



# Quieter peak weeks may mean holiday season is spreading

ALL the signs are that the canal should be buzzing with boats this summer. Diesel is the cheapest it's been for years, most hire firms report healthy bookings for the summer holidays and Norbury Wharf, like other brokers is selling boats almost as they arrive. And yet...

As Norbury's Managing Director Simon Jenkins surveys the Shropshire Union Canal outside his office years of experience suggest it is not quite as busy as usual. "Where are all the boats" he asks? "We are having a good summer in terms of our holiday boat bookings and that seems to be a common theme around the system; but the canal itself seems really quiet, considering we are in the middle of the main school holidays." Simon has begun to wonder whether private boat owners are starting to do what some have threatened for years and avoid the school holidays when they take their boats off their moorings. "Are private boats and hire boats starting to avoid each other at this time of year," he



asks?

"I remember people used to say that 'I'm not going boating while the kids are off' but I used to take this with a pinch of salt.

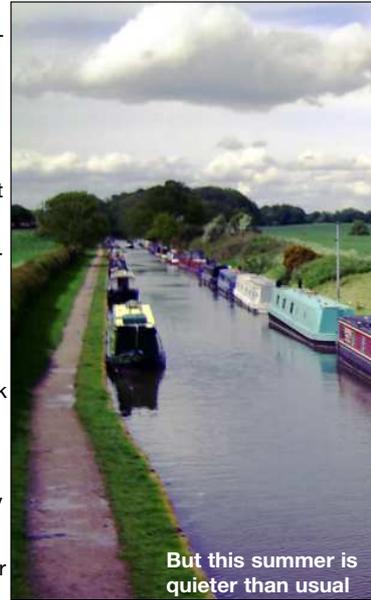
"But is it true and are more people doing it, or is there a big trend change and we are generally just seeing fewer boat owners using the canals for peak time holidays?" Simon says he's truly puzzled as all the other indicators suggest a highly popular canal like the Shropshire Union should be seeing convoys of boats enjoying the beautiful landscapes and attractive villages.

"Boat sales are superb at the moment so more people are buying and prices are stable. "We have seen some of the best levels of hire boat bookings for years, and the weather has been largely

sunny and dry.

"Yet I think it was marginally more busy on the canal before the school holidays started. Perhaps more private boat owners are avoiding the peak school weeks and that would could work out well for everyone, with more space in popular spots for hirers who are running long days and the same being true for people taking holidays on their own boats outside the peak weeks."

Time will tell whether these summer holidays are a blip or a trend and whether any change will benefit boaters of all types as the load is spread over a longer season.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Recycling bins for Shroppie

page two

Historic aqueduct to get safety rails

page three

More boats for sale - check them out

page four

## Bargains

### DIESEL

- Our fuel is the cheapest at a commercial boatyard on the waterways - and FAME free. It can change on a weekly basis but it is now at:

**55.9p**

### BATTERIES

- 110amphr batteries JUST

**£64.95**

each when you buy four or more in the same transaction.

£69.00 each if sold singly.

### ECOFANS

The original and best fan for your stove just

**£114.50**

# New engineer's boating blood

THE people who migrate to Norbury Wharf tend to have the canal in their blood – perhaps unsurprisingly as it is a business owned and run by boaters, for boaters. That is certainly true of the engineer who has recently joined the team, known to his friends as Spuggy. His father was born at Samuel Barlow's boat yard in Tamworth, and his Granddad and his two brothers worked for Samuel Barlow too. More formally Spuggy is Mark Spencer and he has been involved in the marine industry for many many years. Managing Director Simon Jenkins said: "He has worked on some of the biggest hire fleets around as well as some of the smaller ones and he found himself at a hire base at a remote location the other side of Birmingham. It was quite an



Spuggy - or Mark Spencer to strangers

isolated spot and there wasn't much in the way of life, so when we approached him to come up to Norbury it was just the opportunity he was looking for.

"Not that the night life here is much to get excited about, but there is always something of interest going on.

"Since being here he has fitted in like a glove and he is a pleasure to work with.

"He has a wicked sense of humour, he gets on with everybody, even Fred our old wharf/blacking hand who can be a handful at the best of times.

"Spuggy knows his stuff too and can be left to almost any task on a boat, and if he doesn't know he uses his tenacity to find out what to do.

"He is not afraid of hard work and is a welcome addition to the friendly crew here at Norbury."

## Shroppie to get recycling bins

Boater demand has led to recycling bins on canals and rivers at almost 100 sites around the country.

The Trust will be removing some of its general waste bins and replacing them one-for-one with recycling bins. While many canals have recycling banks nearby, the Trust hopes that having visible, easy access bins will make it easier for boaters.

The bins will be installed in north Wales and Cheshire from mid-July, and will then be rolled out across the nation's canals and rivers.

Vince Moran, operations director at the Trust, said: "Recycling bins are great for everybody: they give boaters what they want and help send

out a message about how to get rid of your rubbish responsibly and in the most environmentally sound manner. While our waste contractors do recycle much of our waste at the end of the collection process, this is something that can't be seen by the public.

"Recycling bins provide a visual reminder to people to recycle as much as they can, and encourage environmentally conscious behaviour. Please use the new bins as much as you can, and make sure you look after them, so they can be as effective as possible."

The Trust has reduced its carbon emissions by an 26 per cent in five years and received accreditation from the Carbon Trust.

## New chair for Canal & River Trust

The new chair of the Canal & River Trust is a bit of a professional at heading big organisations. The current chair, Tony Hales, is to retire in September and Allan Leighton – already chair of the Co-Operative Group, Entertainment One Plc, Office Ltd, Pace Plc and Wagamama, and formerly CEO of Asda Plc and chair of the Royal Mail - will take over. He joined the Board in September 2014. Lynne Berry, deputy chair of the Trust said: "He takes on the role at such an exciting time as the Trust looks to build on the firm foundation that has been built under Tony's chairmanship. His vast experience and insight, combined with his belief in the importance of our

canal system to public life, will give us further impetus as we continue to realise the potential of the Canal & River Trust to transform places and enrich lives."

Allan Leighton said: "As a keen canal walker and towpath runner I have been passionate about these special blue places for years. I've been impressed

by the work of the Trust's staff and volunteers and am really looking forward to working with chief executive Richard Parry and his team to build upon the strong financial foundation and fantastic support that the Trust has to secure the waterways' contribution for future generations."



Old boss - Tony Hales



New boss - Allan Leighton

# Historic aqueduct to get safety rails

The Canal & River Trust plans to install safety railings at England's highest aqueduct, Marple Aqueduct, despite widespread objections that doing so is unnecessary and health and safety overkill. There are currently no protective railings to prevent people from falling from the aqueduct if they step off their boat onto the flat surface on the off side, across from the towpath. The Trust claims that, in recent years recorded incidents, observation and reported anecdotes have indicated that both adults and children have put themselves at risk, perhaps inadvertently, by stepping onto the unfenced area with a sheer drop of roughly 90 feet (27.4 metres) down to the River Goyt. The aqueduct, which carries the Peak Forest Canal, is one of three historic sites to be opened up to the public as part of a £2.3 million 'Revealing Oldknow's Legacy' heritage project. The Trust carried out a safety



Boat passing over the aqueduct without safety rails

review of the site and invited members of public to comment on proposals to make the aqueduct safer. David Baldacchino, from the Trust, said: "This is the highest aqueduct in England and although warning signs discourage access to the unfenced side, it is clear that the lack of any fencing masks the significant risk that anyone stepping onto this area is facing. "We've had to weigh up the risks to public safety whilst making sure any safety measures are sympathetic to the heritage of the structure. I under-

stand that not everyone will be supportive of the installation of railings because of the important heritage aspects at the site. "However, in addition to our public consultation, we have also sought expert advice from the Trust's navigation and heritage advisory groups, who both support action being taken, provided that we carefully develop a suitable design." Designs for the railings are now being prepared, guided by a majority preference outlined in the public consultation for traditional vertical iron rails.

## Green flag award for canal

The Macclesfield Canal has become the first ever canal to be awarded Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award. The 26 mile Macclesfield Canal is one of 239 parks and green spaces across the North West who can fly a Green Flag Award, after being judged to be some of the best in the country. In their feedback report on the Macclesfield Canal, the judges state: "There is a developing



sense of a genuine joint effort between the Trust and the com-

munity in looking after the Macclesfield Canal. The importance of both the built and natural heritage of the waterways are now high on the Trust's agenda." Richard Parry, chief executive of the Canal & River Trust, said: "Our aim is to encourage other canals to take up the challenge now and to seek Green Flag status via the same rigorous assessment process."

## Record year on the cut

The Canal & River Trust claims it has been a record year for the waterways with the highest ever levels of interest in visiting, caring for and using its waterways. Its annual report says: That 19.5million people made 400 million visits to their local canal or river. Volunteering with the Trust rose by 14% and exceeded 400,000 hours for the first time – with volunteers involved in everything from conservation and education to working as lock keepers. Over 100 community groups have now 'adopted' their stretch of canal – working with the Trust to look after their local waterway. 11,000 people are donating each month to support the



**Richard Parry**  
Trust's work – contributing to £1.6 million  
A small increase in the number

of boats on the canals – up one per cent to 32,700 boats. It also says its income rose 10% to £180 million, with £137 million invested in what it broadly describes as its charitable activities, including the spend on repairing and improving the condition of the network of reservoirs, aqueducts, locks, bridges, towpaths, culverts and embankments, the replacement of 150 lock gates and dredging 130,000 tonnes of silt. Richard Parry, chief executive of the Trust, said: "We've established a strong financial foundation; inspired growing interest in visiting, caring for, and using our canals and rivers; and developed an ever-widening range of relationships with third parties willing to promote, fund and support us."

Get afloat and try the fun of boating. Take a trip on Victory, Defiant, Bounty - our day boats for 10 people. You can enjoy up to 17 miles of the beautiful Shropshire Union canal with no locks and 6 pubs!



Or stay ashore in our cosy cottage home from home



# Boats for sale

**B**oats hardly arrive with us for sale before they have gone again, we are literally selling them faster than we can re-stock.

If you want a quick sale for your vessel why not get in touch with us at Norbury Wharf?

Our brokerage rates and service are difficult to beat - we charge just 5% + VAT of the sale price to sell your boat with a minimum charge of £1,250.00 + VAT.

We offer a six month rolling contract, when your boat will be advertised in most major waterway publications and on the internet. We will also advertise your boat at our busy location where we have an extremely high through-put of potential buyers.

Moorings are free whilst your boat is for sale. Our combined knowledge of living on boats and the sale of them is extensive and our friendly team are always here to help make the process very easy for both buyers and sellers alike. All monies are handled securely through our escrow accounts.

Interested? Then contact Simon or David now on 01785 284292 alternatively email us on: [info@norburywharf.co.uk](mailto:info@norburywharf.co.uk)

## Pied-a-Terre

64-foot semi-traditional narrow boat built by CCL boat builders in 2007 and fitted out by the owner to a very good standard. Powered by a reliable Beta marine diesel engine with a hydraulically operated PRM gearbox. Boat Safety until March 2019. Last blacked November 2013. Last survey report November 2011. There is very modern galley with the usual appliances and then the impressive large open saloon complemented by side opening doors.

This is a good example of a well looked after boat and a superb live-aboard with plenty of kit. Be quick it won't be here for long. **£47,500**



## GEMMA MAY -

Its not very often we get lovely little tugs come on the market but we have one here, it is a 39 foot tug style boat built in 2003 but launched in 2006. Built by Dave Coultard boat builders, it has false rivets and nice lines, it has been fitted out by its present owner to a good standard, and is powered by a 3 cylinder Beta engine (only 120 hours from new).

Entering the boat from the rear there the engine covered by boards, then you enter the galley. Then comes the L shaped seating area in the large saloon that converts to a double bed. The boat is in need of some tidying up, but priced accordingly.

**£24,999.**



## Swn-y-Ddraig

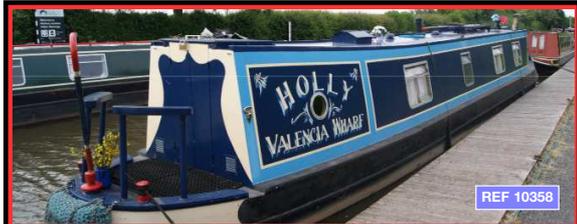
50ft traditional stern built by Eastwood engineering, and powered by a 1.5 BMC diesel engine. The boat has a current boat safety until July 2018, the boat is laid out internally with a bedroom at the rear, with a drop down cross bed, a shower room with wash hand basin and pump out toilet, then comes the galley with the usual appliances and a 12volt fridge.

Then there's is a large open plan saloon with a solid fuel fire which provides the heat for the boat, a front door then leads out on to the front deck area, the boat is wired for both 12v and 240 volts, it also has an inverter.

**£24,500**



**BRUNSWICK** - 45ft cruiser stern all steel boat built in 1987 by Liverpool boats. Powered by a very good BMC engine under a large cruiser deck. The saloon area has fixed seating and there's an L-shaped galley. The bathroom has a large shower area and pump out toilet and there's a double bedroom. It's pretty much ready to enjoy. **£24,995**



## Holly

Built by one probably one of the best known Black Country boat builders of the modern canal age, Les Allen and sons of Bilston, in 1991.

She is 45 foot long with lovely lines and cruises through the water effortlessly. Professionally fitted out by Dave Smith of Allen boats to a very good standard.

Entering the boat through the rear doors there is the engine room with the engine under deck boards; a door leads through in to the bedroom with permanent double bed, then comes the bathroom. The galley sits alongside the saloon and has seating and solid fuel stove. The boat is powered by a 1.8 BMC engine with hydraulically operated gearbox, the boat has been docked and maintained by us since it was purchased by its current owners.



## Minerva

35ft all steel cruiser stern narrowboat, powered by a reliable twin cylinder air cooled Lister diesel engine.

The boat is a bit like a Tardis, from entering the rear doors steps take you down in to the bedroom with two bunks with a shower room opposite.

Then comes the galley with cooker and hob, sink and fridge, then there is the saloon with fixed seating which makes in to another bed, a solid fuel stove, and corner cupboards.

Front half glazed wooden doors lead out on to the front deck, the boat has just been docked and blacked and is ready to go, with a valid safety certificate until 2017.

The fitout was carried out by the present owner who is a joiner/carpenter and this can clearly be seen by the quality of the joinery.

**£15,000**

