



Neath and Tennant Canals Trust

Quarterly Newsletter

June 2011 – No. 136



Welsh Waterways Festival – May 2011 – Some of the visiting trail-boats alongside the Festival site at Ynysarwed Farm.

Welsh Waterways Festival & National Trail Boat Rally.
28th – 30th May 2011.

After 15 months of planning the Festival, the May Bank Holiday Weekend finally arrived. 28 trail boats attended the festival, travelling by road from various parts of the UK, with one boat coming from as far as Newcastle upon Tyne. Together with the two trip boats, a total of 30 boats used the Neath Canal that weekend.

Many of the boats cruised to Neath Town Centre, some staying overnight, doing some shopping then returning to the Festival Site the following day. The feedback from the boats was excellent, praising the condition of the canal and locks and of course, the new aqueduct at Ynysbwlllog. The lads from Neath Canal Navigation worked hard before and during the festival making sure the locks etc. were working perfectly. Some boaters have indicated that they would like to return to the canal at a later date as they enjoyed their visit so much.

On the Sunday, 8 boats took part in the Boat Handling Competition which was judged by Gareth Hughes and Ian Milne. In the evening, a number of boats took part in the Illuminated Boat Display.

Our trip boat, 'Thomas Dadford', had a successful 3 days with every trip fully booked. The visiting trip boat from the Mon & Brec Canal also had a good weekend.

You can plan everything except the weather! Unfortunately rain fell overnight and each morning of the Festival. Despite the weather and the muddy field, people turned out to support us but numbers fell far short of our expectations.

However, the Festival was a great success, especially with the boaters. A big thank you must go to the Trust members who worked before and during the Festival and a special thank you must go to Colin Powell, the Site Manager, for all his hard work. Thanks also to Peter Mayberry for the use of his fields. We must also thank our Patron, Roy Noble, who officially opened the Festival on the Saturday morning. Thanks must go to the joint organisers – the N & T Canals Trust, Neath Canal Navigation and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. Finally, we must thank the many organisations who supported us financially and otherwise (see inside back cover)

We hope this event has put the Neath Canal on the map and hopefully further restoration will follow. One lady from Resolven was heard saying to her friend – 'We don't realise what we have in our back yard!'

Malcolm Smith – Vice-Chairman.

Festival News.

Two of the boaters, Peter and Cynthia Fairall of the 'Maude-Again' very kindly donated 20 pots of home-made jam to be sold on the Trust's stand with all proceeds going to our Trust. They were priced at £2 a pot and all had been sold within a couple of hours. Many thanks to Peter and Cynthia for their very kind gesture – it was very much appreciated.

A number of Trust members donated books to be sold on our stand. They were very popular and made a useful sum of money for the Trust. A special mention must be made of one of our oldest members, Dr. Alan Fowler of Bridgend, who donated his collection of canal books to be sold on the day.



Jean Morgan and Ted Porter on the Trust Stand.

Don't forget the **Annual General Meeting** on Wednesday 27th. July at Lock House, Aberdulais – 8.00p.m.
If you are unable to attend, please fill in the enclosed Form of Proxy and return it to the Hon. Sec. before the meeting.



Boats arrive at the Ynysbwlllog Slipway on the Friday Evening – the sun shone on the Friday!



Boats start to arrive at the Festival Site.

Roy Noble.

Our Patron, Roy Noble, attended the Festival on the Saturday and performed the official opening ceremony. As you can see, he is used to attending open-air events in Wales in the summer – he is wearing his wellies.



Roy spent a few hours visiting the various stalls and attractions. Here he is walking along the towpath to see the visiting boats.

Below – Roy at the Trust Stand with Jean Morgan and Ted Porter.





Two views of the Festival Site.





Boats at Festival Site.



One of the Wilderness Boats.



A full 'Thomas Dadford'.



A Solar Powered Boat.



Inside the Entertainment Marquee.



Keeping the visitors fed.



A busy scene on the towpath on the Saturday – when the sun eventually came out.



More boats – upstream of the bridge.



“Look what we found in someone’s garden!”

Below – the visiting Mon. and Brec. Trip Boat.



Festival Activities

There were lots of activities arranged to keep the visitors entertained - model car racing, model aeroplane displays, sheepdog displays, a circus display by Organised Kaos and a tractor display by Neath Old Tractor and Commercial Club. In the entertainment marquee music was supplied throughout the weekend by Vintage Wine and The Whitefern Mountain String Band. On the Saturday night boaters, Trust members, stall holders and guests were entertained by Tonna Male Voice Choir



Organised Kaos Circus Group.



Model car racing.



Model Aeroplane Display.



Hug a Bunny!



Sheepdog Display.



All the fun of the fair!

More photos on the
Wilderness Boat Club
website –
www.wilderness.org.uk

There are lots of photos, taken
by Edwin Farrar, in the Photo
Gallery on our website –
www.neath-tennant-canals.org.uk

One of the IWA 'WOW' Activities



Important Notice.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

to be held at

Lock House (British Legion), Aberdulais
on

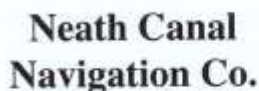
Wednesday 27th. July 2011.

at 8.00 p.m.

AGENDA.

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of A.G.M. of 28th. July 2010.
3. Matters Arising.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Presentation of Accounts.
6. Election of President.
7. Election of Council of Management Members – Messrs Ian Milne, Huw James 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.

The Welsh Waterways Festival is grateful for the support given by the following organisations:



**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.