



Neath and Tennant Canals Trust

Quarterly Newsletter

March 2011 – No. 135



The Neath Canal at the Waterways Festival site – Ynysawedd Farm. Note the new landing stage. The festival site will be on the fields to the right of the photo.



on Neath Canal

2011

Incorporating the IWA National Trailboat Festival
28th - 30th May 2011

Ynysarwed Farm, Resolven South Wales off B4242

**Organised by Neath & Tennant Canals Trust, Neath Canal Navigation Co.
and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council**

Y Cymoedd
Cwmn ac Eiraidd Cymru
The Valleys
Heart and Soul of Wales



Neath Port Talbot
Castell-nedd Port Talbot
County Borough Council Cyngrif Bwrdeistref Sirol
DWT1582

Welsh Waterways Festival – May 2011

The preparations for the Festival are proceeding very satisfactorily with most of the site accommodation for visitors having been completed. To date there are already 10 boats booked in, the furthest trailboat travelling from Newcastle by trailer. Several campers and caravans have also booked in.

Roy Noble, our Patron, has agreed to open the Festival at 11.00am on Saturday 28th May following a short cruise along the canal to Ynysbwilog Aqueduct from the Festival site. The opening will also be attended by many local and national dignitaries.

The event field has been mapped out and events over the festival weekend agreed and contracted to attend, along with entertainment, catering and various trade stands.

Within the next few weeks the Trust will be looking for the commitment from members wishing to volunteer for a variety of tasks over the days leading up to and during the festival and helping with the clear up after the event. (See enclosed leaflet)

A great deal of the arranging of the festival has been carried out by a few members of the Trust, Neath Port Talbot Council, Peter Mayberry (the landowner) the Neath Canal Navigation Co. and the Inland Waterways Association. The Trust is deeply indebted to the members of the organisations mentioned above, especially to Colin Powell of NPTCBC who is also a Trust member.

Many events are programmed over the weekend and as they are confirmed and finalised they will be published on the Festival web site -

www.welshwaterwaysfestival.co.uk

or visit the Trust's web site on

www.neath-tenant-canals.org.uk

and link into the festival site.

Another site worth looking at is the Wilderness Boat Owners Club site at

www.wilderness.org.uk



The large roadside sign advertising the Festival at the Festival Site.



The recently cleared canal and new landing stage at the Festival site.



Work is nearly finished rebuilding the walls on the bridge across the Neath Canal into Ynysarwed Farm.



The cleared site for car parking just north of the Festival Site.

Thomas Dadford.

Our Trip Boat, Thomas Dadford, was put back into the water in February. The reason for the early re-launch was so that boat crew training could get under way well before the trip season starts at Easter. The first training session was held on the 14th March. Other sessions will be held over the next few weeks and boat crew members will be contacted regarding these.



Boat crew members at the first training session, led by our qualified trainer, Gareth Hughes.

Fortunately, during the winter, very little work was needed on the Thomas Dadford because of the recent refit. The hull was blackened, a new bilge pump outlet pipe fitted through the hull, non-slip flooring placed on the cabin floor and a shelf has been built behind the steps to accommodate tools and equipment.

Crew members will be contacted soon regarding their availability during 2011 and a boat roster will then be drawn up and distributed. As many boat crew members as possible will be needed over the weekend of 28th – 30th May – Festival Weekend.

Other Canal News.

On Monday the 14th March a group from Swansea Bay Tourism visited various sites in and around Neath/Port Talbot and one of the sites was the Neath Canal. The group travelled from B&Q up to Tonna to experience what we had to offer tourists.



The Swansea Bay Tourism group are welcomed aboard the Thomas Dadford by Malcolm Smith and Gareth Hughes.

Membership Update.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a Membership Update form. We need to update our membership database with up-to-date addresses, telephone numbers (land lines and mobiles) email addresses and subscription payment details. It would be greatly appreciated if you could return these forms to our Membership Secretary, Trevor Morgan, as soon as possible.

Items for Newsletter.

If you have any canal-related items which you would like published in the newsletter, please send them to the Editor (contact details on back page.)

**Neath and Tennant Canals Trust.
Council of Management 2010 – 2011.**

Chairman: Vacant

Vice-Chairman and Work Party Organiser: Malcolm Smith Tel: 01792 774991

General Secretary: Ian Milne Tel: 01792 547902

Company Secretary – Huw James.

Treasurer: Trevor Morgan.

Membership Secretary: Trevor Morgan.

Social Secretary: Vacant.

Publicity Officer: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Ted Porter.

Other Directors:

Edwin Farrar
Mike Jones.

Jean Morgan
Peter Ricketts.

Articles, letters, photographs etc. are always needed to keep your newsletters interesting. All contributions should be sent to the Editor:

Ted Porter,
35, Alexander Road,
Rhyddings, Neath,
SA10 8EF

Email: edward.porter.eurfryn@ntlworld.com

- by the first week of the month of publication i.e. March,
June, September and December.