



The Batchworth Telegraph

Newsletter of the Friends, Summer 2019

New Batchworth Heritage Education Centre Opens

Inside

Our
Chairman
Speaks...



New
Trustee



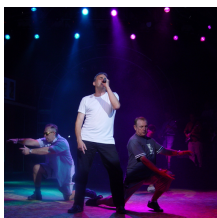
Quality
Badge



Lucky
Lab



Caught
on
Camera



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



99 Church Street, Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire, WD3 1JJ

RWT is a Company Limited by Guarantee
Company number 2674596.
Registered Charity No 1024322

Contents

Chairman's Chat...	2-3
Mark and Rob Report	4-5
Rickmansworth Festival 2019	6-8
New Education Centre Opens	9-11
New Centre: Volunteer's View	12
New Trustee	12
Learning Outside Quality Badge	13
New Digital Projector	14
Lucky Labrador!	14
Caught on Camera!	15

RWT Trustees

Jenny Barzilay
Tina Berry-Chmiel (Finance Director)
Chris Burridge
Mike Lansdown
Steve Mander
Les Mead
David Montague (Chairman and
Festival Director)
Pam Paterson
Stephen Vincent

RWT Operations Group

Chris Burridge
Chris Flaherty
Mark Saxon
Stephen Vincent

Company Secretary:

Beryl Whittaker

Education Programme Leader:

Rob Moore

General Manager:

Mark Saxon

Hon Treasurer:

Kay Fearn

Roger Conservation Team Leader:

Fabian Hiscock

Batchworth Telegraph:

Editor: Louise Broadbent

Email: Broadbent.louise@gmail.com

Chairman's Chat...

Welcome to the summer issue of the Batchworth Telegraph for 2019, the twice-yearly magazine from Rickmansworth Waterways Trust (RWT). We have already had an eventful year with all our volunteers busy running our 26th Rickmansworth Festival and settling into our new Education Centre. We are now approaching our busiest period for charters and at the Lock Centre. Hopefully by the time you read this, summer will have returned - mind you the canal and my garden did need a bit of rain!

We did have fantastic weather for the formal opening of our new Education Centre in the early spring, and I was delighted to see so many of our volunteers and old friends joining us to celebrate this significant milestone in our history. We are going to invite Robert Voss, the Lord-Lieutenant for Hertfordshire, to all our events where we want to ensure good weather. He brought it with him to our Queen's Award presentation in the summer of 2017, and he certainly worked his magic at the end of March this year!

Learning at the Lock, under Rob's leadership, is gaining momentum after a couple of

years when our facilities were not so convenient for schools. During 2018 we only booked around 20 school visits and were battling against the belief some held that we had stopped running Learning at the Lock due to the loss of our classroom. This has now well and truly turned around with 30 bookings for 2019, already, by mid-June. The last week in June saw each day filled with a visit, which really does stretch our volunteer resource and Rob! We still hope to take more bookings for the autumn. Rob has been working hard to reach out to new schools with success. However, some schools very close to us are still yet to come along. It would be great if all our local primary schools benefitted from a day at Learning at the Lock, especially some in walking distance!

Running our education programmes from our purpose-built centre has transformed our delivery. Even the walk from the Mill caused some disruption, and having all activities within view of the classroom means everything can be much better coordinated. We have also gained time, enabling the Pride to take a slightly longer trip so the children get to go up and down through the lock. All the schools and our volunteers love the new building and think the day's visit is better than ever. Rob has also

Chairman's Chat Continued

successfully adapted the programme to cater for a couple of schools that wanted to bring 40 children and has even introduced a session on canal art, thanks to Esther Murphy who owns the newly opened Sinclair Gallery in Rickmansworth High Street. So our new centre has given us a capability which was not possible before.

We are also starting to book adult education visits, which can include a lecture, a trip on the Pride and a viewing of Roger. Fabian and Mark offer a large number of outreach talks to various groups each year, and we now have the opportunity to do lectures and other activities in our new centre. Mark has also been working hard on promoting the Education Centre as a venue for other community groups to make use of. Via our website, using the Hallmaster booking system, users can view availability and book the hall by the hour. This has the potential to provide an important source of income for the centre. We have already taken bookings for this summer for various classes and workshops from other groups.

At this year's AGM, Martin Mace and Peter Waters stood down as trustees. Martin joined the trustee board in May 2016 and has been a key

player on the fundraising team that worked so hard to find all the money needed to complete our new building. He has also volunteered with Learning at the Lock and the Festival. Peter has volunteered with RWT for as long as I can remember and been a trustee for many years. He has selflessly given his time to so many organisations within Rickmansworth, and we are fortunate to have been one of these. We thank them both for all their dedication and hard work for the Trust and their contribution to achieving our recent successes, and we hope they stay good friends of RWT.

We have a new trustee joining us – Mike Lansdown who introduces himself later in this issue. Mike has been volunteering with Learning at the Lock and is also a fully trained skipper on the Pride. As a retired local headmaster, he has great skills in primary school education which are going to be invaluable as we develop our education work. We welcome him to the team, and I look forward to working with him in achieving our Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge – more on this later!

Roger and Pride have seen significant maintenance this year. Roger completed its 18-month docking in January and returned to Batchworth

just in time for our first school visits. Many thanks to all those who helped with removing and replacing the ballast and its journey to and back from Tring. Roger also attended Little Venice, where we had a very successful three-day weekend. We were in a very central position opposite Stone Wharf, so were much busier than in previous years, and it actually felt we were much more part of the event. Roger also attended the Cosgrove Festival on the 20th and 21st July, which was a new event for RWT, giving a chance for more people to gain boating experience on Roger and also to spread the message about the Trust a little further. Pride was also repainted in February and lifted out for blacking, and is now looking pristine and ready for the next few years.

So a lot going on, as usual, and many thanks to all our volunteers, led by Mark and Rob, who keep the RWT organisation looking like a swan on the surface while we know everyone is paddling furiously underneath. I hope, like me, you are looking forward to some summer sun and a successful first year in our new Education Centre.

Best regards,



David
Montague

Mark Reports



The sun is out and Learning at the Lock in the Education Centre is in full swing, and sitting, here looking out over the canal, it strikes me what a wonderful facility we now have at Batchworth and how much it has enhanced and improved our education programme.

I must say a huge thank you to each and every one of you who give so much of your time, commitment, enthusiasm and dedication to the Trust. This year alone a further six active volunteers have joined us, and we continue to attract wonderful people.

This time last year I let you know that since 2015 the shop had only been closed for 18 days. Looking back, I see that that number only increased by one day (Christmas Day) last year, and we have been open every day since January. I know of no other volunteer organisation like ours that

can come anywhere near that achievement.

Up to the end of June 2019, we have had just under 5,874 recorded visitors, 1,091 volunteer hours have been provided and £16,593 has been taken through the till.

What is not recorded are the number of hours running ferry trips, doing the gardening, litter picking, general maintenance, and I'm sure these will all run into hundreds of further hours.

We have also increased the number of RYA qualified skippers able to undertake both ferry trips and charters. The Pride of Batchworth continues to be a reliable asset, and, recently, a new roof panel was installed. If we continue to treat the boat well, look after it and ensure problems are dealt with expeditiously, then we should get many more years of service out of her. Earlier in the year the boat was repainted and taken to P&S Marine in Croxley where the bottom was 'blackened'. The total cost of these two activities was something in the region of £5,000, so we do all have to work hard to ensure that money continues to flow into our organisation.

We will, of course, at some point, have to consider replacement, so the trustees

are conscientiously putting money aside into a Pride replacement fund to ensure that we can continue with our operations.

More volunteers are getting used to steering and crewing Roger, both on its journeys to and from Little Venice and on its longer journey in July up to Cosgrove.

The volunteer coffee morning will again be held at the end of November at Cafe Nero in Ricky High Street. Details of the exact date will be forthcoming, and I look forward to seeing you all at the garden party in August.

Mark Saxon

Rob Reports



Fantastic. Fantastic. Fantastic. How else can I describe the new Education Centre? The first schools came in March which, luckily for all concerned, provided dry and mild weather. Although the Learning at the Lock programme is well established, it did take a little time to familiarise ourselves with the new surroundings. The great improvement has been the extra time the children have to do each session. The long walks from St Mary's Church to the canal used to take up a great deal of time.

The artefacts, which had been stored in various volunteers' garages, were brought back to the Education Centre. The famous mangle is now back in full operation, as is the ironing board. Martin Stokes has made a working model of a lock, using the lock gates that were once part of the Little Union Canal. He has also created a tunnel from a polystyrene box. All

these new additions to the presentations for the children enhance the quality of the work that is done by the volunteers.

The new teaching area now enables PowerPoint presentations to be used. It quickly became apparent that the initial arrangement for showing the presentations needed to be upgraded. Money raised by generous donations and local supermarket schemes allowed the Trust to buy a high-spec projector, which was installed at the end of June.

It is important that Learning at the Lock keeps pace with the changing demands of modern education. Mike Lansdown has been a great asset in helping the Trust to match the learning at one of the school sessions to the National Curriculum. The Trust is working towards meeting the requirements of the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge award. This will reassure the schools that Learning at the Lock is providing a high standard of education. It will also mean that Learning at the Lock will appear on an approved list with other institutions that teachers use when planning school visits. Even before the quality badge has been awarded, a good number of

new schools have booked sessions at Batchworth. I am delighted to report that there are thirty school visits booked for this year: the highest number recorded in the last three years.

The Education Centre also provides a venue for meetings. It is important to make volunteers feel part of a team. One way to bring everyone together is holding 'Volunteer Evenings.' There will be an opportunity to make suggestions to improve the programme currently being offered and to meet other volunteers in a social setting. The initial meeting was held to show people the new facilities and to familiarise themselves with the new surroundings. This was followed by another meeting in July to talk about future developments.

The whole 'Learning at the Lock' programme depends on volunteers giving up their time to deliver the schools' sessions. I am pleased to say that Chris Tandy, Sheila Trevor and Jackie Putt have joined the list of volunteers this summer. They have already made a great contribution to this busy period. I can only see that the future for Learning at the Lock will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Rob Moore

Rickmansworth Festival 2019

Thank you to everyone on the Festival team and the many volunteers whose hard work made the 26th Rickmansworth Festival such a success earlier this year. The weather was reasonably kind to us and enabled a very smooth set up, Festival weekend and clear up. One thing that always strikes me is how well the teams work together: all the issues, which are mostly minor, are resolved successfully with minimal fuss. This reflects the experience of our team and how well we understand how the Festival works. Many traders and caterers comment on this and are very complimentary on how competent and friendly our team are, and this is based on their experience in attending commercially organised events!

Financially, the Festival was a success for the Trust: we met our target and raised over £35,000 to support the education work of the Trust. We had no royal wedding competing with us this year, but we had not planned for the success of Watford in reaching the FA Cup Final! The match did affect the number of people attending and all other aspects of the event linked to attendance. As well as a lower level of donations, the number of passengers carried by our trip boats was well below our usual

numbers, and we also parked far fewer cars in the Stockers Farm car park than for several years. Many of the people I spoke to after the weekend who had not come along, if not fortunate enough to have tickets for Wembley, had arranged parties at home to watch the match. The beer tent manager saw many Festival-goers with hangovers on the Sunday who had not been drinking his beer the day before! However, we congratulate Watford on their amazing success this season and just request that they wait a few more years before repeating this achievement!

We have completed our wash-up meeting and identified several things we want to improve on next year. One thing that is becoming increasingly clear is that people are used to paying for everything by card and do not carry much cash with them. Since installing a card machine just over six months ago in the Lock Centre, we are seeing an increasing number of cashless transactions, so we need to respond to this trend. We will be looking to hire portable card donation terminals for each collection point. This does come with a cost, but I hope this removes one barrier to potential donors.

One challenging area next

us next year is changes in sponsorship arrangements for the site power, lighting and stage. Elstree Light and Power, who have very generously supported the power infrastructure of the site for around 15 years, have stated they now need to start letting the equipment to us at a commercial rate. We have been incredibly fortunate to have had this support since being introduced to the company by Mark Gardiner when he joined the Festival team many years ago. Other suppliers who provide lighting and stage decking also need to increase their prices next year. This will significantly increase the 2020 budget for the event, so the team have been thinking of ways to reduce this cost.

We could decide not to provide power in certain areas of the site, meaning we may have exhibitors running generators in the Aquadrome, which is not what we want. We could make a separate charge for electricity, which we do not do now, but this would only go a little way to cover the costs. We could also look for further sponsors or different suppliers. It is likely a combination of all three of these options could be required to balance the books; so we have significant work to do, even though the the 2020 Festival is a long

Rickmansworth Festival 2019 contd.

way away.

Steve Mander did very well in obtaining sponsorship, this year, with fantastic support from Three Rivers District Council and Batchworth Community Council as well as many local businesses. These included Blenheim Construction, Carillion, Distinctive Rickmansworth, DJC Sound Systems, Galliard Homes, Gibbs Gillespie, Mercer and Hole, St William, and Travis Perkins. We were also very fortunate to come first in the Tesco "Bags for Life" scheme in our local stores. This scheme distributes the money Tesco raise in selling plastic bags to local community organisations, so many

thanks to all of you who voted with your blue tokens for the Festival and RWT.

On the water space side, Phil Bassett took over the running of this area from John Brice. Phil and his team moored the usual large number of boats and also focused all the boat traders together in a single area to create a better floating market. We further developed the 25 years young scheme introduced last year, which is designed to introduce young people to water-based activities. The scheme was rebranded as the Young Explorer Trail, further activities were introduced and the question asked around the site was, "Have you had a go Yet!". The

site was adorned with YETi footprints, and many more organisations participated, including Herts River Rescue, which proved a very popular activity. We had a large number of participants, and this is now growing into a very popular part of the Festival which we hope to further expand in 2020. Phil Bassett, as well as setting out our programme, worked with Janet Billing to update our processes and run the trade bookings using a similar electronic system to that used for the boats last year. So we can now run just about all our bookings using a web-based, paperless system which simplifies the processes and makes them much more manageable.



Herts River Rescue in Action. Photo by Cheryl Prax

Rickmansworth Festival 2019 contd.

We held a very successful art exhibition in the Batchworth Lock Education Centre, thanks to the Guild of Waterways Artists and the Rickmansworth and District Art Society. This was all pulled together by Chris Slaney. The exhibition provided a great use of the building, offered something very different for the Festival and allowed the public to see inside the Centre. Also this year, the Rickmansworth Sea Scouts' area on Riverside Drive had a new bridge connecting the towpath with the site. This allowed this new area to be fully

integrated into the Festival site, and it proved a great success.

So thanks again to all of you who volunteered to help run the Festival, either in the planning and organisation or over the weekend (or in many instances, both!). Our charity gets significant kudos for running the Festival and the local community is a better place for your efforts. So keep up the good work as the event helps us attract many visitors back to Batchworth Lock throughout the year.

All your work and support for

the Festival makes a real difference to how the Trust is perceived in the Rickmansworth community.

As usual, we are always looking for more volunteers so if you would like to get involved in the overall organisation then please get back to me. Following our debrief meeting we will be starting to plan for our 2020 Festival 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.



Batchworth Lock in full swing. Photo by Les Mead

Batchworth Lock Education Centre Opening

In the last Batchworth Telegraph, I described the construction of our new Heritage Education Centre, and as I write this article I am reminded that it was one year ago to the day that we actually started the building work. Already this year we have held 22 Learning at the Lock (LatL) visits with 30 bookings confirmed and more in the pipeline for 2019. We even held six visits before the building was officially opened at the end of March this year.

On Saturday 30th March we were privileged to have Robert Voss, Lord Lieutenant for Hertfordshire, come and formally open the Centre. We invited all our volunteers and as many of the sponsors and donors as we could expect to fit within the building. We were concerned about the weather, but, against all expectations, the sun shone and a little bit of summer came into early spring to warm the day. It was a great occasion to show off the Centre to the c.120 attendees.

We had also invited some of the very first volunteers and founding trustees so they could be present at this special milestone in the Trust's history. In the picture below, standing either side of Robert Voss, from left to right are: Jean Berry, long-standing LatL volunteer; Brian Morgan, past Chairman

of Trustees; Tony Berry, long-standing Trust volunteer; John Jones, Treasurer from the Trust's formation until just a few years ago; Derek Grey, original Trustee; and Tim Woodbridge, original Trustee. Ken Allen, past Trustee and Festival Director, was also at the reception, but he escaped this photo!



As we did when presented with our Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, we took the opportunity to get a photo of all the Trust volunteers who were present. This is a great reminder of

the fantastic group of people who helped make this project, and all the other activities the Trust engages in, such a success! I hope you can find yourself in the picture below!



Batchworth Lock Education Centre Opening

Contd.

I also made a short speech prior to Robert unveiling the opening plaque, which is now proudly displayed above the entrance into the main hall from the foyer. I thought it was worth reproducing the text here as it forms part of the record of this significant achievement:

It was only 7th March 2016 when RWT first found out that the classroom in the old Mill on the Affinity Water site that we had used for well over 20 years might no longer be available for us to use. After a temporary halt to our classes, we vacated the building at the end of April since too much remedial work was required to the old Mill. This is just three years ago and a lot has happened since then!

During the next few weeks, we managed to find temporary accommodation in St Mary's Church hall and were able to restart our 2016 programme of education visits. With Learning at the Lock restarted, this left the trustees with the decision of what on earth we were to do for the longer term!

We wasted no time and started looking at our options. These included the idea of commissioning a new floating classroom, and we visited several boat builders to discuss designs and costs.

We also looked at the land we are now standing on where we had restored Roger and built the Little Union Canal. Due to the logistics and running costs, we rejected building a boat fairly quickly and focused our efforts on planning for a building. Three Rivers District Council reacted favourably to a suggestion of us putting in planning permission for a building on the site. Although we already leased this land from them we found complications when we started to unpick the ownership of the site with the Land Registry. These would take over a year to resolve with the help of Brian Ashby from the legal team at Three Rivers!

We set up a building team, and, just a few months later, we appointed Chris Gregory as our architect in August 2016 and started talking to timber building suppliers. We also set up a fundraising team who had the unenviable task of finding what seemed an unachievable sum of money.

After many discussions with the Canal and River Trust, Three Rivers District Council, and the Environment Agency, we arrived at a design that everyone agreed to, submitted our plans and gained approval in May 2017. Later in September we had

our first discussions with building contractors and appointed Mark McDonald to oversee the work.

All the time we were finalising the plans for the building, the fundraising team were working hard in the background to reach our target, which seemed to keep moving further away as we brought more details into our plans. By April 2018 we had raised the amazing amount of £350,000, which meant the Trustees could give the go-ahead to place the order for the building. We started construction in July 2018, and the building was handed over to us in November last year ready for us to move into and prepare for school visits, which have already started this month – we actually had three last week!

This brief summary very much simplifies what has been an extremely challenging project for our small charity. We had some very difficult trustee meetings where we questioned whether we were doing the right thing, where robust differences of opinion were shared and serious concerns were raised on how we could justify the scale of the project. However one of the Trust's major assets is a strong trustee board, and these discussions were exactly what we needed to

Batchworth Lock Education Centre Opening Contd.

be engaged in when doing something so outside our comfort zone.

However, you would not be standing in front of our magnificent new Heritage Education Centre without the amazing generosity of our many sponsors and donors. About a quarter of the funds came from grants from trusts which include: The John Apthorp Charity, The Garfield Weston Foundation, Three Rivers District Council, the boys from St Martin's School, The Ethel and Gwynne Morgan Charitable Trust, the Co-op Foundation, Affinity Water, The Rank Foundation and Blenheim Construction. Nearly half of the cost of the building has come from individuals who have unflinchingly donated sums both large and small to help us reach our target. The remainder has come from the Trust's reserves and other fundraising events. On the other side of the equation, we have also had tremendous support from McDonald Construction and Tec Architecture in helping keep their costs to a minimum. And last but not least our volunteers, led by our general manager Mark Saxon, who have responded to every request for support for the project with hard work, enthusiasm and commitment.

We could not have done it without you.

From what seemed like a devastating blow to us in Spring 2016 to be here just three years later in the Spring of 2019 opening our new building is something we would never have dreamed possible in 2016, and I thank you all for your support to make it happen.

I now would like to hand over to Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Robert Voss CBE to officially open the building.

So we have done it. The schools which have come along so far love the Centre and think it is a perfect new home for our Heritage Education work. The building is in almost daily use, and we are attracting bookings from other organisations who wish to make use of the Centre for their own activities and are providing a very important source of income to help run the Centre in the process. We still have a little more to do, such as raise the funds to provide the decking and other landscaping at the rear of the building, but I am sure we will get these in place soon.

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.

Education Centre: a Volunteers' View

'Wow!' they say, and big smiles crease their faces. A class of children enters our building. They literally stop in their tracks and gaze at the ceiling. The volunteers start smiling, too. The children come in and settle, but they can't quite believe it. Neither can we!

Firstly, the new classroom is much bigger inside than it seems from the outside. Secondly, it's too grand to be called a mere classroom – it's a Heritage Education Centre! It smells new – of pine. It's bright, airy and spacious and

a delight to work in. Sometimes I take the History session, and what a joy it is to have room to work with all the visual aids.

It's hard to believe that only three years ago we had to leave the magical Mill which had been our classroom. St Mary's Church kindly let us use their upstairs room so we could keep going, but it was not ideal. Now all our activities are close to the Lock, and we have time to indulge ourselves. The Roger session can be given the full 'Jean Berry' treatment! (Jean

was renowned for not being hurried, and children love to hear every last detail of life on our historic wooden boat.)

Rob is thriving in his new environment, and volunteers love it too. If you don't sign up when a school books, you might have to wait for another booking.

A HUGE thank you to all our donors for enabling us to build such a beautiful Centre. I, for one, am having excellent fun at LatL.

Pam Peterson, Trustee

New Trustee: Mike Lansdown



My name is Mike Lansdown. I have lived in Rickmansworth for the past 23 years and have been involved with RWT and Learning at the Lock (LatL) for about a year and a half. I am a former primary Head Teacher, but I also spent a total of 14 years working in secondary and adult education (including two years in Sweden) and now work part-time as a PGCE tutor for the University of Buckingham.

I recently passed my Helmsman's Certificate,

which means I am now able to skipper the Pride.

Meeting with others, I have helped to evaluate the educational offer of LatL (which I think is excellent) and have written up a document that can be used to support RWT's application for the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge. In line with this, I redrafted the information leaflet given to the schools, taking into account the latest changes to the National Curriculum at Key Stages 1 and 2.

In my spare time I am an author and have had two educational books published as well as a self-published

historical novel, *Adam's Lock* (theendlessbookcase.com) which is available to buy in the canal centre! Currently, I am teaching a course at Mill End Community Centre, *Penn-Pushers* group focusing on autobiography, and in the autumn I will be leading a U3A course entitled *Learning to be Retired*.

I have very much enjoyed my time so far at RWT and feel I am fortunate indeed to have come along just as the exciting developments with the new Education Centre really started to take off! Everyone I have met is easy to work with, and I look forward to developing this further as a Trustee.

Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge

As you are probably aware, you cannot go very far these days without coming up against a standard that needs to be complied with. We all look for certain quality marks when engaging many different everyday services. This is especially true for schools looking to take children on a day's educational visit to somewhere like Rickmansworth Waterways Trust (RWT). Rob raised the need for the Trust to do something along these lines as soon as the new Education Centre was ready, as he expects schools to start requesting this when they make a booking. As an experienced teacher, Rob is only too aware that schools need to demonstrate they are selecting establishments which are going to deliver a rewarding day's education and provide the expected safe learning environment for their children.

After looking at several available awards, we decided to register for the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge. This quality standard lists seven main categories and 32 subcategories for which applicants are expected to provide evidence of compliance. We set up a team consisting of Rob

Moore, Mike Lansdown, Pam Paterson, Fabian Hiscock and myself to review the requirements of the standard and assess how RWT currently performs against them.

As you can imagine, this involves a fair amount of work! You may have noticed Mike Lansdown observing several sessions of Learning at the Lock and making copious notes. Using Mike's extensive experience, the objective was to capture what we provide as an educational experience and demonstrate what we deliver to children in a much better way. Having spent many hours reviewing every element of the standard and mapping RWT's performance against this, we have identified several gaps and the things we do well but don't necessarily communicate well to our schools. We then captured a list of about 10 actions we are working through to address everything necessary to complete our registration.

Some of the outputs you will see include a new Learning at the Lock education leaflet which better captures the learning objectives for the day and the experiences the children will have. We will be

updating our website to show similar information for schools. A new Learning at the Lock Volunteer Handbook has been drafted, and this will better reflect the way we are working in the new Education Centre. We want to better capture feedback from schools and children on the day of a visit, as it is very difficult to get this once they have left. These are the main areas, but there are many other improvements to make as well.

Once we have all the updated processes in place, we will complete our registration process, and, if successful, we will be able to use the badge below on our letterhead and in all communication with schools. We are working to try to get this in place for our 2020 season. If you want to find out more about the standard, please take a look at their website:

<https://www.lotc.org.uk/>



New Digital Projector

You may have noticed Rob has been using a projector linked to his laptop during Learning at the Lock sessions in the new Centre. This is an old projector of mine that has seen much better days. It is over 15 years old and the picture quality is not what it was! Our plans for the fit-out of the hall always included mounting a fixed projector to allow users to show slides and videos from a laptop. Currently, Rob is putting our old projector on a table in the middle of the floor, which compromises the space available for teaching, especially when he has 40 children plus helpers and our volunteers in the hall!

We thought this part of the fit-out was going to have to wait a little while until we had raised sufficient funds. However thanks to very

generous donations to this specific project from Jean Berry and Libby Bradshaw, the installation was completed prior to our AGM on July 9th. Many thanks are also due to Chris Slaney, who has given his professional guidance on selecting the best system for our needs. Chris arranged a very successful art exhibition in the Centre during the Festival. When we met to plan the exhibition we found out he used to consult on professional audiovisual installations in his career, and his help has been invaluable in ensuring we get a system that meets our needs.

The projector will be one of the latest design, short throw laser projectors and be mounted on the wall of the hall directly above the

screen. Since it sits only a few centimetres from the screen, its very clever optics mean there is no possibility of you blinding yourself or obscuring the image when presenting. This type of system is widely used in schools, and the picture below shows how it works – note we are only getting one!!! The projector also has sound built-in, and we are adding some small active speakers to the system so we have sufficient sound capability for showing films in the hall. Les Mead is already dusting off his entire back catalogue ready for a series of film nights!



A Very Lucky Labrador!

While taking Roger to Tring to have the work done this winter, we found a labrador in difficulty in the canal near Berkhamsted. The dog had been swimming in the canal, become tired and had taken refuge in the spillway just above a lock. The dog's back legs were hanging into the void with its body resting on the ledge, and its owner was unable to get the dog out.

When we arrived, we quickly realised that any movement of water through the spillway to fill the lock would result in the dog being washed into the depths of the lock where it would almost certainly drown. Having stopped all boat movements, Steve Mander was able to get his arm under the dog to prevent it slipping further into the hole. After several attempts,



getting very wet in the process, he managed to lift the dog out from its perch on the cill and onto the bank. The dog shook itself dry, wagged its tail and was all ready to continue its walk! The owner was very relieved!

Caught on Camera!

In between issues of Batchworth Telegraph we always accumulate a few photos of our volunteers and others in action around and

about Batchworth. Please note the form for volunteers to opt-out of having a photo published is currently out of stock and being re-printed...

Mark is increasing the training for new skippers to ensure all volunteers have the required level of competency to cope with all eventualities when crewing one of the Trust's boats. As those who have crewed will know, Roger presents additional

challenges to one's boat handling skills. So in order to sharpen these skills, we are introducing a new test for turning Roger around below Batchworth Lock. The picture below shows the advanced level of manoeuvre all skippers of Roger are expected to achieve.



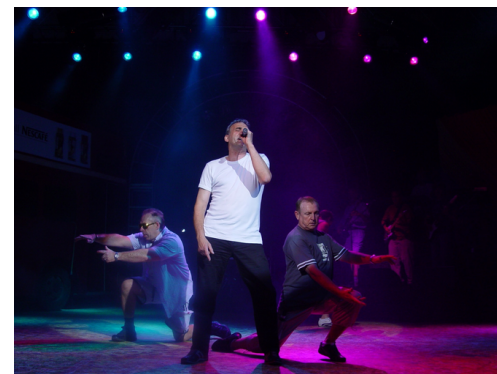
The first one shows we are trying to incorporate additional exercise routines into the sessions loading and unloading the ballast when Roger is dry-docked. Sadie has decided to implement a course of Ballet for Beginners which we expect to be very popular. Marie is looking very keen to get involved!



We have had reports of some of our volunteers moonlighting and trying to break into other professions. Please contact Mark if you can identify the well-known Trust volunteer in the pictures below so we can take the necessary action!

Also all volunteers are to be issued with new timepieces as Asher seems to have

turned up for the Festival at Batchworth a little early!





Upcoming Events

December 2019, exact date TBD - **Canal side Carols at Batchworth**

February 2020, exact date TBD - **Rickmansworth Waterways Trust Ceilidh**

Saturday 2nd-Sunday 3rd May 2020 - **Canalway Cavalcade, Little Venice**

Saturday 16th-Sunday 17th May 2020 - **Rickmansworth Festival**

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.

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

www.rwt.org.uk