



## Mick's Musings

### “The Lord Giveth and the Lord Taketh Away”

As I write this, the country has just been delivered a new, shiny Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. We believed his predecessor, Theresa May, or may not, and in the end didn't (if you follow my drift). So, it's down to Bulldog Boris to sink his teeth into the EU and then spit them out like a chunk of postman's trousers, delivering us to the promised land in time for a non-EU regulated Bonfire Night and Christmas celebrations. Hooray!

One unexpected spin off from these recent activities is the spate of cabinet resignations that coincided with the new PM's appointment - was it something he said? Well, probably, yes!

One of the ship jumpers was Melton and Rutland MP Sir Alan Duncan, who will, it seems, have much more time to spend with his constituents, many of whom are MOWS members. All good so far?

Also, many of you may have read the article in “Waterways World” magazine (page 3 of this newsletter) featuring our waterway and enticing walkers to perambulate along its length.

So, what's not to like? A new man in No 10 pledged to get us our long-awaited independence, Melton's local MP having time to get more acquainted with his own people and local issues, and The Melton Navigation looming large in WH Smith's magazine rack.

Now, I know it was a lifetime ago, but if I correctly remember my Physics lessons at school, a chap called Isaac Newton told us that “To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction”. Well, how right he was, because there, buried deep in the pages of that same magazine is an article telling us that the transfer of EAs waterways to CRT is to be put on permanent hold. This is somewhat of a body blow to MOWS who were hoping for a result of a different kind on this matter. But please don't worry as we have overcome obstacles like this before, but as I said at the beginning “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away”. How true.

Mick

Mick Clowes



# Melton In Bloom



Chairman Mick was invited by Diana Wood to give a presentation at the Melton In Bloom AGM a few months ago, which he was very happy to do.

Following on from this we were asked to attend their Judging Day on Wednesday 3 July with our display stand in the market place.

We spent a happy couple of hours speaking to many locals and other visitors after talking to the judges, who were there appraising the wheelbarrows on show that had been planted with this year's theme of vegetables.



It was wonderful to see some of our members who came by to say hello.

We were asked back to the Council Offices, where we had a buffet lunch (alright for some!) and met other contributors and volunteers who had helped the Melton In Bloom committee.

We had a lovely day ... and the weather was glorious too!



Good luck to Diana and the team. They should know the result in a couple of months.

## Aye Aye!



At the MIB AGM, Mick was approached by a lady from the radio station 103 The Eye. He was asked if he would go along to the studio and take part in a discussion show on a Sunday. So, a few weeks later he contributed to the morning chat show on the radio station informing listeners about the society and work we do.

# Walks Featured in Waterways Magazine

August's issue of 'Waterways World' has a feature on the Melton navigation.

We were contacted by Andrew Denny of Waterways World magazine a few months ago. He was asking for more information on the Wreake Valley Way as he was going to walk the route and do a write up for a future edition.

We informed him that our walk leaflets - No 1 Melton to Hoby and No 2 Hoby to the River Soar - could be downloaded from our website.

If you would like to read the article, the magazine is now on sale, price £4.50. Thank you, Andrew. A cracking good read ... and hopefully puts us firmly on the map!



## Work Parties

### A Narrow Escape

April showers were a little late this year and didn't make their appearance until June. Although we think that 'showers' is a slight understatement. Consequently, the river has been in flood, but we only had to postpone one work party. During this time 'Badger' tried to make an escape by slipping her moorings, but held on by one rope, so looks like her cruise to Syston will have to wait!

We were host to two members of the Grantham Canal Society who attended the work party on 2 June to see a demonstration of the clamshell bucket on 'Mole'. They are considering getting something similar for their society.



Also making a bid for freedom was Stuart's mobile phone, which made a successful dive out of the work-boat bucket ... but more 'tales from the riverbank' at the AGM!

# Trailer Stash

Over several years, we have been fortunate to be able to store our boat trailer at the Melton Town Estate storage unit. But a few months ago, we were informed that they needed the space, so it was moved to Wilton Park. Unfortunately, we felt that it wasn't very secure and, despite Dave clamping with a hitch lock, we began to look for a safer place. Storage facilities were out of the question – far too expensive (I'm convinced that storage of almost anything these days is the way forward ... a much more lucrative investment than an ISA!!).

Anyway, our knight in shining armour was Mark, who very kindly offered to store the trailer, so we are much indebted to him.



## AGM Date

We have set the date for this year's AGM. It will be held on Saturday 2 November. Same place - Sysonby Knoll Hotel, same time - 10.30am.



## Braunston Boat Rally

The society, once again, attended the Braunston Historic Boat Show over the weekend of 29 and 30 June. Dave (our society Secretary) and his wife, Carol, manned the stall on Saturday (yes, that was the extremely hot day) and Mick and Linda took over on the Sunday – thankfully a much cooler day.

## Society Contacts:

**Chairman:** Michael Clowes  
Tel: 01509 414140  
e-mail:  
lindandmick@btinternet.com

**Secretary:** Dave Andow  
Tel: 01664 562317  
e-mail: daveandow@live.co.uk

**Treasurer:** Jan Dadford  
e-mail: jdadford@live.co.uk

**Membership Secretary /  
Newsletters:** Linda Hulme  
Tel: 01509 414140  
e-mail:  
lindaahulme@gmail.com

**Website:** <http://www.meltonwaterways.org.uk>



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