



# e-BUTTY SUMMER 2017

*The on-line update  
for members of the  
Kennet and Avon Canal Trust*



## Trust submits detailed bid for Crofton to Heritage Lottery Fund

On 31st May, the Trust submitted its detailed bid under 'round 2' to The Heritage Lottery Fund for support to our project to conserve and improve the Crofton Beam Engines. Our project will see vital repairs to the buildings, improved facilities such as a disabled toilet, completely revamped interpretation displays and a wide range of family oriented activities to attract new visitors. With detailed plans now prepared, the project is going to cost £845,000. Of that, £86,500 worth of effort will be provided by our amazing team of volunteers at Crofton. That leaves £758,000 of cash to be raised. The Trust is providing £76,000 from our funds. We are running a fund raising campaign to raise £123,000 (of which we have £76,000 so far). And finally, the Heritage Lottery Fund, if they are satisfied with our work, will provide £559,000.

Preparing a lottery bid is no small undertaking. It's taken nearly 1600 hours of volunteer time in addition to a project manager paid for by HLF to help us with the design work. In this picture Trust Chairman, Rob Dean, is looking relieved after spending a whole day printing out the many documents prepared for the bid, ready to deliver to HLF. We will have an answer from HLF in late



September. In the meantime, there's plenty of work to be done to prepare for implementation. And we still have £47,000 to raise!

## Message from Les Amis du Canal Nivernais

Philippe Benard from our twin canal, du Nivernais, has sent the following message:

*Les Amis du Canal du Nivernais adressent avec émotion leur plus grande sympathie à tous ceux du K & A Canal Trust, de la DBA et à leurs très nombreux amis britanniques encore touchés par un lâche attentat. J'espère qu'aucun de vous ne connaît directement de victime et vous envoie toute mon amitié. Je ne trouve pas les bons mots mais je pense bien à vous. Notre association n'existerait sans doute pas sans Jo Parfitt et l'exemple anglais, sachez que vous comptez pour nous! Vive la paix et la fraternité*

This translates as:

The Friends of the Nivernais Canal express their deepest sympathy to all those of the K & A Canal Trust, the DBA and their many British friends still affected by a cowardly attack. I hope that none of you know a victim directly and send you all my friendship. I do not find the right words but I think of you. Our association would not exist without doubt without Jo Parfitt and the English example, know that you count for us! Long live peace and brotherhood.

Rob has replied as follows:

Thank you from your friends on the Kennet & Avon Canal for your message of support. The outcome of yesterday's dreadful attack shocked us, just as we were shocked when similar attacks on people enjoying themselves on an evening out took place in France last year.

Those of us who work on waterways know that the environment and opportunity for relaxation which they provide enable our communities to come together in friendship and enjoyment. The waterways represent a slower and more civilised approach to life and living together. That's why they're so important. Let's keep working on that. On both sides of La Manche.

*from Rob Dean*

## Newbury Waterways Festival & Pirate Trips

Don't forget that the Newbury Waterways Festival is coming up on Sunday 23rd July. Boats start arriving on 21st, and will be dressed up in our theme 'Beatlemania' on Sunday when visitors will have a chance to see inside some of the boats, including the CRT welcome boat 'The Admiral' and our own Bruce Branch boat 'Diana'. In Victoria Park there will be a wide range of stalls where visitors can shop, eat, learn or try their luck at winning. And plenty of opportunities for the kids to play at the funfair and on the land train. There will be live entertainment from the Acoustic Beatles Shambles who put equal emphasis on "acoustic", "Beatles" and "shambles". The group don't plan a setlist but rely on audience participation—mostly by shouting, singing or heckling—to come up with the Beatles songs they want to hear. No Beatles numbers are off limits (well, within reason)! As John Lennon once said 'A splendid time is guaranteed for all'. The Festival will conclude with the traditional duck race when more than a thousand plastic ducks race to win their sponsor a prize. Do come along!

All Trust members, friends and family are invited to join the boaters at the Newbury Waterways Festival **Saturday night party, 22<sup>nd</sup> July**, in Victoria Park from 7pm. Live music from the Acoustic Beatles Shambles and an American style supper are on offer.

Tickets are £5 and bring a plate to share. Email julie at [juliedean@btinternet.com](mailto:juliedean@btinternet.com) for more information and reserve tickets – or just turn up.

Pirate trips on Jubilee start in Newbury on Tuesday 25th July and continue every Tuesday and Wednesday during the school summer holidays. If you are looking after kids this summer holiday, go to [jubilee.katrust.org.uk](http://jubilee.katrust.org.uk) for more details and to book. We are going to have a really fun time; oh yes we AARRGGG!  
*from Julie Dean*

## Devizes Summer Dates

Saturday 24th June

From 7.30: Garden Party and BBQ at Alan and Jean Smith's home beside the canal.

Saturday 1st July.

10-4pm: Devizes Beer Festival on the Wharf. The branch will be running a soft drinks and snacks stall, and a tombola as well as promoting the canal and our activities.

Friday 1 Sept @ 7 pm.

Carnival on the Canal.

Our annual festival of food and drink, music and dance. There's plenty of work to be done or just come to enjoy yourself.

More detail from [devizes.chairman@katrust.org.uk](mailto:devizes.chairman@katrust.org.uk) or phone Sharmain on 07828 028 537 or Jean Smith on 01380 726876.  
*from Paul Jakeman*

## Reading Branch Summer Activities

Sat 10 June

Reading Water Fest

Sun 23 July

Newbury Water Festival

Sat 26 Aug

Possible outing to Chichester Ship Canal or Chichester harbour.

Might hire a minibus. Please register your interest to see if there is a demand.

Contact : Pam Swift Swift

t : 0118 941 5540 e : [swift.john21@gmail.com](mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com)  
iPhone : 07533 886 917

*from John Swift*



## Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Walking History Tours Devizes Wharf to the Caen Hill Flight.



Join a leisurely two hour talk with a pictorial history along the canal towpath. Approximately 2 miles return.



An opportunity to learn about the more obscure history of the canal, why it was built, its demise and back to the present day as a flourishing waterway used for pleasure.

**Walks are free , however a donation could be made to the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.**



This tour is suitable for both pushchairs and wheelchairs along a surfaced towpath with slight inclines.



For information on any of our trips contact.  
07975854503

Or call into Visitors Centre  
Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, The Wharf, Couch Lane,  
Devizes, SN10 1EB



[www.facebook.com/kenavonventure](https://www.facebook.com/kenavonventure)

[www.katrust.org.uk](http://www.katrust.org.uk)

# Hungerford Update

*From Steve Bariff*

It looks as if the Rose of Hungerford is well on the way for another record breaking season, with charters coming in thick and fast (much to Mike and Sara's chagrin!).

The success of the cream tea trips will be replicated on future bank holidays and the ever popular Crofton Stokers will be performing live on the boat during the evening of the 24th June.

As with many boats in the K&A fleet we continue to press for more volunteers and to this end have produced a small brochure, with the help of Rob Dean, encouraging more people to assist in running this increasingly popular tourist attraction. The Rose is also heavily featured as the top tourist attraction in Hungerford on "Trip Advisor".

Prior to the start of the season the boat superstructure was given several coats of paint thanks to Alan Whitewick and our indefatigable volunteers, but more of this in the glossy October edition of the Butty.

The profile of the Rose in Hungerford continues to grow and is now helped by our very own notice board under Hungerford's railway bridge. The board, which was constructed out of oak by Dave Rolls, of Crofton, is already attracting attention from many passers-by and will no doubt lead to even greater passenger numbers.



# And finally.....

Branches and volunteers are well underway with their different programmes of summer events.

I look forward to hearing about the many and varied activities taking place the length of the K & A over the summer season, so that the Autumn edition of THE BUTTY is another bumper one.

I was pleased to receive the poster about the new Devizes Canal Walks from Peter aka Pirate Jack, one of the Kennet and Avon canal historians, together with this message:

"I met you in Devizes tearooms a while back and you asked if we had anything interesting going on to give you a mail about it.

At Devizes we are going to start Canal History Walks along the canal from Devizes Wharf to Caen Hill locks.

This will involve a two hour walk approx. two miles there and back (or a bus/taxi can bring people back if preferred) the talk will be about the basic history of the canal with old photos showing the then and now to give a more visual picture of how the canal has developed over the years from hay day into decline and back to present day as a thriving business. These walks are wheelchair friendly and free with a voluntary donation to KACT."

Random conversations along the canal can have some great outcomes!

I invite Trust members who have a story to tell from being out and about on the canal this summer to think about writing in to me so I can share your stories in the next Butty — deadline end of September.....and don't forget to take high res photos to illustrate the stories please.

Enjoy the summer on the K&A.

*Lestey*

the butty@katrust.org.uk