get

back to me as it is important to bring in new blood into the Festival Team so we can ensure the long term future of the event. We will be starting to plan for our 2018 Festival, which will be the 25th anniversary event, 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

It is the Charter Season!

At this time of year those of you who are qualified to skipper and crew the Pride of Batchworth are getting many email requests to help with Charters from Jillian, who runs the booking process and organises all the crews. This is a very significant source of revenue for the Trust and many thanks to Jillian for continuing to manage quite a challenging role.

We are getting very popular for this type of boat charter as there are very few organisations in the area who can offer what we do. Visitors come from quite a distance to enjoy a few pleasant hours in our company on the canal, to celebrate a special occasion or to just spend time with friends. Please watch out for emails from Jillian as I know she is challenged occasionally with last minute requests for trips and offer your help if you can.

Also if you have some boating experience, or want to gain some, or want to get a formal qualification

which would allow you to go onto our list of qualified crew please do get in touch. Mark is a fully qualified trainer for the National Community Boating Association (NCBA) and can train and assess people for the Certificate in Community Boat Management (CCBM).

We get tremendous feedback from our guests who really appreciate the friendly and professional crew who make their day. It is also a very enjoyable way to spend a few hours doing some boating.



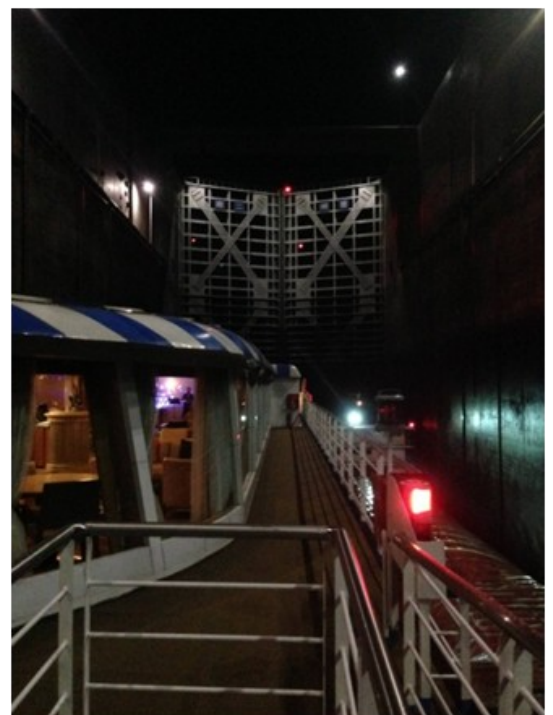
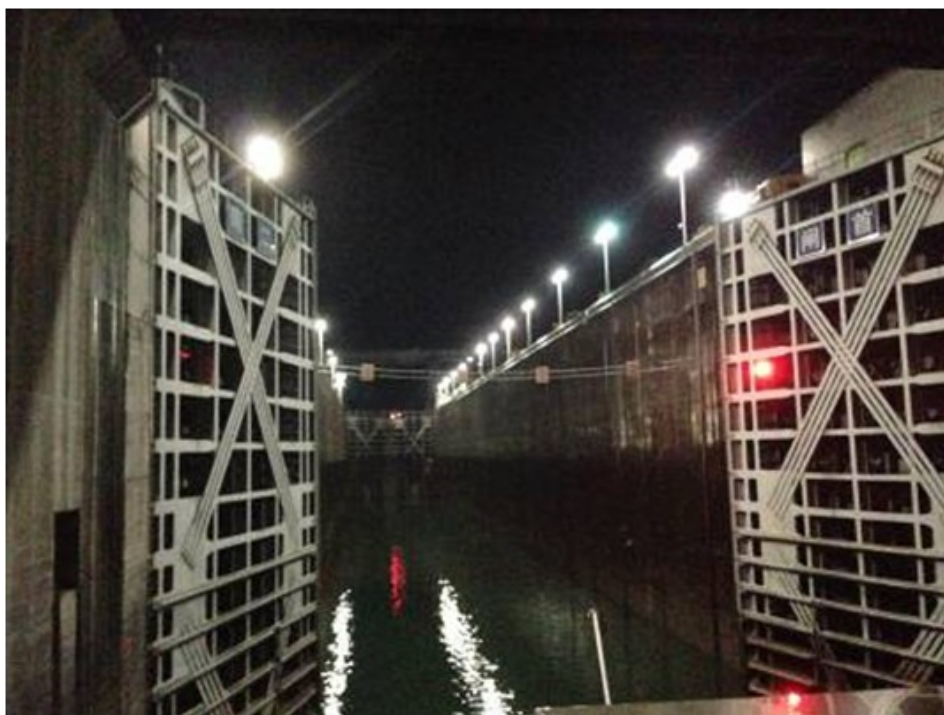
Locks, but not as

A few months ago Cas and I had a fantastic holiday in China. We did all of the usual tourist sites around Beijing and Shanghai and also cruised down the Yangtze for a few days. Amongst the many highlights on the trip was one man made "wonder of the world" that took my breath away which was navigating the 5 staircase locks at the Three Gorges dam. Makes our comparison of 1000 baths full of water in Batchworth Lock which we relate to the school children during Learning at the Lock a little insignificant!

We approached the locks after a very wet day and started our passage down at about 8pm in the evening. There are two parallel series of ship locks to one side of the dam and the total passage takes about 3 to 4 hours. One set of locks is used for traffic going up stream and the other downstream. The total height difference is over 91.4 m (300 feet) depending on whether it is the dry or rainy season when the water level behind the dam is considerably higher. To overcome this height difference, the dam uses five locks,

each raising or lowering a vessel about 20 m (65 feet). The locks are 280 m (918ft) long, 35 m (114ft) wide, and 5 m (16.4ft) minimum depth over the cill and the maximum vessel size is 10,000 tons.

Our river cruise boat took about 250 people plus crew and we shared the lock with another larger boat in front of us and a bulk cargo carrier to our side.



It was a shame it was at night but we did go through a slightly smaller lock the next day a little further downstream and this lock had a larger drop and hence a much bigger cill! Not one to get caught up on!

we know them!



Oh there's the cill!



We're still going down...



Now that's what I call a cill...
there do seem to be a few
dents in it as well!

Roger aground with a dislodged beyond (or should

On Friday evening 23rd of June, Mark, Marie, Chris Flaherty and I hosted ~30 Chorleywood beavers in a charter involving the Pride of Batchworth and Roger. We had noticed that the level of water in the Batchworth pound had been getting very low and before the trip it took Chris and Mark an hour to get Roger off its mooring. After a successful trip up to Lot Mead and back Mark had great difficulty getting Roger anywhere near the bank to get the children off the boat. Eventually we managed it, but unfortunately we

dislodged Roger's rudder from the Skeg (an example of the seating below!) while trying to back Roger onto its mooring.



Mark, Chris and I agreed that we would try and rectify this on Monday morning rather than on Friday evening.

During the weekend Mark acquired a wet suit and on Monday entered the canal to help Chris and I lift and position the rudder assembly correctly to position it back in the Skeg. Below are a couple of pictures where Mark is trying to feel the correct position for the rudder before guiding Chris and I to lift it back into position.



Having re-seated the rudder fairly easily with Mark's guidance we still had the issue of Roger being about 2ft from the bank and a Learning at the Lock visit the next day where the children would need to explore the

cabin. Therefore, while he was still in the water, Mark requested a shovel and then cleared a large amount of accumulated silt and gravel from where Roger's mooring. The pictures on the top of pg 15 show Mark

wielding a shovel shifting gravel and also doing his "Creature from the Black Lagoon" impression (rather good I think..).

rudder – Mark goes above and it be below...)



Also during the morning we found that the reason for the low level of water was two stop planks missing from the weir on the river Colne that flows around Batchworth Lake.

Fortunately Canal & River Trust were on site the same morning, and when

we notified them they replaced the planks and also cleared the weir above Batchworth Lock increasing the water flow and level of the canal significantly in just a short while. The result is we now have a deeper mooring for Roger, the canal level

has been restored so the boat can be moored next to the towpath and Mark has a new career as a canal diver! Below shows the result of the morning's work with Roger back where it should be and Mark safely extracted from the wet suit!



My sincere thanks go to Mark for definitely going above and beyond to resolve this issue quickly. Certainly

something I would have had second thoughts about doing but Mark just got stuck in and resolved it. We are

very fortunate to have Mark as our General Manager!

David



Upcoming Events

Tuesday 11th July – Rickmansworth Waterways Trust Annual General Meeting

Saturday 22nd July – Rickmansworth Folk Festival with music at Batchworth Lock

Thursday 17th August – Queens Award for Voluntary Service presentation at Batchworth Lock

Sunday 29th October – Halloween at the Lock

December 2017 (date TBC) – Batchworth Carol Concert

Saturday 10th February 2018 – **Ceilidh and Supper** at Mill End Sports and Social Club, Penn Road*

Saturday 19th–Sunday 20th May 2018 – 25th Rickmansworth Festival

*Advance Notice of Ceilidh

We plan to hold a Ceilidh on Saturday February 10th 2018 at Mill End Sports and Social Club with a licensed bar with all proceeds going to support our new education building.

Doors will open at 7.00pm, dancing starts at 7.30pm featuring Threadneedle (formally the Gallows Hillbillies) supported by caller Martin Lindridge.

Further details will be sent out later in the year but please reserve the date in your diary!

Please look out for other events at Batchworth Lock throughout the year and refer to rwt.org.uk for further information on these and other events.

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