



Registered Charity No 1078752

MOWS Newsletter

Summer 2011

Mick's Musings

You may not be aware that with another hat on, I have been chairman of the Loughborough Canal and Boat Festival for the last 15 years. Well, recently I stepped down from the position to pass over the reins to someone new and concentrate more on MOWS activities. Not that I feel I have given MOWS anything less than 100%, just that now I can give that bit extra we may need in the exciting times ahead.

However, all those years organising the show has obviously left me with many mixed memories. Remembering our humble beginnings as a group of local boaters making a protest about a road that was possibly going to be built over *our canal*, to the present day where upwards of 10,000 people enjoy a free weekend of family fun spread over a large site alongside Loughborough's waterway. I think of the many friends I have made and remember perpetually worrying about the weather. I like to think that we produced a top class show at Loughborough and it means that despite the trials and tribulations, the festival bug still bites. Now, if we squint our eyes we may be able to see in the distance a similar festival, not in Loughborough, but here in Melton. Why not? We have a slipway for trail boats, a park with the canal/river running round it, support from local people and a good road network to service the event.

Pie in the sky, maybe, at the moment because the main protagonists at these events - the boaters - cannot move around until we get the waterway dredged and passable. You may have noticed the massive amount of weed and silt that now chokes the river and canal to the extent that, in some places, the water almost becomes still, and therefore, stagnant. We would all like to experience a hot summer but this will further exacerbate the problems outlined above and for some living adjacent the waterway, produce problems with smell. Similarly a typical rainy winter with no river flow could also result in local flooding.

But here at MOWS we have the solution our custom built waterway clearance boat.

So, we launch our appeal for extra driver/operators for the new mole work boat (see page 4 for details). Fully training will be given by the society, so why not come along, learn a new skill and push forward our vision for the "Melton Waterways Festival 20??".

Mick Clowes
Chairman

Official Launch of River Clearance Vessel "Mole"

On Sunday 27 March 2011, MOWS officially launched the new river clearance vessel, which we hope, long-term, will help achieve our initial aspiration to open up the river corridor from Syston to Melton for the use of everyone.

Short-term it will be used locally to remove weed and obstructions to the natural flow and establish a more uniform depth hopefully producing a predictable winter flood pattern and allowing a greater mixture of fauna and flora to inhabit the area.

Below are some snapshots taken on the day.



Official Launch of River Clearance Vessel (cont'd)

Our thanks to:

- AWARDS FOR ALL
- MELTON COMMUNITY FORUM
- SAMWORTH BROTHERS
- MARS IN THE COMMUNITY
- MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
- MELTON CHAMBER OF TRADE
- INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION (LEICS BRANCH)

for the financial assistance, practical guidance and support given in many other ways.

Thanks also go to:

- Greg Wykes and his team at TRUCK HYDRAULIC SERVICES at Bardon for their hard work ... converting the boat.
- The LOUGHBOROUGH LAND ROVER CLUB for transporting the boat from Bardon to Melton.

New - MOWS Merchandise

The Society is pleased to offer a selection of top quality leisure wear. The range includes tee-shirts, polo shirts and fleeces. Each is beautifully embroidered with the MOWS logo.



PRICE LIST

Tee-shirts in orange and light blue:
Members - £9.00 each, 2 for £17.00
Non-members - £9.95, 2 for £19.00

Polo shirts in heather grey and royal blue:
Members - £12.00 each, 2 for £23.00
Non-members - £12.95, 2 for £25.00

Fleeces in bottle green:
Members - £16.00 each, 2 for £31.00
Non-members - £16.95, 2 for £33.00

All the above are available in
S, M, L, XL, XXL & XXXL.
Other colours by special order.



To order, please e-mail lindandmick@btinternet.com or telephone 01509 414140.



Date For Your Diary ...

FRIDAY 29 TO SUNDAY 31 JULY 2011

**IWA National Festival on the Trent & Mersey Canal at Shobnall Fields,
Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.**

Work Party Dates

We are planning to hold a work party on the Oakham canal. This will be a joint work party with Oakham School and will be held on Saturday 1 October 2011 at 10.30am.



The location is known locally as 'Springfield', between Foxfield Way and Schofield Road. Parking available near the work party site. For more detailed directions, please ring Ron Francis on 01664 564028.

Hard hats, bibs and tools will be provided, but please wear stout shoes/boots and protective gloves.

Cottesmore Work Party



About 1.30pm on Saturday 25 June, 2011, Mike Loxton, Ron Francis and members of the Student Force for Sustainability attended the Rocks By Rail site at Cottesmore. They assisted their staff by the clearing and disposition of branches and undergrowth, enabling the public to see more of the Oakham to Melton canal, which the railway track crosses. Further joint working parties are to be planned.

Welcome To New Members ...

John Cousen
Ian and Fiona Knapp
Dennis and Marilyn Stace
David Andow

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Waterways Society.

Do You Want to Learn a New Skill?

MOWS are looking to train new driver/operators for its Mole River Clearance Vessel.

No experience required. Safety workwear provided. Free Health and Safety boat/hiab training given in return for an occasional few hours of river clearance work at a time that suits you.

Spend a little time amongst friendly, like-minded people learning a new skill (and putting it into practice) whilst doing something for the local community.

If this idea appeals to you then please register your interest with Richard Booth 01664 503330 or with any member of the committee. All volunteers will be notified of a training date/venue soon.