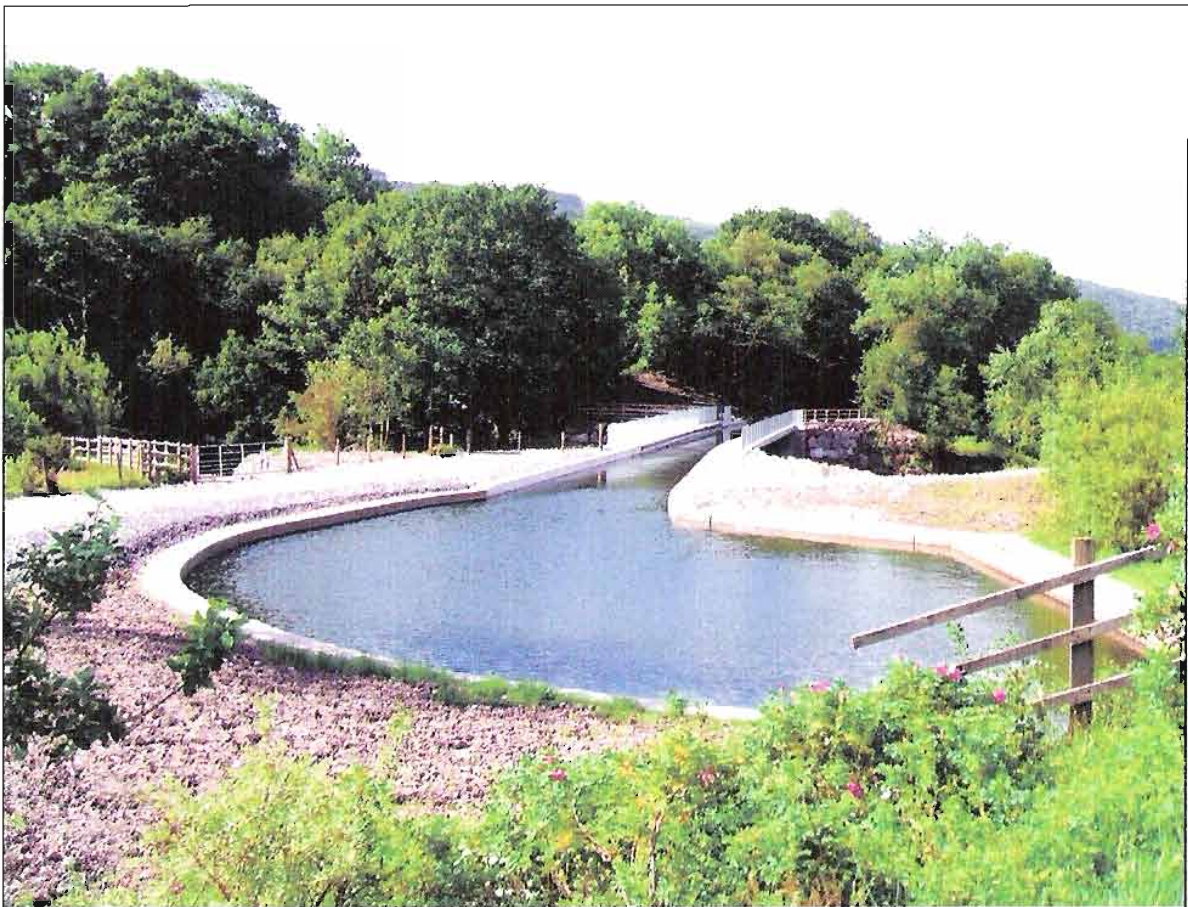


## **Neath and Tennant Canals Trust**

**Quarterly Newsletter – No. 124**

**June 2008**



**June 2008 - Ynysbwllog Aqueduct ready for the first boats!**

## **News.**

### **Ynysbwlllog Aqueduct**

Work has now been completed on rebuilding Ynysbwlllog Aqueduct and the water supply has been restored. Arrangements are being made for a grand opening ceremony with extensive press coverage which will give the canal very important publicity. The date of this opening has yet to be announced.

### **Thomas Dadford.**

Boat trips have been going since Easter and have been well supported. Some trips are now running from Aberdulais Basin and it will be interesting to see what passenger numbers are like. Trips are being well advertised at the nearby National Trust Site – Aberdulais Falls. There have been a number of Charter Trips recently and quite a few more have been booked for the weeks ahead. Boat Crew members have been receiving training now that some boat trips involve the passage through locks. If you haven't had training yet, please contact Malcolm Smith.

### **Work Parties.**

A few Work Parties have taken place recently – installing mooring posts and reed cutting at Aberdulais Basin and clearance work inside the Workshops at Tonna.

### **Canal Talks.**

Our Chairman, Peter Ricketts, has been busy giving talks on the history and restoration of the canals, the most recent being at Swansea University.

### **Canal Walk.**

There will be a Canal Walk on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>. June - meet at the National Trust Car Park, Aberdulais (opposite Aberdulais Falls) at 6.30 p.m. Members and guests can then walk up the Neath Canal to Ynysbwlllog Aqueduct to see the recent restoration work. Arrangements will be made to ferry members back to the starting point.

### **Boat Show.**

The South Wales Boat Show will be taking place from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. June at Margam Park, Port Talbot. Our Trust will be present with our exhibition.

### **Canal Walks.**

Life Member John B. Davies attended a recent Council of Management Meeting to promote a project he is working on which involves using public transport to get to places of interest in the Swansea/Neath areas. He has already completed a similar project in Gower and a very useful leaflet has been produced. He now wants to promote the Neath Canal and Neath Valley and produce a similar leaflet to encourage visitors to this area. Watch this space for more information.

Important Notice.

**Notice of Annual General Meeting**

to be held at

**Lock House (British Legion), Aberdulais**  
on

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>. July 2008.**

**at 8.00 p.m.**

**AGENDA.**

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of A.G.M. of 11<sup>th</sup>. July 2007.
3. Matters Arising.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Presentation of Accounts.
6. Election of President.
7. Election of Council of Management Members – Messrs Peter Ricketts, Malcolm Smith, Ted Porter and Mike Jones retire on rotation. Please send any nominations to the General Secretary, Mr. Ian Milne, 16, Gower Road, Sketty, Swansea, SA2 9BY to arrive at least 21 days before the date of the AGM.
8. Socialisation and slide show of recent restoration.

In 1996 Clun Primary School celebrated its centenary and put together a collection of memories. Our Chairman and Secretary helped the children with their work on the Neath Canal. With the rebuilding of the aqueduct and locks at Clyne, the following letter, written to the school, by Mrs Mary Kane, might be of interest to members -

“I am informed by an ex pupil of Clyne School (also read it in the Evening Post), that a Centenary is to be held at Clyne School this year. Myself and family – brothers, sisters, mother, aunts and uncles were all at Clyne School right back as far as 1903. My grandparents came to Clyne from Lydney in Glos, in the Forest of Dean. Clyne was only a couple of houses then and they lived at the bottom of the hill where the post office used to be.

My grandfather (Mr John Bevan) was something of an Authority on Tinsplate and was sent to Clyne as foreman in the tin works which was situated over at Clyne Halt. He had 5 sons and 2 daughters. The boys worked at the Tin Works after the 1914-1918 War until the Depression when it closed and all were out of work.

I believe it was prior to the 1914 war that my grandparents built two houses just on the brow of the hill – one was called ‘Dean Villa’. I think they were the first to be built on the hill. My mother was married from there and I was born in Melincourt.

In those days, Clyne was quite lively. There was a Billiard Hall almost opposite Dean Villa, two Welsh Chapels, Goshen and Hermon, and my grandfather built a third next to the iron bridge, which has since been demolished. Finally they decided it was time for an English speaking place of worship. Again my grandparents put the wheels in motion as they couldn’t speak Welsh. They got together with the Rev. Blundell and his wife from Swansea who ran the ‘Glyn Vivian Miners’ Mission’ - in the Hafod I think it was, and they used to come to Clyne and we had our meetings in the Billiard Hall for a while, then the Glyn Vivian decided to build the Mission near the school (which I learned only this evening had sadly been burned to the ground - what a dreadful wickedness). I remember the day it opened There was great excitement. A special tea was laid on and I could hardly wait for that day to get out of school to go over there, especially as my uncles had helped in the building - carpentry and painting. So many rich and happy childhood memories. There were tennis matches, rugby matches and football games in those days.

Clyne School was a happy school and my teacher in the infants was Mrs. Buchan. Sadly I had to leave at the age of 7 as my father, a lay preacher, ex miner and tin worker, obtained employment in the Christian Volunteers in Glasgow. From there we moved to Cardiff and then to Birmingham. We returned in 1939, at the outbreak of war. I was never happy away from Clyne. In the city it was claustrophobic. I missed the freshness, the green fields and the mountains, and above all the peace and tranquility. I did come back to Clyne School briefly when I was about 11 years old and stayed at Dean Villa. It was about 1936 I think, at the time when the King and Queen and 2 Princesses visited the area. I remember the school gave us a half day holiday to go opposite the road near Ynysarwed to see them.



I remember the Whitsun teas and marches and sports afterwards in Gwyn the farmer's field and hay making time when Gwyn would give kids rides on the hay wagon and let us help in the fields. But woe betide us if we went into his fields at other times without permission.

Mr. Miller was our Headmaster and lived next to the iron bridge. Almost everyone went to Chapel in those days and people were so much nicer then. I could go on but will close now, hoping to come to Clyne for the centenary."

Yours faithfully  
Mrs Mary Kane (nee John)

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The Neath Canal looking north – the A465 subway is to the left.

**Neath and Tennant Canals Trust**

**Canal Boat Trips**

**From B&Q Neath**

Saturdays from 22<sup>nd</sup>. March until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays  
From July 21<sup>st</sup> until August 29<sup>th</sup>.

**From Aberdulais Basin**

Saturdays and Sundays  
From June 1st until July 20<sup>th</sup>.

And then  
Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays  
From July 23<sup>rd</sup> until August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Times for all trips**

11.00 a.m 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Adults - £4      Children £2

Charters available at other times.  
For full details please telephone 01792 426449



Two views of Ynysbwlllog Aqueduct – June 2008.



**Neath and Tennant Canals Trust.  
Council of Management 2007 – 2008.**

**Chairman:** Peter Ricketts.

**Vice-Chairman and Work Party Organiser:** Malcolm Smith

**General Secretary:** Ian Milne

**Treasurer:** Trevor Morgan.

**Membership Secretary:** Trevor Morgan.

**Social Secretary:** Vacant.

**Publicity Officer:** Hywel Jenkins.

**Newsletter Editor:** Ted Porter.

**Other Directors:**

Edwin Farrar  
Jean Morgan  
Mike Jones.

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

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

Email: [edward.porter.eurfryn@ntlworld.com](mailto:edward.porter.eurfryn@ntlworld.com)

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