



# **Neath and Tennant Canals Trust**

**Quarterly Newsletter – No. 125**

**September 2008**



**'Thomas Dadford' on a quiet September morning.**

## NEATH & TENNANT CANALS TRUST LTD.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2007 – 2008.**

Again this year I can report that with the continuing close working relationship between the Trust and the Neath Canal Navigation Co. much has been achieved in continuing the progress of restoration of the Neath Canal.

#### **Current Activity.**

Following a meeting of the stakeholders seeking the Restoration of Aberdulais Aqueduct, of which the Trust is a member, a brief was developed by Opus International Consultants (UK) Ltd, for the Assessment of the Feasibility of Rehabilitation of Aberdulais Aqueduct. Funding to carry out the study is being sought by the Tennant Canal Co. along with CADW, and funding for the study should be in place during 2008 – 2009.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council along with the City and County of Swansea and the Welsh Assembly have appointed Hyder and Bridge Economics to undertake a socio economic benefit analysis of restoring the Neath and Tennant Canals to navigation. A draft report has already been submitted to the Local Authorities and Welsh Assembly and agreed in principle, the final report is now awaited.

Groundwork Trust has secured funding to design and install features promoting the canal corridor between Tonna and Aberdulais. The N&TC Trust was approached to help with the content of scenes depicting local history to be carved on slate panels for inclusion into a new wall being built overlooking the canal at St Annes Terrace, Tonna. The new wall is the initial project to improve and promote the canal in the Aberdulais area.

As chairman of the Trust, I have over the past year attended meetings of the group of stakeholders promoting the restoration of Aberdulais Aqueduct, NPTCBC's forum on the Western Valleys Strategy, the All Party Group on Waterways at the National Assembly for Wales and Southern Canals Association meetings at Droitwich and Devizes. I also attend regular meetings, as a director and committee member of NCN, with Robert Minty, the Neath Canal manager, to discuss matters regarding the restoration and other relevant topics appertaining to the Neath Canal.

#### **Restoration.**

During the past year, restoration work, started in 2006, has been completed to now give a continual navigation of 6 miles from Neath Town Centre to Abergarwed.

The restoration of Tyn-yr-heol Lock at Tonna has now been finalised, some of the outstanding 'snagging' work was carried out by the main contractor, but to make the lock operational the remaining outstanding work was finally completed by NCN.

The project to restore the three locks at Clyne and the Ynysbwllog Aqueduct by NCN has also been completed and the aqueduct is now designated the longest single span steel aqueduct in the UK. NCN have also improved the appearance of Clyne Lower Lock by building stonework at the entrance to the lock and providing a landing facility. An official opening of the restored canal at Clyne is being arranged by NPTCBC and NCN.

The project to renew the lock gates at Resolven with funding obtained by the Trust is complete and NPTCBC is seeking further funding to pressure grout and de-silt the lock chamber.

Mrs J.Coombe-Tennant was invited to become the Trust's President, which she has kindly agreed to accept and all members of the Trust warmly welcome Mrs Coombe-Tennant into the Trust.

Following acts of continued vandalism at Ty Banc, Resolven, the base for the operation of the trip boat 'Enfys' for the disabled, and on the trip boat 'Enfys', the Enfys Trust has ceased operations and the boat disposed of. The cost of operating the boat and repairs following the vandal attacks had become prohibitive and became impossible for the Trust to carry on. It is with regret we in the Canal Trust witnessed the demise of an institution, which provided such pleasurable experiences for many people.

Thomas Dadford, the Trust's trip boat operated successfully over the past year from Neath Town Centre and still remains our main source of income. Possible new government legislation, due in the autumn, may cause problems for the future operation of the 'Thomas Dadford'. It is hoped that the legislation may not apply too vigorously to canal trusts and societies, which operate as charities and allow trip boat operations to continue in the future but under modified rules.

The Trust carries out several activities associated with publicising the Neath and Tennant Canals and to assist in displaying historical and restoration information the Trust has invested £700 in obtaining suitable display panels, portable and easily assembled. The purchase of the panels was supported by a partial grant of £200 from NPTCBC.

ITV, the television company, approached the Trust for information on the Neath and Tennant Canals for a programme they were making on the canals of Wales. The result was a feature in the Waterworld series on the restoration of the Neath Canal and the link with the Tennant and will be shown in July of this year.

The financial situation of the Trust is sound at present with the major projects allocated to the Trust being funded by grant aid mainly from Welsh Assembly and Local Government sources and sponsorship. There are a number of smaller projects, such as the development of the Tonna Workshop site that could be sponsored by the Trust, subject to funding being raised within the Trust. Volunteers to help further the aims of the Trust are welcome to offer their services, either as committee members or co-opted committee members, to help in administration, fund raising, planning or physical involvement in work parties and boat crewing.

Work parties have been held throughout the year but to a limited extent due to the fall in numbers attending and limitations now imposed by health and safety restrictions requiring approved training to carry out many of the procedures such as the use of cutting equipment. Recruitment of younger members and suitable training could increase attendances and ensure the annual commitment of maintenance is undertaken and completed.

In conclusion I must thank all committee members and those of the general membership who have given their support over the past year in the organisation of the Trust, running the trip boat and attending work parties.

The forthcoming years will require a continuing and vital promotional role by the Trust. The major shareholder BP, having vacated the area, are looking for an alternative organisation or company to take over their holding in the Neath Canal Navigation Co. and it will be the role of the Trust to promote and maintain the momentum of restoration of both the Neath and Tennant Canals whatever the outcome of BP's negotiations. Peter Ricketts July 08.



## Trust News.

**'Thomas Dadford'** – The 2008 season will be remembered for the rain and the engine problems (again!) Quite a few days had to be cancelled because of the engine problems and a few due to lack of crew. The few trips which operated out of Aberdulais Basin were poorly supported despite advertising at the nearby National Trust site - Aberdualis Falls. Many thanks to the Trust members who turned out in all weathers to crew the boat and to Trevor for organising the Charter Trips, some of which had to be cancelled at very short notice because of the engine.

**Trees** – quite a few trees or large branches have fallen into or near the canal during the recent windy weather. Two crew members were showing some passengers around Tyn-yr-heol Lock in Tonna when there was a loud crash and a massive branch fell from a nearby alder tree and went straight through the rear window of a car parked outside Lock House.

**'Otter Thing!'** – Two crew members were having their lunch on the boat near B&W when a lady on the bridge shouted 'Does that belong to you?'

'What?' replied the crew member.

'That otter thing!' answered the lady.

When the crew members looked there was a mink walking along the side of the boat. It was in no hurry to move and finally walked away along the tow path.

'That's a stoat,' stated another lady.

'No, I think it's a mink' replied the crew member, 'there are lots on the canal.'

'I'll look it up in my book when I get home.' were the final words of the unconvinced lady!



**Pike** – There is a gentleman living in the flats near to where we moor the 'Thomas Dadford'. He can often be seen fishing from his window or from the garden area just outside. He recently caught a 22 lb. pike in the basin where we moor the boat! So crew members beware, keep an eye open when your hands are in the water clearing the weed from the prop!

**Swans** – Two swans and their four cygnets have appeared on the B&Q stretch recently. A pair usually nests near the Surgery in Pen-y-dre but were absent this year. Perhaps they have found a safer place to nest.

**A.G.M.** – the Annual General Meeting was held back in July. A copy of the Chairman's Report is printed in this newsletter. There were no major changes to the Council of Management and officers will be elected in the Next Council of Management Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>. September. Many thanks to Elliot Griffiths, our Hon. Auditor, for preparing the Accounts.

## Trust Members in the News!

### Bevin Boy given his long-overdue award.

One of our most long-standing and faithful members, Derek Warren, has been presented with a Bevin Boys Badge in recognition of his contribution to his country during the Second World War.

Derek was sent to Houghton-le-Spring and Easington Collieries in Durham where he undertook the back breaking job of transporting tubs of coal weighing up to one tonne when full. After the war, Derek returned to his job at Battersea Power Station before moving to Swansea in the 1970s to work at Morganite Electrical Carbon, Morriston. Well done Derek!



### Life-saving Teenager Saves OAP!

When James Hollins was crewing the 'Thomas Dadford' this summer he lost his glasses and was searching the towpath for them. The boat has gone a little way up the canal to turn around. He suddenly felt very hot and collapsed. A quick thinking teenager, Shaun Perrings was cycling past at the time, telephoned the emergency services, gave James his mobile in case he needed it, then went down the towpath to direct the ambulance service to where James was lying. After a check-up in hospital, James was allowed to go home and has made a complete recovery.

James said 'I kept trying to get up but I couldn't. I dread to think what would have happened if this young lad hadn't stopped to help. I think Shaun should be recognised for what he did.'

## Mystery Photo!



Where was this photo taken? Answers to the Editor as soon as possible please. All will be revealed in the next Newsletter.

### Letters to the Editor:

Dear Sir,

I have followed the restoration of the Neath Canal with interest and often stand on the bridge between B&Q and Morrisons in Neath Town Centre watching the comings and goings of the trip boat 'Thomas Dadford'. What amazes me is that more people do not use the canal for boating. I know the towpath is well used by walkers and cyclists but apart from the trip boat, there is very little, if any, other boat activity. I know the bottom stretch of canal has only just been restored, but the stretch from Resolven up the valley has been navigable for years. Does your Trust or the owners of the canal have any plans to attract boaters to the area, otherwise a lot of money has spent to provide a pretty walk!

Name withheld.





## News from the Archives.

### Boat Rally at Resolven.

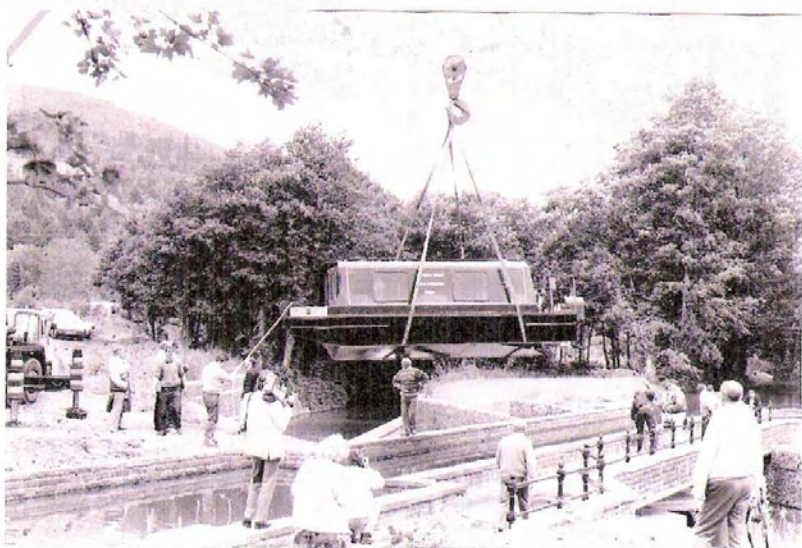
Eighteen boats attended this years annual rally at Resolven on the Neath Canal during the week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> July 1994. The rally coincided with the National Eisteddfod which was held in fields adjacent to the canal a little further north of Resolven. During the rally an Official Cruise took place along the four miles of restored canal and through seven restored locks. Among the guests were the Mayor of Neath, other Council Dignitaries and Continental visitors from Neath's Twin Towns.

### National Eisteddfod 1994.

As mentioned above, the National Eisteddfod was held in Neath in 1994. The Society had a marquee on the 'Maes' and boat trips operated from the site. The marquee contained an exhibition of canal restoration and history. Many people visited the exhibition including the Mayor and Mayoress of Neath, Mr. Alexander Coombe-Tennant, his son Mr. Charles Coombe-Tennant, Mr. Roy Noble, Mr. Dafydd Iwan and Clem & Reg from Pobl-y-cwm! We also had visitors from Italy, the U.S.A., Africa, France and Canada. Two boats operated that week, the 'Thomas Dadford' and a visiting boat from the Hereford and Gloucester Canal Trust. 1,169 passengers were carried. The best day was the Thursday when 304 passengers enjoyed a trip.

### Thomas Dadford – 1991

The total takings for the 1991 trip boat season was £4,000. (*The 'Thomas Dadford' was operating on the Resolven stretch of the Neath Canal in 1991 – Ed.*)

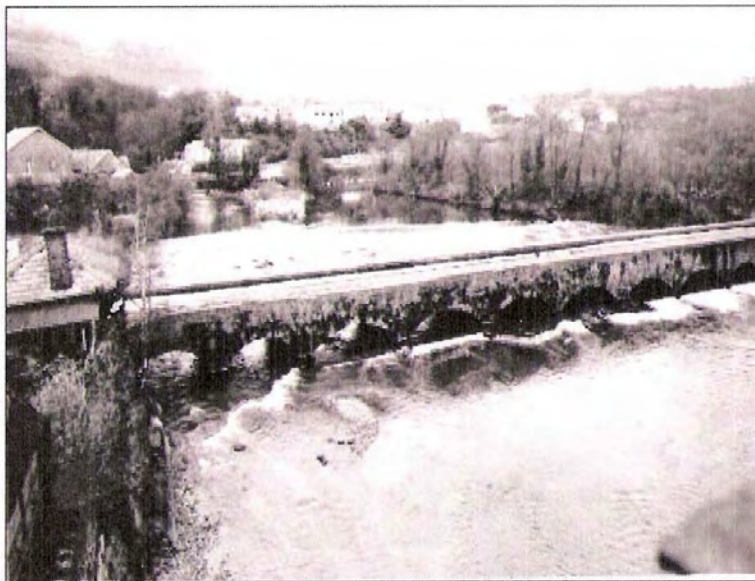


The 'Thomas Dadford' being launched for the first time at Rheola Aqueduct.

### **Neath and Tennant Canal Trust**

Polo Shirts, Sweaters, T-Shirts  
With Trust Logo.  
Variety of colours and sizes.

Contact Malcolm Smith for details –



Aberdulais Aqueduct – before the construction of the new A465

### **Trust Website**

Don't forget to visit our website for up-to-date information of restoration etc.  
[www.neath-tennant-canals.org.uk](http://www.neath-tennant-canals.org.uk)



**Boat Rally – Resolven – July 1991.**



## **Neath & Tennant Canals Trust.**

A lot of work has been carried out on the Neath Canal in recent years and our Chairman, Peter Ricketts, has prepared the following report to keep members, old and new, up-to-date with developments. The report will be presented as each part was written, starting in 2005, so it will read like a diary of events over the past few years.

### **Synopsis of Restoration of the Neath Canal**

#### **State of the Neath Canal as of November 2005.**

Navigation on the Neath Canal from Neath to Briton Ferry is severed by a low road bridge at Bridge Street, Neath and to reinstate navigation from Neath Town Centre to Briton Ferry will require a lift bridge at this location. Only weed cutting and a minimum of dredging has been carried out on this section of the canal to maintain it as a water channel only.

The section of Neath Canal between Neath Town Centre and Tonna is navigable and is the section of canal on which Neath & Tennant Canals Trust (N&TCT) operate a trip boat during the summer for the public.

The section of canal between Tonna and Abergarwed became heavily polluted by a mine water discharge in 1992. Remedial measures were taken to treat the discharge and were successful, which has recently allowed this section of canal to be dredged and cleaned out by the Neath Canal Navigation Co (NCN) under a £2.6m scheme funded by the WDA, B.P. and Objective One funding. Along this stretch of the Neath Canal, at Aberdulais, is located the transfer basin at the junction of the Tennant Canal.

The canal between Abergarwed and Resolven is derelict and partially filled in and there is some industrial development on the in-filled section of canal. The canal is culverted and unnavigable at Resolven by the crossing of the canal line by Commercial Road and its embankment.

Between Resolven and Ysgwrfa, the canal was restored by YTS and Manpower Services Schemes during the period 1984 – 1990. This section contains seven restored locks, a restored aqueduct over the canal, a new canal aqueduct and several restored access bridges and is navigable along this length. This section of canal was used by the Enfys Trust who operated a trip boat for the disabled and a tea room and gift shop in the restored lock keeper's cottage, Ty Banč. This section is used by a number of canoe clubs and is available for public boating subject to obtaining a license.

Ysgwrfa to Glynneath is derelict and waterless but the canal line is still intact except for a section now under the embankment of the now redundant Glynneath Bypass Road.

The Neath Canal Acts of 1791 and 1798 are still in being and protect the Neath Canal along its length from Giant's Grave to Glynneath.

#### **Neath Canal – Current Restoration Projects as of Feb 2006.**

As indicated above, the 7km section of Neath Canal between Abergarwed and Tonna has been dredged and damaged walling, sluices and some bridges along this length have been restored and rebuilt, the work, apart from minor snagging issues, was completed in December 2005.

The N&TCT obtained funding of £250,000 through the sponsorship of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, CADW, NCN and Objective One to restore Tyn-yr-heol Lock at Tonna.

This project has now reached completion apart from some snagging work to be undertaken and was opened on January 26<sup>th</sup> by Val Lloyd, AM for Swansea East and Chair of the Members' All Party Group on Waterways at the National Assembly for Wales.

NCN have followed up on the £2.6m dredging scheme between Abergarwed and Tonna with a successful funding application to restore the structures associated with the restoration of navigation along this section. The £1.5m scheme funded through Neath Port Talbot Council and Objective One funding, covers the rebuilding of three locks (Lock Machin, Upper and Lower Clyne Locks) between Aberdulais and Clyne and with some added assistance from the Environment Agency, the rebuilding of a navigable channel across the partially collapsed Ynysbwlllog Aqueduct. It is hoped the rebuilding of the aqueduct at Ynysbwlllog will be completed during 2007. Work is steadily progressing on the restoration of the three locks and together with the completed restoration of Tyn-yr-heol Lock, approximately 9km of canal will become navigable in the very near future, i.e. from Neath Town Centre to Abergarwed.

The N&TCT have also been successful in obtaining funding for two schemes, each of £50,000, from the Neath Port Talbot Community Rural Capital Key Fund to-

- (i) carry out the refurbishment of Resolven Lock gates.
- (ii) carry out a Condition Survey and Works Appraisal on the section of the Neath Canal between Abergarwed and Glynneath.

Work has already started on these two schemes and will be completed before 31<sup>st</sup>, March 2006.



Newly restored lock at Clyne on the Neath Canal.



### **Society Volunteer Work Parties as of Feb 2006.**

The N&TCT has held volunteer work parties since its formation in 1974, initially to clear vegetation from the structures and canal line to facilitate –

- (i) survey of the abandoned section of the Neath Canal north of Resolven.
- (ii) a plan of restoration work within the capability of Society members.
- (iii) a plan of campaign of restoration.

The physical work of restoration carried out by the Trust has included –

- (i) dredging and restoration of Aberdulais Basin at the junction of the Neath and Tennant Canals.
- (ii) dredging of the abandoned section of the Neath Canal between Resolven and Crugiau and the re-establishing of the towpath line between Resolven and Ysgwrfa, involving the removal of a large number of mature trees and undergrowth and laying of an all weather walkway.
- (iii) dredging of the canal bed between Commercial Road, Resolven and Farmers Arms Lock and reinstatement of the towpath.
- (iv) rebuilding of walling along the canal line and bridge parapets.
- (v) The rebuilding of the carpenter's shop, forge and covered work area at the old canal workshops at Tonna following the purchase of the freehold by the Trust.

The Trust has operated a trip boat on the Neath Canal at Resolven since 1990 and between Neath Town Centre and Tonna since 2000, providing public access to this lower section of the canal.

Campaigning by the Trust in partnership with the old Neath Town Partnership resulted in the 5.6km length of canal between Resolven and Ysgwrfa being restored to navigation. The Trust obtained grant aid of £174,000 to carry out an environmental project at Tonna in 2001. A £250,000 grant was obtained to restore Tyn-yr-heol Lock at Tonna in 2005. Currently, a £50,000 grant to carry out a condition survey and work appraisal of the Neath Canal between Abergarwed and Glynneath has been obtained with a further £50,000 to carry out refurbishment work on Resolven Lock.

The Trust works very closely with the Neath and Tennant Canal owners, especially the Neath Canal Navigation Co. and following the completion of the grant aided survey work at present being undertaken by Atkins Consultants Ltd, will facilitate the process of seeking further funding to complete restoration of the Neath Canal from Briton Ferry to Glynneath .....very exciting times ahead!

### **Update of Current Restoration as of January 2007.**

**Tyn-yr-heol Lock** – The grant of £250,000 to restore Tyn-yr-heol Lock and Lock House has almost been totally spent on the restoration of the lock alone. The restoration of the exterior of the house was unable to go ahead at this time due to the escalating cost of civil engineering works between the time the grant was applied for and the start of the work. Work of restoration of the lock by contractors Dean & Dyball has been completed apart from finalising the outstanding snagging. At this time, almost a year from the start of the work, the lock is still not operational due to the gate manufacturer going into liquidation during the fitting, resulting in the top gate and ground paddle not functioning to the standard specified before completion of the contract. All outstanding snagging and adjustments to the lock should be completed by the end of February enabling the lock to become fully operational.

**Condition Survey** – The £50,000 grant from the Capital Key Fund to carry out Investigative/Condition Surveys along the Neath Canal has been completed and is in the process of being used by the Neath Canal Navigation Co. to plan schemes and grant applications to further progress the restoration of the Neath Canal.

**Resolven Lock** – A further grant of £50,000 from the Capital Key Fund was obtained by the Trust to replace the deteriorating lock gates at Resolven and carry out some remedial work on the lock. The Trust has worked with the Neath Canal Navigation Co. in preparing a contract specification and requested tenders from four gate manufacturers. Tenders will be opened in the third week of January and contracts placed for the work to commence in February/March 2007.

The contract was awarded to Rochdale Canal Workshops of Calderdale Council, Halifax. The first visit was made in March during which measurements were taken and the ironwork of the ground paddle and bottom gates was removed for new patterns to be made. On the second visit in April, both sets of gates were removed and a new wooden access bridge at the tail of the lock installed. Completion of the contract was programmed for June 2007 but due to delays by the Customs in Africa, the delivery of the Ekki wood for the building of the gates was delayed by one month.

**Tonna/Aberdulais Improvements** - The Trust and NCN have been invited by Groundwork Trust along with other interested bodies and landowners to submit schemes for the improvement of the heritage and environment of Tonna and Aberdulais, which includes the canal corridor through this area. The initiative follows on from the Tonna Area Local Interpretive Plan in which the Trust had a significant input. The budget for this project is at present set at £150,000 but if the schemes submitted are able to improve the visitor attraction to the area then additional funding could be found.

**Aberdulais Aqueduct** – Following campaigning for the restoration of the Aberdulais Aqueduct both locally and by influential visitors to the All Party Waterway Group at the Welsh Assembly, a site meeting with CADW, EA, a representative of the Tennant Estate and the Trust was held at the site of the aqueduct to discuss the feasibility of restoration. The EA and CADW agreed to the exchange of information regarding the requirements of flood relief and the implications likely to be encountered affecting the listed ancient monument. Further to the site meeting a meeting was held on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 2006 at the NPTCBC Offices with representatives of CADW, EA, NPTCBC, NCN, DEIN and the Trust to discuss the course of further action to restore navigation across the aqueduct. Further meetings are planned with all interested bodies.

**Ynysbwlllog Aqueduct** – Neath Canal Navigation Co is progressing with the proposed restoration of Ynysbwlllog Aqueduct. Additional funding is now secured and tenders for the building of the new aqueduct will be sought in the very near future. When completed the new single span steel aqueduct will be the longest of its type in the UK and will restore navigation from Neath Town Centre through four newly restored locks to Abergarwed, a distance of 9km. The successful tender was submitted by Dawnus Construction. Work started soon after and large stones have been placed alongside the aqueduct site for a working platform. The footbridge and pipes have been removed. Completion of this project is scheduled for Sept. 2007.

#### **Update of restoration as of Nov. 2007.**

**Tyn-yr-heol Lock** – The work of snagging, following the main restoration work has still not been completed. To bring the lock into operation ready for the 2008 season it has been decided to sign off the consultant and contractor, with NCN volunteering to complete the remaining outstanding work.

**Resolven Lock** – Following the appointment of the Rochdale Canal Workshops to build and install a complete set of gates and tail bridge for the lock, work of installation started in July 2007 and was completed successfully. The work is to a very high standard. The restoration of the stonework around the lock chamber was carried out by NCN under contract.

**Aberdulais Aqueduct** – Following the setting up of the working party to investigate the possibility of restoring Aberdulais Aqueduct, progress has been made by securing some grant aid to carry out studies relating to the possible restoration. At present, Hyder Contracting are carrying out a feasibility study.

**Ynysbwllog Aqueduct** – there was a delay in the start date due to the requirement, following test borings, to redesign the piles and foundations to be used to support the new aqueduct. Following the sealing off of all canal water and the removal of the steel pipes, demolition of the remaining stonework took place. Installation of the piles on either side of the river started in June and was completed in September (2007). The steel trough of the aqueduct is on site and is ready to be lifted into position once the base work is complete. Because of the starting delay, the completion date has now been put at Feb. 2008. The additional funding of approx £250,000 as a result of the change of specification for the piling has caused considerable extra work for the Neath Canal Navigation Co. in seeking the required funding. After contacting and negotiating with the various funding providers most of the required extra funding is now in place.

**Enfys** – Everyone was very sad to hear of the cessation of the operation of the trip boat 'Enfys' and the closure of Ty Banc Cottage at Resolven. The

decision to cease operating is due to the rising cost of operating the boat – running at approx £24,000 annually – and the high cost of damage repair to 'Enfys' and their base at Ty Banc, consisting of a Tea Room and Gift Shop,



which have been continually vandalised over the past years. The Enfys Trust are seeking a new owner for the trip boat whilst Ty Banc will revert back to its owner – Neath Port Talbot CBC, who will find an alternative use for the cottage.



### **Update of Restoration as of May 2008.**

**Ynysbwllwg Aqueduct** - The construction of the new aqueduct is now complete and the canal from Tonna to Abergarwed has been reflooded to allow navigation from Neath to Abergarwed. The new single span steel aqueduct crosses the River Neath in the same location as the former massive six arch stone structure and is reputed to be the longest single span steel aqueduct of its kind in the UK.

**Trip Boat 'Thomas Dadford'** - Following the completion of restoration of the above mentioned stretch of canal, the 'Thomas Dadford' trip boat will commence operating from two points this season - Aberdulais Basin and Neath Town Centre.

**Aberdulais Aqueduct** - Application for funding from CADW to carry out an Engineering Study of the aqueduct has been made by the aqueduct owners, the Tennant Canal Co. The study will examine the Environment Agency's Flood Prevention Scheme for the area and an acceptable plan of restoration will be adopted.

**Economic Appraisal, Stage 1 Study, Neath & Tennant Canals Restoration.** - The Draft Report on the economic appraisal study of the restoration of the Neath and Tennant Canals was submitted to a stakeholder group meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 and the contents and how to proceed further were discussed. The study, being carried out by Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd., is now being further updated and amended before being referred back to the stakeholder group.

**Tyn-yr-heol Lock.** - Work of restoring the lock is now complete and the lock is fully functional. The Trust's trip boat, 'Thomas Dadford' has passed through the lock several times on training exercises and will use the lock to gain access to Aberdulais Basin on a regular basis this summer. The restored lock at Tonna along with the three restored locks further up the valley has made the task of maintenance and weed cutting of the canal by NCN easier and saved the cost of transporting their weedcutter by road transport.

**Resolven Lock** - Following the work of replacing the lock gates at Resolven, Neath Port Talbot CBC, who operate the section of canal above Resolven under license from NCN, are actively seeking funding to carry out pressure grouting of the lock chamber which at present has a significant number of weep holes, very evident after emptying a full lock.

**Interpretation Boards** - The Trust, in co-operation with Neath Port Talbot CBC, has provided photographs and text for three distinct display boards. The boards, giving historic information, will be sited at three locations along the Neath Canal. One on the canal side in Neath Town Centre, the other two at Tonna and Aberdulais. It is hoped the boards will be erected in time for the coming visitor season.

**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.

Any changes to the Council of Management for 2008/2009 will be made in the September Council of Management Meeting.

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

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