

Mick's Musings

"Freddie Starr Ate My Hamster".

Remember that shock-horror headline from years ago?



Whether the aforementioned Mr Starr actually made a meal of the poor rodent, I very much doubt; but he wasn't going to deny it, was he? Because he recognised the value of the publicity it gave him at a time when his career needed a boost.

But I do not believe for once in the old adage that "There is no such thing as bad publicity", just ask Gerald Ratner! However, there is **useful** publicity which is always good.

As custodians and carers for this nation's waterways, societies like MOWS welcome well-reasoned accounts of events, both good and bad, to keep the public informed. So, following on from this, we have discussed at committee level, the desire to have a MOWS Publicity Officer. This would be a non-committee position and could easily be done from home, so if anyone out there has a bit of journalistic flair and would be willing to put out one or two press releases once in a while, please let us know (contacts on back page).

Now don't all rush at once, but a volunteer will save me having to anonymously tip off the Melton Times that I barbequed my grandson's gerbil (I didn't by the way). Mind you, with a little Tikka Masala sauce ... hmm ...

Mick Clowes
Chairman

Syston Hub Update

Although the proposed developments at the Syston end of the navigation have not yet been formally adopted into the Grand Union/Soar Partnership plan, the sub-committee formed to explore the possibilities there, continues to make progress at an astonishing rate.

Obviously, with negotiations at a delicate stage nothing can be said officially at this time, but I can reveal that thanks to a generous benefactor (who shall remain anonymous for now), plans for the re-building of the Toll House and Isolation Hospital (to look as close to the originals as possible) are very well advanced.

CRT are, as we go to press, surveying the area to satisfy themselves that the proposal will have no detrimental effects on water levels whilst offering up helpful advice and suggestions to ourselves in the process.

The whole scheme which would involve several landowners and businesses can do nothing but good for the local economy and enhance the areas obvious but underestimated potential for tourism.

AGM 2013

This year's AGM will be held on Saturday 9 November at the Sysonby Knoll Hotel, with proceedings commencing at 11.00am. We are looking to recruit a few new committee members this year. If you have ever thought of joining our committee, please consider putting your name forward before or at the AGM.

Syston Walk

The last junction to Oakham walks were enthusiastically supported. Now come and see the exciting plans MOWS are promoting as part of the Syston Hub Initiative supported by the Soar/Grand Union Partnership. The new bridge - one of MOWS early objectives - is in and operational. The next stage is a rebuilt Toll House (MOWS Tea Rooms?), rebuilt Isolation Hospital (as a new canoeing centre), footpath improvements, environmental upgrades, a new semi-circular weir to reduce flooding, a mini-marina and canoe moorings. Meet at the new Three Way Bridge, Syston at 11.30am on Sunday 15 September. Access via Meadow Lane, Syston or take the footpath from the lay-by on Syston Road (100 yards from Goscote Nurseries / Platts Lane).

Melton Tea Towel

You may have seen our tea towel for sale in various retail outlets around Melton, but we are offering them at a discounted rate of £3.50 each to members (plus p&p) . It comes in green on a cream background. If you would like to place an order, please contact Mike Handford on 01455 611508. Makes a lovely Christmas gift!

IWA Warwickshire Branch to Visit Melton in 2014



Following a talk given by MOWS Chairman, Mick Clowes, at IWA Warwickshire Branch, on a snowy February evening, they have requested a look at the waterway around the ring in Melton. This has been arranged for a Saturday before Easter in March 2014. Details to follow in the next newsletter and on the website.

Braunston Boat Show

The society made its annual pilgrimage to the Braunston Historic Boat Gathering on 29/30 June. The event was opened by Timothy West and Prunella Scales (pictured below) who during the event visited the MOWS stand and presented the society with its attendance cheque. The sun shone and the crowds were out in force. If you have never been before, it's an event well worth a visit.



Rempstone Steam Rally

This is the first time the society has attended this event. It's the largest steam rally in the Midlands and runs over two days in the middle of July at Turnpost Farm, Wymeswold.

Our invitation came about through a chance meeting with one of the organisers whilst we were holding a work party at the Rocks by Rail site near Ashwell.

The sun shone again as the MOWS promotional team swung into action. We hope to be invited back again next year to this wonderful event.



Outfall Problem Becomes a "Falling Out"



Further to our last report on this issue, we have made further communication with Severn Trent and the Environment Agency. They remain adamant that their long-standing agreements to permit the practice of combining sewer overflows and rainfall run-off is still appropriate at a time when bacterial infections, such as *e.coli* and *campylobacter*, make the headlines.

No matter how the authorities dress it up, we believe this is still a major problem and the public should not be exposed to this hazard. Be assured that this matter will not be swept under the carpet and we here at MOWS, with the public's interests at heart, will not rest until a satisfactory outcome is reached.

If you see sewage in the river, please ring 0800 80 70 60 (24 hr) to report it.

Wanted! MOWS Press Officer

Could you spare a little time to occasionally send out press releases about our ever expanding activities?

If so, please contact any committee member - details opposite.



Our Treasurer says ...

Please remember to send your membership fees.

Welcome To New Member ...

Colin Scrivener

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STOP PRESS! MOWS were disappointed to learn that the proposed transfer of EA navigations to CRT has been put on hold for the present time.