



**Every winter C&RT changes the rules on mooring but this time they have got something right.**

# 14-day mooring change welcome

For the first time this year the Canal & River Trust has decided that all visitor moorings nationally will revert to a 14-day stay limit between the start of November and the beginning of March.

It has said that there may be some exceptions, but has yet to publish a list of those, and up to half the moorings in an increased number of places will be occupied by paid-for winter moorings, but the decision will make life considerably less stressful for the hundreds of boats that cruise through the winter months.

### Cruising

It will also be welcomed by canalside businesses that keep open through the winter months, according to Norbury



Wharf's Managing Director Simon Jenkins.

### 48 hour moorings will become 14 days starting on November 1st.

"We stay open seven days a week throughout the winter months and much of our trade comes from boaters who enjoy cruising during winter," he said. "Based, as we are, in the middle of the Shropshire Union Canal, we have far too few 14-day mooring spots and far too many with 48-hour restrictions, the length of the canal.

### Essential

"That whole pattern needs to be reviewed by the Canal & River Trust but this winter concession is welcome as boaters will feel much more inclined to visit our canal and stay awhile.

"Not only do we find continuously cruising boaters like to stop for essential supplies, like our solid fuel and cheap diesel, they also find they can source whatever chandlery supplies they need to do a bit of work on their vessels and even visit our cafe for a full breakfast before they start working."

Simon says he hopes this is one innovation C&RT sticks with. "It has long been the case on popular moorings in the South East region, like Braunston, and it is high time the whole country followed suit."



"Far too many moorings with 48-hr moorings" - these ones near Knighton

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## Bargains

### DIESEL

- Our fuel is the cheapest at a commercial boatyard on the waterways - and FAME free. It can change on a weekly basis but it is now at:

**59.9p**

### BATTERIES

- 110amphr batteries  
JUST

**£64.95**

each when you buy four or more in the same transaction. £69.00 each if sold singly.

### ECOFANS

The original and best fan for your stove just

**£109.99**

# Day of magic - that works all year round

Norbury Wharf's day boats are often the first experience many people have of steering a boat on a canal - and they offer a year-round taste of one of the most attractive canals in Britain.

Summer, Autumn and Winter small groups of up to ten people take one of the small boats out for several hours on an almost magical journey along a canal that slices through the landscape of Shropshire and Staffordshire, one moment sheltering in a deep cutting, the next with expansive views across to the Wrekin and even the Welsh Marches in the far distance.

The boats themselves are adaptable to the season and the weather with open front decks that and inside space with kitchen and toilet facilities and, in addition to the views and the wildlife, the canal is blessed with pubs at regular intervals.

It is not surprising that hiring a day boat at around £10 a head for ten people often leads on to taking a holiday hire and exploring more of the system.

Drifting between high banks as buzzards make their mewing sound overhead, watching a squirrel jump the canal from trees high above your head and pausing for pint and a bite is a bit magical and it doesn't matter what time of year you do it.



Cuttings, above and open vistas, below.

In the Autumn the colours are magnificent and in winter you sometimes catch a frost of the trees turning the canal into a winter grotto.

If the idea attracts you can book through the office on 01785 284292.



## Trip boat's winter schedule

After a highly successful summer season the Shropshire Star trip boat is moving into winter mode. Sunday public trips have finished now for the winter months, but it can still be chartered for functions and parties.

The popular fish and chip evening supper cruise has also finished with the darker nights but it is planned to re-appear as a Saturday lunch time fish and chip cruise. There are plans in hand for a Sunday lunch cruise too, with a

stop to eat at a canalside pub, look for details on the web site. There you will also find details of our Christmas offers you can buy as presents for next year including vouchers for the day boats and the trip boat.

## New to the hire fleet

Winter is the time Norbury Wharf upgrades and does winter works on the hire fleet. This year some of the work will be focused on a new addition to the fleet, called Flora after Manager David Ray's little girl middle name. It's a 58ft 2+2 berth, and on offer for 2016 will also be Pioneer, a new addition in the form of a 47ft 2 berth boat. Meanwhile Quince has been retired.

## Boat is the star

Norbury's painting dock continues to build a reputation for quality and is still very busy with plans for the latest boat to be completed to be featured in Waterways World magazine. It's a Steve Hudson boat, one of only two built with recessed panels, and it's had a complete makeover. At the same time the dry dock is very busy into November, after which it will be used for Norbury's own boats right through until the end of February.

## Keep it cosy with a delivery of winter fuel

The first big deliveries of winter fuels have arrived in the yard at Norbury and Taybrite, Excel, house coal, and Anthracite, are available on the wharf. If you order 10 bags or more you can have them delivered and several local pubs take deliveries from Norbury.

# Shroppie cutting to close for work to stabilise banks



Large wire baskets full of stones hold back the slopes in part of Woodseaves Cutting. More work is planned this winter

Woodseaves Cutting on the Shropshire Union Canal is one of the most impressive on the system, with high walls of soft rock and trees that meet in the middle, turning the canal into a green tunnel in the summer months. Unfortunately it is also suscep-

tible to regular landslips, sometimes closing one of the most popular canals in the country for weeks at a time.

The Canal & River Trust has already carried out some extensive preventative work, placing large cages of rocks at the base of the slop on the towpath side in order to hold back any land slippage, and upgrading what

has long been a wet and muddy towpath with a layer of stones allowing water to pass underneath and into the canal.

This winter there is more work planned and the cutting will be closed to boats, walkers and cyclists from February 8 till March 11 2016 for more cutting stabilisation works.

# High flying inspectors

Abseilers are to carry out an inspection of the 'Cathedral of the Canals' – Anderton Boat Lift, a scheduled ancient monument near Northwich. The 80 foot tall structure dates from 1875 and lifts canal boats 50 feet between the River Weaver and the Trent & Mersey Canal. It was fully restored to working order in 2002 in a £7 million project.

The inspection of the Lift is part of the structure's 'MOT' to ensure that it is kept in good working order. The specialist abseiling team has been brought in as they are the most efficient way to check for corrosion or any other defects.

The inspection team are expected to take a week as they painstakingly check every inch of the structure to ensure its structural integrity.

As part of the 2002 restoration work, a visitor centre was opened, with a trip boat able to offer tourists the experience of travelling through the boat lift.

Canal & River Trust engineer Lee Bradley said: "Anderton Boat Lift enjoys the title 'Cathedral of the canals' because it is such a majestic building. It is a cat's cradle of steel and iron dating back to 1875 and needs to be examined closely

as part of the inspection.

"The abseilers are experts in their field and able to access every nook and crevice that needs to be examined. It is not an easy job and you need a head for heights, but one that enables us to carry out the inspection with the minimum disruption.

"The alternative would be to swathe the structure in scaffolding, but this would mean the boat lift would have to be closed with the ensuing inconvenience this would cause to boaters and our own trip boats."



Get afloat and try the fun of boating  
Take a trip on Victory, Defiant, Bounty - our day boats for 10 people.  
You can enjoy up to 17 miles of the beautiful Shropshire Union canal with no locks and 6 pubs!



Or stay ashore in our cosy cottage home from home



## Heritage trail for young is aided by retirees

A new trail created for children at the Canal & River Trust's Ellesmere canal repair yard in Shropshire will help them travel back in time and find out what it was like when the yard was opened over 200 years ago. The trail has been developed thanks to a donation from a nearby retirement housing scheme, whose residents have taken a keen interest in the development of the Ellesmere canal yard and so nominated the Trust as their charity of the year. Children from Ellesmere Primary School explored the trail in advance of the repair yard being opened to the public as part of the annual Ellesmere Festival and national Heritage Open Days and met some of the residents whose donation had turned the trail into reality. Canal & River Trust education coordinator Katie Hutchinson, said: "The new trail is an exciting way to help children imagine what the Ellesmere canal repair yard would have been like in its heyday." The Ellesmere yard on the Llangollen Canal is located on Birch Road on the edge of the town of Ellesmere and is a well preserved example of a canal maintenance yard dating back to the early 1800s.



## Multi-skilled engineer?

Is there a good engineer out there? Norbury will soon be advertising for a new engineer. Managing Director, Simon Jenkins said: "I want a good all round engineer. He or she must have the following skills, mechanical engineering, electrical experience, plumbing and woodwork. "A general knowledge of boats is essential, this is a position that we are looking to fill as soon as possible, so that they can work alongside our current man, Mick, until he retires next spring."

## Election time again

Nominations are now open for election to the Canal & River Trust's governing Council, with those wishing to stand having until 14 October to either nominate themselves or register their support for someone else's nomination. This year's elections will decide four posts representing the interests of private boaters, two representing boating businesses, a post representing the Trust's staff, and for the first time, elected posts for volunteers and people who make a regular donation to the Trust. Council members take up their four-year voluntary post from March 2016.



Retiring Chair Tony Hales

# Boats for sale

2015 could be the best year ever for boat sales at Norbury Wharf, with vessels sailing away almost as soon as they are docked.

Manager David Ray said: "Boat sales are ridiculously good, and we simply can't get enough stock to fulfil demand."

"Three boats sold last week alone, two of which came in on Thursday and were sold within a few days of being advertised.

"If we can get more boats, we reckon that this year could well be the best year in our history for boat sales."

### Lady Emma Jean -

60 foot Gary Gorton Traditional stern narrow boat built in 1989, and very much updated since then. Entering the boat through the stern doors you come straight in to the engine compartment, a door then takes you in to bedroom area with two sets of steel opening side doors. There's a large galley, then the open plan saloon which houses a TV cupboard and a large multifuel stove. Front doors lead out on to the front deck which is covered by a cratch and cover. The boat has central and is powered by a modern Perkins 42 HP water cooled engine with a large PRM hydraulic 260 gearbox with centre flex coupling. **£29,999.**



Ref 10364



REF 10358

### Holly

Built by one probably one of the best known Black Country boat builders of the modern canal age, Les Allen and sons of Bilston, in 1991. She is 45 foot long with lovely lines and cruises through the water effortlessly. Professionally fitted out by Dave Smith of Allen boats to a very good standard. Entering the boat through the rear doors there is the engine room with the engine under deck boards; a door leads through in to the bedroom with permanent double bed, then comes the bathroom. The galley sits alongside the saloon and has seating and solid fuel stove. The boat is powered by a 1.8 BMC engine with hydraulically operated gearbox, the boat has been docked and maintained by us since it was purchased by its current owners. **£27,500**

### Swn-y-Ddraig

50ft traditional stern built by Eastwood engineering, and powered by a 1.5 BMC diesel engine. The boat has a current boat safety until July 2018, the boat is laid out internally with a bedroom at the rear, with a drop down cross bed, a shower room with wash hand basin and pump out toilet, then comes the galley with the usual appliances and a 12volt fridge. Then there's a large open plan saloon with a solid fuel fire which provides the heat for the boat, a front door then leads out on to the front deck area, the boat is wired for both 12v and 240 volts, it also has an inverter.

**£24,500**



REF 10353