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Issue 156, October 2018

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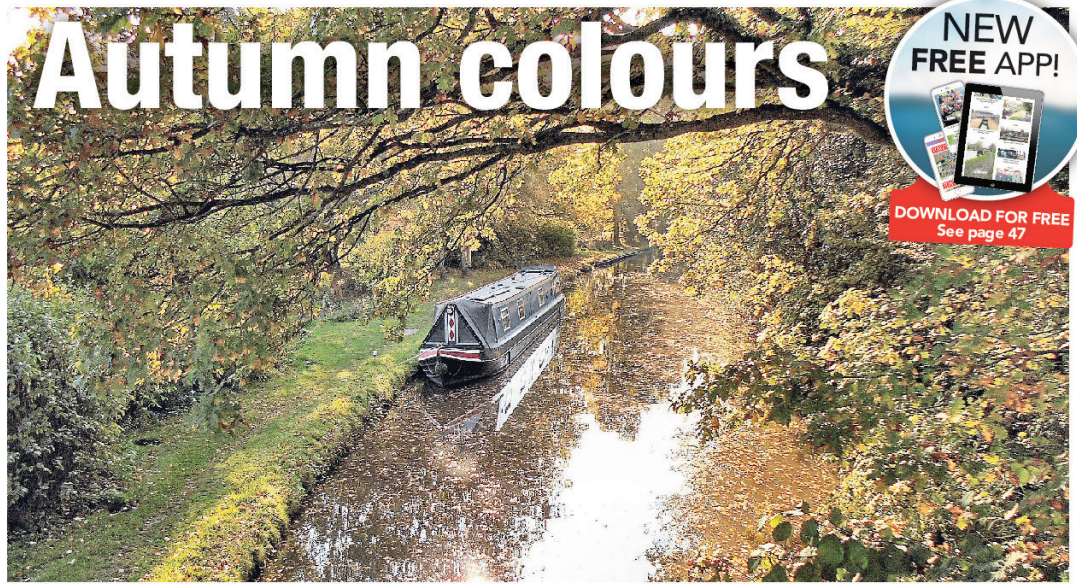
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Autumn colours



Time to reflect on a glorious summer: a seasonal scene on the Coventry Canal at Brookhay Bridge as the leaves change colour. PHOTO: WATERWAY IMAGES

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Waterways have a role to play in tackling pollution Continued on page 2

By Sarah Spencer

THE Canal & River Trust (CRT) has urged the Government to consider the needs of boaters in proposals to reduce air pollution from open fires by introducing new legislation.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is seeking views on plans that would include banning the sale of coal as a household fuel, with the consultation period closing on October 12.

Restrictions could also be placed on

the burning of wet wood, a practice often seen on canal boats.

If the moves go ahead, they could heavily impact on boaters, and the CRT is urging them to make their voices heard.

Responses will inform the final UK Clean Air Strategy and detailed National

Air Pollution Control Programme to be published by March.

In its response to the draft Clean Air Strategy, the CRT is also calling for financial support to be put into the development of new, cleaner technology for the waterway sector.

Award for lift

THE Anderton Boat Lift won Large Visitor Attraction of the Year at Marketing Cheshire's annual tourism awards. Staff received the award at a ceremony attended by more than 300 guests. The lift, owned by the Canal & River Trust, attracts more than 120,000 visitors each year and last year won VisitEngland's Best Told Story accolade. A Scheduled Ancient Monument with the same protection status as Stonehenge, the working lift still floats boats between the Trent & Mersey Canal and the River Weaver. The next major event is the fireworks spectacular on Saturday, October 27.

Restoring the future

A NEW volunteer-led charity, the Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust, was due to be officially launched at Bushton Village Hall, near Royal Wootton Bassett on September 22. Its aim is to support the ongoing effort to restore the Wilts & Berks and North Wilts canals, the longest canal restoration project in Britain. The trust hopes to attract support from local volunteers who want to do physical work on projects that will last and is inviting everyone with a love for our countryside and our waterways to become a member and to show their support. www.wessex-waterways.org.uk

Canal sections reopen

RECENT rainfall has enabled the Canal & River Trust to reopen some canal stretches and lock flights in the north of England which had been closed during the dry weather. These include the Leeds & Liverpool Canal from Gargrave (below lock 30) to Newlay on the edge of Leeds (above lock 13), the locks at Bingley Five Rise and Bingley Three Rise and the Rochdale Canal between locks 1 and 34; check www.canalrivertrust.org for current restrictions. A partial reopening of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal is being trialled and the Glasson flight on the Lancaster Canal has reopened.

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Louth MP in push for canal project progress

By Sarah Spencer

AN IMPORTANT step forward in the restoration of a Lincolnshire canal was made at a special meeting to drive the project forward.

Hopes are high that plans made by the Louth Navigation Trust (LNT) could come to fruition after a new partnership has been formed including many of the agencies involved.

However the group was also dealt a blow just days after the meeting in June by a breach at Keddington Lock.

LNT secretary Paula Hunt said: "This caused a problem with water flow in that part of the canal so over the summer we have been dealing with that and trying to see how we can sort it out because nobody actually owns the lock, but it is scouring away at the north bank and undermining the footpath on the south bank."

The scouring could eventually encroach on the remaining gabions and wall remnants, which support a well-used footbridge over the lock.

"In order to keep the public right of way safe, something needs to be done," said Paula.

"But there's a bit of a shortage of money at the moment so we are hoping to get a group together who can get some funding and get it sorted out."

Paula said the lock was not listed – and therefore didn't need to be repaired as a lock – but that it was important water

continued to go down the centre of the channel, in order to supply an abstraction point a few yards above the lock, used to feed the down-stream course of the River Lud and a watermill at Alvingham.

"We are working as a pressure group to try and get that back to where it should be," said Paula.

She said it wasn't a flood risk, but the longer the situation was allowed to go on the more work would be required to get it sorted out.

Long-term aim

The meeting, designed to reinvigorate the long-term aim of the restoration of the full 11-mile length of the canal from Louth to Tetney Lock, was spearheaded by local MP Victoria Atkins and also attended by local politicians, LNT, the Inland Waterways Association and the Canal & River Trust (CRT).

A draft partnership document has been prepared, which should garner the support of bodies such as the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council and others.

The first priorities have been set as the seven miles from Alvingham to Tetney Lock and the return of access for boats.

Paula said it would be the 250th anniversary of the original opening of the canal in a couple of years and that date 'would be something to aim for'.

"It was very uplifting to have people round the table and we will do all we



Volunteer working parties are making great strides at Ticklepenny Lock. PHOTOS SUPPLIED

can to help something happen," said Paula. "We have now got to keep the momentum going. A further meeting is planned for October and hopefully that will get some strategies down."

LNT's progress has so far been hampered by question marks over land ownership and a low-level oil pipeline preventing boats from reaching the navigation, with work still going on to resolve these issues.

Paula added that in a busy time for

LNT, working parties during the summer had managed to uncover a hidden wall at Ticklepenny Lock and this had caused a lot of interest on social media.

As with many other canals, the arrival of the railway brought competition for freight traffic and the navigation was leased in the late 1800s by the Great Northern Railway Company. But it was the disastrous Louth flood of 1920 that sounded the death knell for the canal and it was finally abandoned in 1924.

Outfalls exhibition

Louth Navigation Trust (LNT) has found itself at the centre of an exciting arts project.

Outfalls is a collaboration between Judith Tucker (visual artist) and Harriet Tarlo (poet), drawing on 30 years' experience of working with landscape in their respective fields.

The Outfalls project focuses on the Louth Canal, an interest first sparked when the pair encountered its outfall at Tetney Haven on the Humber Estuary.

Judith and Harriet spent time at the Louth Navigation Warehouse – the home of LNT – in the summer, as part of the town's Zero Degrees arts festival.

Examples of their drawings and poems were put on display and visitors were encouraged to talk, fill in memory cards and take along any mementoes and photographs connected to Louth Navigation.

These were to be incorporated into the work of the artists and will feed into a final exhibition of work at the LNT in October.

Louth Navigation Warehouse has been at the centre of the regeneration of the town's Riverhead area and the canal. It is a Grade II Listed building due to its historical significance.

Built as a wool warehouse in the 1770s, it reopened in 1999 following restoration, with the help of grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council and European funding.

'Groundwork Lincolnshire' acquired the freehold of the premises, however East Lindsey District Council purchased the building for community use last year – much to the relief of the LNT members who had feared it going to private developers.

The Outfalls exhibition of art and poems featuring Louth Navigation opens on Sunday, October 14 at the Navigation Warehouse and runs for two weeks, Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm.



The restored Louth Navigation Warehouse played a major role in the town's Zero Degrees arts festival in the summer.