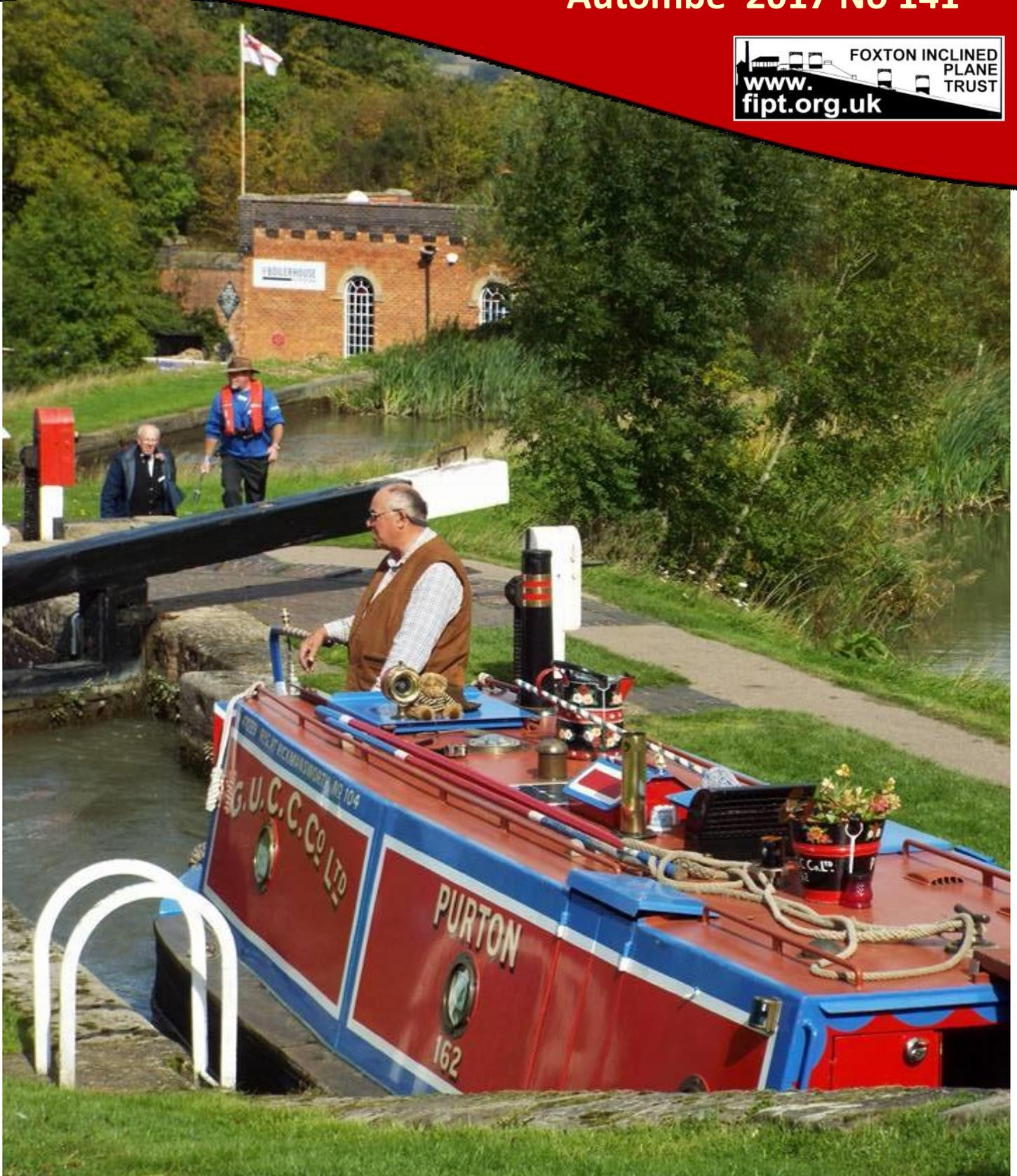


Plane Informer

Autombe 2017 No 141

FOXTON INCLINED
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Foxton Vintage September 16th & 17th

By Penny Arscott (photographs by Chris Parker And Penny)

Canal And Rivers Trust staff and volunteers organised an event to celebrate the history of our waterways. The team was led by Matt Harris. They invited a steam fair, some traction engines and historic boats. The site was closed to the casual visitor, everyone having to pay to come on site. (the first time this has ever happened). FIPT had a stand in the field and some of our

volunteers joined in (see the picture of Neil on the inside back cover). The event was opened by Lady Jennifer Ann Gretton, Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire seen here with CRT Richard Parry left and Vicky Martin Manager of South East waterways.

Actors spent the day as characters based on a script written by Mike Beech, they included Gordon Cale Thomas,

Benjamin Bevan and a boat woman. Pictured top left on the previous page. The turnout of historic boats was excellent, they spent the day working through the locks demonstrating how they were used in the past, including long lining, where a motorboat goes up the locks with a long line back to its butty, so that as the motor works through the site it pulls the butty behind it. (some coordination is needed to ensure that the boats are both ready to move into the next lock.

We were concerned that with the site closed to non paying members of the public visitors to the museum would be restricted, but it turned out to be a record weekend for the time of



year, we took over £1,000 including the takings from our stand in the festival field. (big thanks to our volunteers running stand and helping in the museum). The stand sported our new flag promoting membership of the Trust. 2

new members were recruited and over £45 worth of Grand Daw tickets were sold as well as profit from wine and water stall.



Chairman's Notes

by Cathy Fleming

Firstly, I'd like to give thanks and say well done to Penny, Vanessa and Ann Hoxley for their research for the Women of the Cut Exhibition. It is a great exhibition and thanks also to Elaine and Neil for their help in setting it up in the Museum.

The event was opened by Richard Parry, CEO of Canal and River Trust. There were other invited guests also who thought the exhibition was very good.

Also now another well done to Penny for organising the Teddy Trail for the late August Bank Holiday. Val Britcher and I decided we would do some fundraising on Bank Holiday Monday if the weather was good. - It was!! - We played the wine and water game outside the Museum and were joined by Irene MacDonald who was keen to help.

We managed to raise over £200 which made the fundraising very worthwhile.



After Foxton Locks Festival had taken place in June I was contacted by Valerie and Warren Dawson who kindly offered FIPT a stall at the Ashby Magna street fair at the beginning of September.



We accepted this as a

possible way to get members, volunteers and sell Grand Draw tickets.

Penny put together a 3 piece board showing that we were Foxton Inclined Plane Trust with photos of the boat lift and details of the Grand Draw prizes.

Helen Tordoff, one of our newer volunteers, and I ran the stall and although we didn't get any new members or volunteers managed to sell 78 Grand Draw tickets.

The street fair was very busy, we were next to a pie stall, there were tombolas, clothes, some beautiful dog cushion covers and food and drinks available.

We have been invited to attend next year and have happily accepted the invitation.

There is little progress to report on the proposed Visitor Centre at the moment. CRT are doing a lot of new signage for Foxton and are getting quotes for improving the car parking facilities.

And now for some sad news.

OBITUARY, Colin Riggs 1934 - 2017

Colin, husband of one of our FIPT volunteer, Glenys, sadly died on 6th August 2017. Colin had been in Kettering hospital for a number of weeks, was then moved to Rutland Memorial Hospital to have intensive physiotherapy in the hope he would be able to return home. He died there very suddenly. Colin and Glenys were both avid boaters and Glenys has been volunteering for the Trust for some time.

Our condolences to Glenys.



Penny's Piece

by Penny Arscott

For the past couple of years, during which I have been involved as the Manager of the Museum we have I think made do with what we had! - I really want to develop the Museum more, increase visitor numbers and make it a 'must visit' place at Foxton Locks. To do this we need I believe to invest in a few key items!

My 'shopping list' has key items on it which I believe we really need to spend money on to develop and grow our museum and to make it a better place for our staff and volunteers to work in and to generally improve the customer experience.

I've been working with Neil MacDonald who has been working on our Trust strategy and you can read more about this and what we are planning to spend some money on further on in the Informer.

As I mentioned in the last issue Elaine was joining our team. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience working in museums and will be helping me to develop a handling collection. Elaine will also be working with me to extend what we offer to schools. We recently had training with Canal & River Trust education team delivering STEM workshops. For those of you who don't know what STEM is it stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. It's something that being pushed more in schools. I feel we're missing a trick here as the boat lift and locks are all about engineering and science. I would like to develop a science/ engineering corner in the museum.

Summer has whizzed by and we're now preparing for our winter exhibition. This will be a photography exhibition showing

work from 3 local photographers. The subject of course will be the canals and you will be able to purchase some of the photos.

We will be having our usual spooky trail around Foxton and Mike will be doing a ghost walk on Sunday 29th October.

Also in October we're holding a star gazing evening. It will be on Saturday 14th October and we have the Leicester Astronomical Society coming over to run it. It will of course be weather dependent! More information will be available on our website and our Facebook page.

Canal & River Trust are organising another Illuminated Boat Festival on 16/17 December. This time it will be held over the whole of the weekend so there shouldn't be the problems that there was last year with getting to the event! We're planning to run Christmas lantern making workshop in the museum as part of it.

Sadly museum volunteer and paid staff member Vanessa Tipton has left us to do a MA in Social services this leaves the museum a bit short of staff however Elaine will continue over the winter so we will be able to cope. (as always volunteers are gratefully accepted.

Trust Director Mark Wilson is also moving on as he has decided to concentrate on working in care. He was going to be membership Secretary taking over from Val, so we will need to find a replacement to fill that position.

Mines a G&T then...!

- by Mark Wilson

Not so very long ago I read a quite interesting CRT article on the subject of "foraging". Indeed, at certain times of the year, canal side visitors were often to be found collecting from the buckthorn and elderflower hedgerows, looking for natures harvest to supplement their very own drinks cabinets!

Now most people will recognise sloe gin as a peculiarly British tippie, particularly around Christmas time. In more recent years, a growth in botanical gin production has also seen some very modern, and quite different drinks such as Elderflower Gin, and sometimes Gin combined with other flavours that will stretch both palate and imagination.

There now seems to be new Gin distilleries popping up all around the UK, with some notable local producers in our area. So when I found myself sitting in the Boiler House Museum recently contemplating our nice little range of local produce and wares, it did not take too long to ask myself " Why not Gin?" Well we sell local sweets, chocolates, biscuits and beer, so for me it seemed a quite natural step.

Also, sitting as FIPT representative on the Harborough Tourism Steering Group this year, I have been keen to see all groups from hotels through to tourist attractions working together to promote the whole area and its constituent parts, rather than compete for each other's business. Grow the regional tourist pull through cooperative and coexistent good relations. Support each other where we can to obtain a mutual commercial advantage?

As you know during this June festival at Foxton the weather was blindingly warm, and for some reason, beer and prosecco were selling well! However, where were the Gin, and Cocktails that normally follow? I could not ignore this little oversight...lol.

On this basis, following a few phone

calls and some committee discussions myself, Penny Arscott (Museum Manager) and Neil MacDonald (Fellow Trustee) recently found ourselves at a local Market Harborough Distiller sampling all manner of Gin varieties and a few good flavoured Vodkas as well. We did so diligently, putting wider interests ahead of our own. Put it this way, subject to membership interest we are now looking to market our very own "BoilerHouse Gin" very soon, alongside a possible Strawberry and Vanilla Gin for the 2018 festival. In the lead up to Christmas we are looking at also supplying an exquisite mint and chocolate vodka, which visually looks like a nice version of a murky side pond after a duck has paddled through....(but guaranteed to be much nicer). It will be an extremely well priced product, and members will get a discount they cannot get elsewhere.

Given the historical importance of Gin in Victorian Britain, and its connotations with hard labour we trust you may find this new offering a " Cut" above any others. Look at it this way, canals were built on beer, and Gin was never far away in the background. Once "Mothers Ruin" now a modern and contemporary nod towards our heritage. Cheers (And drink sensibly!)....If you are interested in pre ordering, let us know. initially we are looking at 20 cl size bottles. We don't want any incidents on our beautiful stretch of Canal!

Gin History

By Mike Beech

The first confirmed date for the production of gin is the early 17th century in Holland, although claims have been made that it was produced prior to this in Italy. In Holland it was produced as a medicine and sold in chemist shops to treat stomach complaints, gout and gallstones. So it must be good for you?

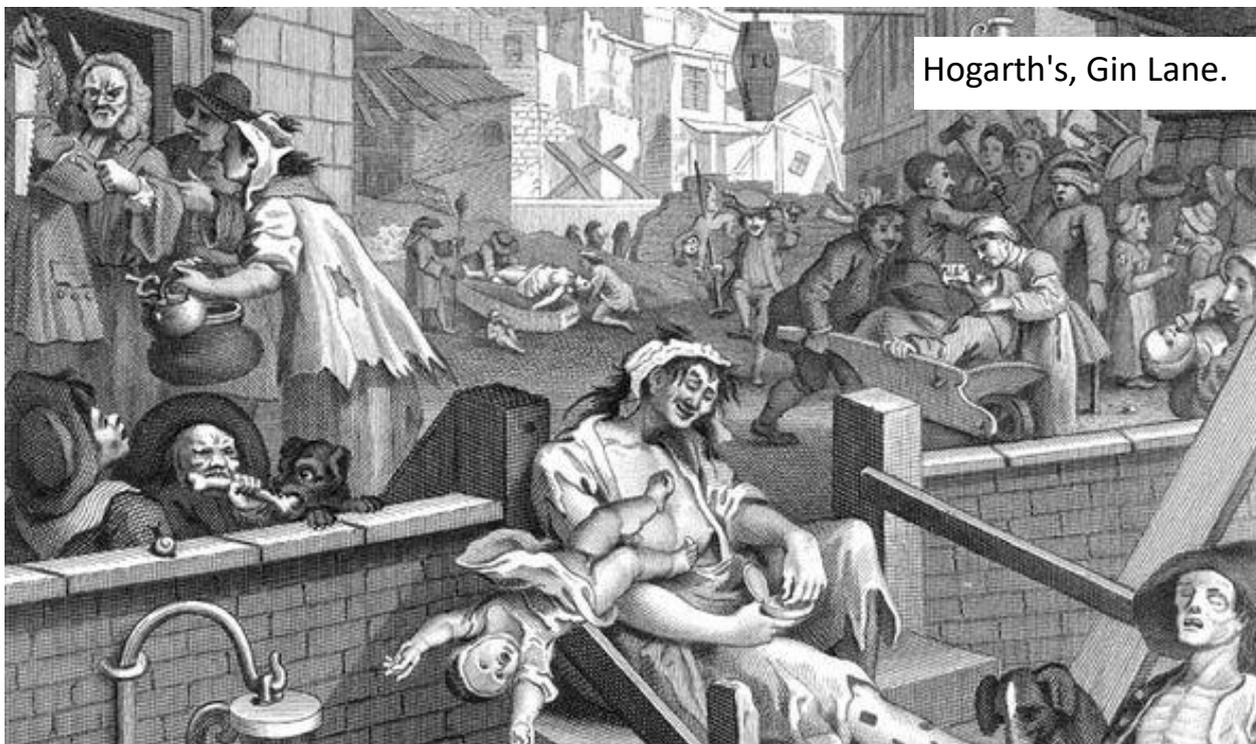
The gin craze raged in London between 1720 and 1751, during which time adults would drink an average of half a pint of gin a day. The gin consumption of the average child's wasn't far off this either. This was about the time canals were being built.

First of all, the gin drunk during the gin craze was known as 'Old Tom', and

largely by the Gin Act of 1751. By prohibiting gin distillers from selling to unlicensed merchants and charging higher fees for licenses, it eliminated small gin shops, which helped curb consumption. Bad harvests between 1757 and 1760 led to a ban on distilling grain, which helped reduce consumption further.

Although the ban was lifted in 1760, gin was subject to higher taxes and had to pass tougher quality controls than ever before. Distillers, realising gin would cost more to make, were forced to improve the quality of the drink so it could justify its price.

Alexander Gordon, the founder of Gordon's Dry London Gin, opened his first distillery in 1769. his gin was (and still is) distilled three times for purity. In 1786 he relocated his factory to



Hogarth's, Gin Lane.

was very different to the gin you may drink today. Anyone was allowed to distill their own gin; the lack of quality control causing it to taste foul. Copious amounts of sugar would be added to mask its base flavour. It was so disgusting that turpentine and sulphuric acid were also often added in the name of making the drink taste better.

The gin craze was brought to a halt

Clerkenwell in order to take advantage of the purer water from Clerk's Well. Then, from 1830, the gin palace was born. These were brightly lit, welcoming spaces.

The House that went into the canal.

By a newspaper article discovered by Bob Hakewill

We hear about storms on the news but...

In Sept 1923 there was an enormous wind storm around Harborough and Foxton. A newly erected wooden bungalow near Kosi Korna on the canal by The Boat House run by the Foster family was bodily lifted and deposited in the water of the canal. When it was recovered by the Fosters with a lorry, a barge, pulley blocks and chains it was virtually undamaged inside. The new owners decided to move it to a new site which the local newspaper [Market Harborough Advertiser] did not specify. There was a lame joke about a houseboat and mention of a seaworthy bungalow.

period.

HOUSE BLOWN INTO THE CANAL.—Of all the freakish pranks of Wednesday night's great wind, which cut the telephone wires and found the weak spots of the trees, etc., of the neighbourhood, the most curious was that which came to pass on the Union Canal just below the Leicester Road Boathouse. About one o'clock a.m., Mr. and Mrs. Foster were startled by a sudden increase in the violence of the storm, and a shaking and tearing sound, followed by a crash. Upon going out to investigate they could hardly believe their eyes when they discerned the form of the next bungalow beyond their own in the water at the opposite side. It had been lifted bodily, floor, furniture, and all, a distance of twenty yards. The following morning it was seen to have settled in the bed, and assistance was called for. A motor lorry was requisitioned, and with the aid of pulley blocks, acting from the opposite bank, and a barge to help lift it, the bungalow was gradually extricated. A further surprise was in store for, when the structure was entered once more, the owners found, to their surprise, that the damage done to the interior was negligible. As the whole must have struck the surface with a weight little short of a ton, this speaks well of the seaworthiness of the vessel, though it would have been an unpleasant experience for anyone who might have been inside. The bungalow is at present mounted on the barge, but the owners are not making a house-boat of it, but will re-erect it—at another spot.

NATIONAL UNIONIST CONFERENCE

Foxton Strategy

The time has come for us to think about the direction that the Trust is moving in and agree on our forward strategy.

Things like how do we develop our Museum, Visitor number, our FIPT team and just how we spend the money we raise each year.

Neil MacDonald is leading this effort and has produced an outline plan, the key elements of which are outlined below.

There will be more to come on this in the next few months so keep an eye open for some of the changes being worked on

Museum Shopping List

We have identified a shopping list of improvements for the museum - 9 items in total covering improvements to the little shop area at the entrance, with better clearer signage, along with improved facilities for our Staff and volunteers and addressing shortfalls to our security, network access and the functionality of the Discovery App

School Visits

We are targeting a big uplift in the number of schools which visit Foxton next year in conjunction with Canal & River Trust Explorers —and hopefully spend money in the improved shop area in the Museum

Staff Development program

We are taking the time to ensure that our staff are developed and are in the best position to welcome our visitors and make them aware of all the benefits of the Foxton locks area. Job descriptions,



objectives and formal reviews along with revisiting our pay and rewards packages and all features of this review process. It's just what good employers should be doing

Festival shopping list

A proper debrief on our main fundraising event has taken place to ensure we learn lesson from the 2017 festival that we can take forward into 2018

We have a head of Steam now . . .

So in summary lots going on to take our Trust forward and great support across the FIPT team.—Watch out for the next update.

EVENTS 2017

THE BOILERHOUSE
AT FOXTON LOCKS

16 & 17 September – Vintage Steam Festival

14 October - Star Gazing

14 - 29 October – Spooky Halloween

November/December – photography exhibition

16 & 17 December - Illuminated Boat Festival

16 & 17 December – Christmas Lantern making workshop



For more information on our events,
please visit our website.

www.fipt.org.uk



Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday to Sunday 11am - 5pm

Admission: £3 per adult, Children Free (up to 4 per paying adult)



0116 279 2657



@Fox_BoilerHouse



@FoxtonLocks



#boilerhouse_at_foxton_locks

Mike's Moan

- Editor Mike Beech

Back to the Museum!

I am very pleased to say that the BoilerHouse is to be rebranded as the Canal Museum @ the BoilerHouse. When the museum was refurbished with Arts Council Grant and contributions from CRT/ FIPT and Leicestershire Promotions. Holovis did the work and provided much more than the grant money allowed. The work was supervised by a committee (I was not on it), one of the decisions was that we would not be advertised as a museum. They thought that the word Museum in the name would put visitors off. Several names were put forward and BoilerHouse was chosen. Since then visitors have been confused about the identity and use of the building. Was it a cafe, pub, nightclub? They did not come in. At the beginning of this year Penny designed some banners to put round the side pond fence, one says Canal Museum. It has now been agreed that the main signs on the building will be changed to have Canal Museum as the most prominent wording, with @the BoilerHouse as a sub heading. This is one of several investments we are making to improve the museum and increase the visitor numbers. Reports from Museum bodies like the Museums association have for some time been saying that people now want to visit

Museums, the idea of things in dark dusty cabinets has been banished by modern display, interpretation and electronic aids. Our youngest visitors love the museum, it is a while since I heard a parent tell the children that "it's a museum you won't like it". Children then and now often cry when they are told they must leave!



We have a great father and son maintenance gang at the moment, John and Tom Fretwell . They are very skilled and are steadily improving our part of the site. They can work without supervision which is vital for us as if we have to supervise we may as well be doing the job. Recently they have reroofed and painted the shed, cleared the museum roof gutters, and cut back some of the vegetation. They will soon be working on the chimney base which has somehow lost a few bricks, (if anyone has any imperial sized blue bricks' with an angled face please let us know we are about 4 short.)

I am working with the Old Union Canals Society to conserve and improve the 3 boats on site. OUCS 'own' the ice breakers and we have the old maintenance boat at the top of the incline. There is a fair bit of semi skilled work if you would like to get involved.

Our telephone and internet have been a bit rubbish for a while. Being reluctant to pay BT to fix it (they always say that if it is something at our end we



have to pay) Ann and Penny tried all sorts of things to sort the problem. We pay Plus Net, but BT Open reach still does the work. It has taken weeks to sort. Having bitten the bullet and called the engineers out,

They first sent a man to look at the phone lines in the museum, he then said that the outside team were needed, Ann had to get back on the phone to chase them before 2 engineers spent half a day listening to the crackle and tracing it to the fence posts near the passing pond, which I knew had chopped the cable years ago when they were put in. More delay as BT need CRT permission to dig, we didn't want to pay, but CRT Foxton Locks Manager Alex sorted that one out and liaised with BT to

get it done. But with the original engineers on holiday another 2 men came and had a listen, they declared that an entire section needed to be replaced as in addition to the main crackle they could hear noise in other places. Now we needed 2 holes!

Fortunately Alex and CRT sorted out the permission's without us paying so, 2 more men came and dug small holes, replaced the cable. They filled the holes in but another man had to come and fix the small hole in the tarmac path, Barriers' were erected and a week later a man came and filled it in. Was life always this complicated?

Much less complicated is Penny's excellent temporary display, Women of the Cut. She is seen in the photograph



with CRT Chief Executive Richard Parry cutting the ribbon to open the display. An array of VIP's and Trust Volunteers were invited to a grand opening event, it was very good apparently and lots of good networking went on. Shame I missed it!

The display was researched by a number of volunteers and designed in house by Penny (designing in house saves us a small fortune) We also approached Pudding bag productions, a fellow member and award winner from the Leicestershire and Heritage forum (LRHF). Pudding bag is run by Wendy Freer, she has produced a book women on the cut, so was the ideal person to produce a film on the subject for us. There was no cost to this, and it stars among others our own Mary Mats! The film and the exhibition have gone down well.

I mentioned LRHF (they are unlucky enough to have me as their Chairman). During August we participated in their exhibition at Hinckley's Atkins Building. They had lots of visitors so hopefully people will have seen our display and will come for a visit. Please take time to visit the 40 or so museums in the 2 counties (plus Leicester City). There are some really great places to spend some time.

The locks flight has been looking scruffy for some time, but CRT volunteers have started trimming and painting in an effort to bring it back to a high standard. Some visitors may think that the side pond banks look overgrown but they are not now being cut. I am pleased about this as I have complained that if cut and you slip down the bank you have nothing to grab and save yourself. It also allows the wild

flowers to flourish. I hope that they will give it the occasional trim to make sure the flowers continue.

I cannot be at the CRT run Vintage festival. I hope it is a big success. Pictures in this issue - I hope. There have been moans that all of the site parking is closed to normal visits, pre paid tickets allow you to park at £12 per car, £15 on the day. This will either have been a huge success or a complete disaster.

I am writing this between visitors on a Sunday in September, we are pretty busy. I am on my own which is now thankfully rare but everyone else seems to be on holiday. We have had a coach load of visitors from Mablethorpe, I thought that that was where Harborough people went on holiday, so does it seem odd that they should come to us for the day?

I hate new £5.00 notes! When folded they stay folded and will not lay flat in the till. You lift up the spring clip and they immediately spring all over the place! I suppose I must get used to that all the other notes will follow soon. (the first £10 notes found their way into my wallet this week.

Talking of £5.00 notes I remember when a 10 shilling note was worth having? My first proper wage packet contained just one of them and I felt rich, the average wage was just £10. 17s 6d. The average now is £506. My 10 bob, was I think of better value than the modern minimum wage. Or am I just getting old?

Back to boating.

By Mike Beech

I haven't been boating on inland waterways for quite a long time. I haven't slept on a boat since I sold my old 'UNUS'. When Mum said she would like a summer holiday (a bit of a novelty when I was working full time) but looking for a holiday with no hills to walk up is not easy. Then I considered a boat, I dismissed canals as you really need a second fit crew member to do the locks. So It was the Norfolk Broads.

I love the broads. I rented boats



Mike in Captain Mainwaring's hat at the Dad's Army Museum



there long before I could afford a canal boat. Looking through the catalogues I thought I found a great boat to suit mum, and it looked like a real boat. The pictures in the books are linked to a plan of the accommodation, The Boat, named Executive, has a front double bunk with on suite toilet and shower, perfect for

mum as she has full privacy. Plans rarely work out!

We arrived on Saturday afternoon, having taken a detour to visit Dads Army museum in Thetford and have lunch in the 'Lavender Tea Rooms'. The Boat yard is massive, one of the biggest on the

Broads Richardson's has been established for a long time. We were allowed to park next to the boat whilst we transferred Mum and the luggage to the boat. Put Mum's suitcase in the bow cabin.... Ah that won't work. The bunk came up above my waist, in fact it would be interesting for me to climb in to the bunk, which also had little headroom. A quick look in the loo, and that was also high, my feet were eighteen inches from the floor when I used it. Fortunately the other smaller cabin had proper sized bunks and across the kitchen corridor another loo. Mum's feet didn't touch the floor, but at least she didn't need a ladder!

Fish and chips for supper sent me into town where I found a pet shop selling duck food, a brought a big bag which was the best value we found all week. Mum loved feeding the birds, but you must not feed them bread. Proper duck food floats. We purchased much smaller bags later in the week, but that was not good as it didn't float so a lot

was wasted. At Horning the police boat moored alongside us, (yes they have police boats, with speed cameras!) we chatted with them and as a thank you



for letting them tramp across our boat they brought Mum a bag of bird food!

The boat proved very easy to drive. It had a 1.5 BMC diesel which were common on the canals for many years, but this sits across the back of the boat and is linked to a hydronic drive.

We didn't go very far each day or very fast, much of the time the other boats were overtaking us. Mostly we stopped in out of the way places, we did go to Wroxham but finding no where to moor



Good Company, This is Jamie Oliver's beautiful, Boat his Father and son were on board. At Horning Green.



we didn't stay. The boat won't go under Wroxham or Potter Higham bridges, the best mooring in Wroxham is the other side of the bridge. You can moor in some of the boat yards which line the river but we

didn't want it to be too busy, July is not the best time to visit.

We found plenty of good moorings providing we stopped early. Mum stayed on the boat most of the time but did come for a couple of short walks. Visiting old favourites like How Hill, Ranworth, and Salhouse Broad.

We had an ice cream purchased from a tiny GRP cruiser with a giant ice cream cone on the bow. There are 2 of these acting as stop me and buy one's. I had to hold position in the middle of the river whilst waiting for the other boats moored to the bank to be served.

Mums favourite occupation was feeding the ducks. In the evening TV was good, much better than it used to be with the old analogue tvs. So mum didn't miss her Emmerdale's, and I retired to the nearest pub. (Wherry bitter goes down

Hathor, my favourite broads boat, possibly my favourite boat of all.

The Pleasure Wherry Hathor (pronounced *Heart-or*) was built by Daniel Hall of Reedham for Ethel and Helen Colman, daughters of Jeremiah J Colman of mustard fame. Her Egyptian theme and name serve as a memorial to their brother, Alan, who died in 1897 on a trip to Egypt that, it had been hoped, would cure his tuberculosis. The boat is fitted out in very high quality with a piano kitchen, bathroom, four cabins, a saloon, and crew quarters.

The no expenses spared, interior woodwork, primarily sycamore, features inlaid lotus flowers of teak and dyed sycamore in the saloon, while animals and other symbols adorn the doors. The marquetry takes its inspiration from Egyptian artefacts in the British Museum and was designed by Edward Boardman, brother-in-law to Ethel and Helen Colman



well). I had a stock of DVDs for those evening's (most of them) when we couldn't find anything on the 70 channels available, that we wanted to watch. Last of the summer wine, and Dads' Army proved popular. The only TV problems were that the sunny evenings and very thin curtains made it hard to see the screen on some evenings, that is obviously why they provide plenty of spare blankets.

We were in good company, We moored next to Jamie Oliver's boat, I really like that but I would be frightened to spoil that wonderful varnish by actually using her. She has the same problems that my old UNUS had, the front deck leaks when it rains We didn't see them but Timothy West and Prunella Scales

were filming a new series of Great Canal Journeys.

The steps in to the boat were very steep and the ones from the 'Saloon' to the kitchen were steeper than mum was comfortable with, but she still loved the holiday and told me I should have booked 2 weeks.

So on the final day back at the boatyard I examined dozens of styles of boat to find one which would be better. We received enough refund on our diesel, (we didn't use much) that I had enough to pay for the deposit on a fortnights holiday next June. This time in a boat I never thought I would hire, one we used to call a margarine tub. But she was the only one with relatively small steps down

off the back deck and then level throughout, with sensible bunk and loo heights.

I have in the past always rented traditional style boats, ones which look like real boats. One bonus is that she will go under Potter Higham bridge.



The old Swan at Horning, features in the Swallows and Amazons stories.

Farwell Val.. Well Nearly. By Mike Beech



For about seven years Val has been doing a sterling job as our Membership Secretary. When she took it over it was in a bit of a mess, some members on the list hadn't paid for a couple of years and we had allowed this to drift. Having got us all in order she went on to change us over, with some help from Ann to a web based system. She has now decided it is time to hand over to a new person and is teaching committee member Mark Wilson how its done. Val has also been an excellent supporter of our fund raising efforts at events, this she intends to continue with. She has also helped on the counter and may help there again so it is Farewell but not completely. Val always came in on a Tuesday to do the membership along with Ann so without Val Tuesdays will be a much quieter day. With Val, Ann and other female volunteers in residence the atmosphere has usually been fun, all be it with the jokes rather on the eurm... Interesting side?



Our Gorgeous Val with best friend.

Farwell to Ann? Not yet! By Mike Beech



At the last AGM Ann stepped down from the committee. She is still involved with the festival, but she has her motor home and wants to use it. She is also volunteering for other big events, most recently the Special Olympics. Ann has

been involved at Foxton nearly as long as I have, having been dragged to various events in the early days she got involved in fund raising, then helped on the museum front desk and then joined the committee where she took on fund raising. This led

her to being Festival director a post she has held for a few years. So Ann has been a huge help in raising very significant funds for us.



Top Left Ann's look in this years festival.

Top right Ann, on a mission.

Bottom, Ann with Gill Cook fundraising outside the museum.



Ann relaxing at one of our festivals. A rare event!

Ann sitting on her BMW Olympic car, She volunteered as a driver for the London event, ferrying mainly families of competitors to and between venues.



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Visit us on [www.facebook.com/
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Registered in England: Number 1654756.

Registered Charity : Number 513241

Museum Accreditation 1644

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President: Stephen Bowyer

Vice Presidents: David Goodwin, Roy Nichols, Trevor Towers

Membership is open to all who have sympathy with the aims and objectives of the Trust upon payment of the appropriate subscription:

£9 Single- renewable Jan 1st

£12 Family - renewable Jan 1st

£150 Individual Life

The BoilerHouse is run by the Trust and its volunteers. It holds extensive collections of artefacts, models, archives, and photographs of the Lift site and associated waterways. The Museum has won numerous awards and contains something for everyone and all ages, including touch screen interactive displays, a play boat, working models, the boiler game and large screen projections. Refurbished in 2015.

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Press Dates For copy to be included in the Plane Informer, it must reach the Editor, at the BoilerHouse, before these dates:

Winter: Mid-November Spring: Mid-February

Summer: Mid-May Autumn: Mid-August

FIPT director Neil MacDonald became a CRT volunteer for the weekend, looking very smart in boating clothes borrowed from Mike.



Event organiser Matt Harries, dressed as canal inspector, with site manager Alex Good.

