

INTERCHANGE



**Autumn
2014**

Editor's Whatsits

Here we are again, back from our Summer jollies and getting ready for the darker nights and colder days. Here's hoping you all had a good time, whether you were boating or off to sunnier climes.

This quarter's *Interchange* gives prominence to the first in a series of articles counting down to the new Volunteer Points scheme for moorers at Hawne Basin. (Apologies to those members who don't moor here - Governing Council is trying to think of ways to include you but it isn't easy!) The scheme was mooted at the AGM in 2012 and discussed in some detail at last year's, but it seems some people aren't aware, so it's laid out for everyone in this issue. Queries and suggestions to Governing Council, please, and letters to the Editor are welcomed. It is hoped that we'll get lots of input from members to help us to get it right.

We also have some light-hearted items, an introduction to our new Youth Worker, super recipes and a poem for the long winter nights. Hopefully there's something for everyone, and don't forget your contribution is welcomed because, at the end of the day, it's your magazine.

Watch the noticeboards and e-mails for events coming up and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Jeni Hatton

n.b. Fair Rosamund

Editorial Policy

Articles will only be edited for grammar and spelling.

All articles submitted with a name will be published unless they are of tone or content which might be offensive or contentious. Any content published cannot be taken to be the view of the Governing Council or the Editor

RECYCLING BINS

PLEASE NOTE: we have a bin for paper and cardboard, one for mixed glass and one for metal and aluminium cans and plastic bottles. We can't take other plastic containers or sheet plastic - SORRY

Front cover photo: Coal arriving at the Basin

J. Hatton

Chairman's Ramblings

Up against publication deadline again, but at least writing these ramblings from my boat on the Dudley No2 canal at the Black Country Boating festival. Whilst not knowing in advance the full content of this issue of Interchange, I think you will find the content most enlightening.

Mick, our youth worker, has got off to a flying start managing to hold the first youth event over the summer; that went down very well. Now that schools have returned from their summer break, discussions are progressing apace for Duke of Edinburgh activities.

Further discussions have taken place on the "land beyond the stank" project with significant support from all parties.

Meetings have taken place on tow path improvements towards the tunnel.

You may also note some changes to the Cabin on your next visit. These improvements will extend its useful life and we managed to obtain match funding for the cost.

We are now trialling the volunteer hours scheme to ensure we have it right prior to launch. There is a feature starting in this edition which will explain the workings, answer queries, and highlight changes made as a result of feedback. We hope not to alarm any moorers with this and your feedback is welcome. The principal is to get moorers involved at the Basin to hold the mooring cost down. Not all tasks are physical, with many moorers already doing more than enough to earn full volunteer points.

Atlas and *Malus* have had a very productive summer, with many new faces moving the boats around. They also feature heavily in our Youth Engagement plans - watch this space.

Finally, *Roach* the coal boat visited the Basin, loaded with 14 tons of fuel, reporting a relatively uneventful trip up the arm, only touching bottom once just short of Totnal Bridge.

With so much going on I am bound to have missed something so read on!

Richard.



BCN clean-up is April 18th and 19th 2015.

Clean up area is yet to be formalised but Tame Valley and bits of the Walsall canal have been recommended by boaters who participated in the cruises last year.

Organisers would like to see CCT represented with Hawne if there are any volunteers.

For more details please contact me on 07974111354 or email cbmorgan@sky.com

Thanks

Chris Morgan

WRG leader - BCN clean up

Hometyre

MOBILE TYRE SERVICES

info@hometyre.co.uk www.hometyre.co.uk 01384 660 166

Benefits of Membership

A paid up member is entitled to:

- * Vote at Annual General and Extra-ordinary General Meetings
- * Receive the Trust's journal '*Interchange*'
- * Use the facilities at Hawne Basin
- * 5% discount at **Jacksons of Old Arley** on production of a current membership card (*in-store only*) Spring Hill Industrial Estate, Old Arley, Near Coventry, CV7 8HN.
- * 5% discount at **Midland Chandlers** on production of a current membership card (*in-store only*)
- * 15% discount at Cotswold Outdoor on stating the discount code AF-CCT-H4
- * 15% discount on boat insurance premiums with leading marine insurance provider, Towergate Mardon. Call 0800 515 629 for a quote and instant cover, using the reference 'Coombeswood'. Conditions apply. New customers only.
- * Online shopping discounts when you register at Easy Fundraising and raise funds for us too (*see below*)

Sign up to Easy Fundraising for free and use the links on the easyfundraising site to take you to the retailer, then a percentage of whatever you spend comes directly to us at no extra cost to yourself.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/coombeswoodct/>

Invite your non-boating friends to become members - the more the merrier.

Coombeswood Canal Company Shop

If you're planning a big job on your boat, winterising or repairing, or going up the slipway, think ahead and let us know what you will need. We'll make sure it's in stock for when you need it, and it will probably be cheap as chips, too! Have a browse next time you're at the Basin – you'll be amazed at what we've got and what we can get!

Your shop will always do the best for YOU.

Work Party Rumbings

Proposed Work Parties Season 2014/15

It's that time again, now most of us are back from boating, for work parties to resume in October along the arm.

Here are some of the planned jobs requiring to be done:

- I will be contacting Murray Woodward of CRT with the view to trying to arrange a joint work party to cut down a large tree which is moving, leaning over the canal on the offside. If this is left alone it will eventually come down and block the canal.
- The brambles and undergrowth need cutting back at Rowley Stop narrows, so that boats passing through the narrows do not damage their paint work.
- The trees cut down by a third party and left in the canal need cleaning up and removing, also a number of trees require trimming back between Yew Tree Basin entrance and Totnal Bridge on the offside of the canal.
- The usual amount of rubbish, plastic bottles and containers of one sort or another need to be scooped from the water between the Basin and the junction.
- There is something heavy and metal in the canal by Wrights Bridge which will require removing if possible.

Work party dates up to Christmas:

October 12, 26, November 23, December 14.

Meet up 09:30 at the Cabin. Wear Safety Footwear

Ivor Chambers

Work Party Organiser

BOOKING THE SLIPWAY.....

As many of you will know, the slipway is very popular and well booked in advance. Tony is currently taking bookings for **2015** and it would be wise to get in if you want to avoid disappointment.

For the avoidance of doubt, boat owners are expected to be on hand when their boat is slipped, particularly if it needs to be moved from another part of the Basin. If this causes difficulty then the slipway party will be happy to move your boat for you as long as they are given notice. There will be a £20 fee for this service.

See Tony for bookings and queries.

Coombeswood Canal Trust

Youth Worker

Hi! Let me introduce myself... and tell you a little bit about me!

My name is Mick Cowles and I am the Coombeswood Canal Trust Youth Worker. The post is currently part time, which allows me to divide my time between this post and my own business, teaching survival, bushcraft and camping.



So, a bit about me; I spent over 23 years in the Army where I completed survival training with the Special Forces, putting much of what I learned into practice in many parts of the world, both in training and on operations. After leaving the Army, I lived and worked in Devon. Working with Looked After Children, taking groups of young people and their staff on bushcraft and survival expeditions on Dartmoor and in Wales.

On moving to the West Midlands I spent a short time as a Lecturer in Uniformed Public Services, at Halesowen College, before becoming a freelance outdoor activities instructor teaching Bushcraft and Survival, Mountain biking, canoeing, mountaineering and climbing.

My very first visit to the canal basin whetted my appetite for the job... a sea of tranquillity in the heart of a busy industrial area! As I have learned more about all the skills required in boating, and as I have discovered the wide range of skills available at the basin, I can see so much potential in developing the use of the canal by more young people.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone I have met so far for making me feel very welcome, for all your assistance, be it passing on skills and knowledge, to helping out on the recent 'adventure day' for kids - your help and assistance is greatly appreciated.

Mick Cowles

Trust Youth Worker

The problems of an Agony Uncle, recently sacked from his paper

Dear Uncle Frank

I hope you can help me here.

The other day I set off for work leaving my husband in the house watching TV as usual. I didn't get more than a mile down the lane when my engine conked out and the car shuddered to a halt. Not being with the AA, I walked back home to get my husband's help.

When I got home I couldn't believe my eyes! He was in the bedroom with my next-door neighbour's wife, my good friend, making mad passionate love to her.

When I confronted him, he tried to make out that he went into the back garden, heard a lady scream, had come to her rescue but found her unconscious. He'd carried the woman back to our house, laid her on the bed and began CPR. When she awoke she immediately began thanking him and kissed him, and he was attempting to break free when I came back.

But when I asked why neither of them had any clothes on, he broke down and confessed he had been having an affair for the past six months.

I told him to stop or I would leave him. He was made redundant six months ago and says he has been feeling depressed and worthless. I love him very much, but since having given him this ultimatum he has become distant. I don't feel I'm getting through to him any more.

Can you please help me with my problem?

Sincerely

Mrs Margaret Hyde-Smith

His Reply:

Dear Margaret

A car stalling after being driven a short distance can be caused by a variety of faults with the engine. Start by checking that there is no debris in the fuel line. If that is clear, check the jubilee clips holding the vacuum pipe onto the manifold. If none of these approaches solves the problem, it could be that the fuel pump itself is faulty, causing low delivery pressure to the float chamber of the carburettor.

I hope this helps.

Uncle Frank

Jeff Carter

Canal Ghost Story

My story is one about the canal route into Sheffield which is located on the River Don. However the upper reaches of the river have never been navigable. Proposals to link Sheffield to the navigable Don at Tinsley were made as early as 1697, but these came to nothing. In 1815, the Sheffield Canal Company obtained by Act of Parliament an order to construct a canal. The surveyors' route was to leave the River Don at Jordan's Lock, along the south side of the Don Valley, to terminate at a basin near the city centre. This would require a series of locks at Carbrook and Tinsley to raise the level from the river for a level flow into the city centre.

There are many stories told of dark deeds perpetrated along this canal. However, there is no story worse than the tale of the boat people, whose long lost souls are still to this day haunting the Carbrook and Tinsley flight.

'Twas the night of All Hallows, all along
the canal;
Were heard the eerie calls of the night
bird chorale;
Startled fright at the noise, my back a
cold shiver;
Was it the owl in the oak tree, down
by the river?

Could it be Kit Crewbucket, come to
give you a fright;
A shrieking boggart, stalking you this
moonlight night;
Look in Harecastle Tunnel for that's her
usual abode;
Cooking up your breakfast, with
frog newt and toad.

But I was here at Tinsley, in the
pound betwixt the locks;
Far away from Harecastle, was the
noise made by a fox;
But Reynard stayed underground, in a
much safer place;
He knew that something bad,
was happening at this place.

It was a ghostly creak that had given
me such a shock;
As the unmanned gates opened to
reveal an empty lock;
A faint sound of a horse, along the tow
path run;
The whistle of the old boatman, one
known as Gun.

Clip-clop getting louder, hair standing
on my neck;
My feet are just frozen by fear to the
deck;
Ripples cross the surface, the water
deep and black,
The sound of the boatman's whip, crack
- crack - crack.

In to view slowly, came the hardworking
horse;
Tight tow line behind, showed the effort
and the force;
Hot breath was streaming out from its
nose;
My heart skipped a beat, in fact I think it
froze.

Clip-clop past me, the horse just walked
on by;
A fire deep inside, came out through its
eye;
Behind the horse, the ancient boatman
walked;
His dog at his heel, as wolf like it
stalked.

Cold the boatman's breath, rising up
into the air;
Head turned my way, his hot eyes in a
vacant stare;
Onward he silently walked, into the
dark cold night;
Cold shivers down my back, it was a
terrible sight.

Then into view the boat came upon
the water;
Steered at the back, by Gun's
sombre daughter;
Ghostly face creased, into a crooked
smile;
Her moans and groans, sounding oh so
vile.

Into the distance they went, away from
the lock;
Fast fading the sound of horse clip and
clop;
With a wolf-like howl, and an odour
strong;
My fear ever growing as they passed
along.

Another creak from behind, gave
yet another shock;
Gates slowly swinging closed, on an
unmanned empty lock;
Clattering sound of paddles, as they
rose inside the gate;
Water rushing out of the lock, at an
ever increasing rate.

Fear and dread now gripped me, when
would this all end;
My thoughts are all shattered, I still
can't comprehend;
I hear the sound of a Bolinder, at a
steady pulsing pace;
Smell of the hot engine, on the
breeze straight to my face.

Rising into the lock, came a boat all
sleek and black;
Carrying a cargo of timber, piled up
high in a stack;
The gates once more open, this time
there's no sound;
And standing at the tiller, a Number
One long since drowned.

Gliding past me at, a slow but steady
pace;
Facing straight ahead, never looking at
my face;
Into the dank dark night, engine sound
slow fading;
The narrowboat continuing, its ghostly
way of trading.

I turning in fear to get away from this
haunted place;
I tripped on a mooring rope, and fell flat
upon my face;
Scrambling to my feet, I was now wide
awake;
T'was just a terrible dream, the
memory's now opaque.

Climbing onto the deck, cold air to clear
my mind;
Snowflakes are falling on last night's
frosty rime;
Startled with a fright, in the snow I
clearly saw;
The outline of foot prints, a hoof, a foot,
a paw.

The Tinsley flight is haunted, it was said
to me before;
The story being told at the time, then
seemed such a bore;
Of a time when boat cargo was
shared by man and wife;
Working boats and their families, found
it hard just to survive.

'Tis a story told by the lockies,
whenever you go up or down;
Of the old time number one, and of
the way he drowned;
And of the daughter of old man Gun,
who was to be his wife;
The way she ended her broken heart,
suicide with a knife.

He was waiting at Jordan's for his love
to come to his side;
Walking across the weir, a hurled stone
broke his stride;
Falling in the deep water, he was
carried into the rough;
Tumbling over and over, until his body
cried enough.

Who threw the stone no one found to
take blame;
Gun, with a steely heart, that could
never feel shame;
Never could work a boat alone,
daughter needed at the tiller;
But she knew full well that her father
was the killer.

Dead at Peacocks bridge, her
belongings scattered round;
Hear her moan and groan as you pass,
her legacy of sound;
A locket with a faded face, with a small
sprig of jet black hair;
She travels the canal each night, in
search of her illicit love affair.

So now my fellow boater, if
you're feeling quite brave;
If it's ghostly excitement that you seem
to crave;
Climb the flight if you dare; but count
them every one;

Confront your darkest terror, and feel
your fear rerun.

Come and see the number one, as
he pursues his long lost love;
Come and hear the Bolinder, smell
the exhaust smoke above;
Come and see Gun and his dog, the
horse walking on alone;
Come and meet Gun's daughter, a
withered smiling crone.

To the South Yorkshire Navigation, you
must point your bow;
Go straight forward to the end, why you
could do it now;
When you get to Jordan's Weir, if your
soul you would save;
Don't forget to doff your hat, at the
drowned boatman's grave.

Take care to count each lock, as you
ascend up the flight;
If the count is less than twelve, for you
a restless night;
The twelve lock climb at Tinsley, is only
for the very brave;
Ghosts and ghouls will gather round,
the ones who misbehave.

Take heed of the warning that I
now give to you all;
The way of the Ghosts and Ghouls,
is not a story tall;
If you would not spend eternity, along
the night towpath;
Don't upset the Ghouls and Wraiths,
don't invoke their wrath.

Evan Keel

The Alternative Canal Laureate

Recipes

There is an orange thyme plant in the herb garden planter on the wharf adjacent to NB Hecla (the grey one!) so this recipe may encourage someone to use the herb. It's in the centre of the planter on the car park side.

Ingredients for the Orange Thyme Tea Cake

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup butter - room temperature
2 eggs
2 teaspoons orange zest
2 tablespoons orange juice
2 teaspoons fresh orange thyme leaves

Directions for the Orange Thyme Tea Cake

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. In another bowl, cream the sugar and butter together until well blended. Add the eggs, orange zest, orange juice and thyme to the butter/sugar mixture and mix well.

Add the liquid mixture to the flour mixture and stir until well blended. Pour the batter into a greased and floured nine inch square glass baking dish.

Place the baking dish in the oven and bake for 45 to 50 minutes, or until a cake tester inserted into the middle of the cake comes out clean.

Remove the pan from the oven and poke a bunch of holes in the top of the cake with a fork.

Immediately pour the glaze over the hot cake and let the glaze thoroughly soak through the cake. When cooled to room temperature, cut the cake into approximately 16 pieces.

Ingredients for the Orange Glaze

1/3 cup orange juice
1/3 cup granulated sugar

Directions for the Orange Glaze

Place the orange juice and granulated sugar into a small bowl. Use a large spoon to mix the ingredients together until all the sugar has been thoroughly dissolved.

Martin O'Keefe

n.b. Hecla

More Recipes.....

Courgette and Lentil Bake

Ingredients

8oz red split lentils (not
soaked)
4 courgettes or 1 young marrow
1 medium onion,
chopped
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1oz butter
1 tablespoon oil
2 teaspoons curry
paste
Salt and pepper

Method

Put lentils into saucepan, cover
with water, and add chopped

Jeff Carter

onion. Bring to the boil and
simmer until lentils are soft,
drain off any surplus water. Add
the butter and curry paste, stir
well and set aside in the pan.
Wash the courgettes and cut
into slices; if using a marrow,
peel and cut into chunks. Chop
the garlic finely, heat the oil in a
frying pan and toss courgettes
or marrow, browning slightly
over high heat. Lower the heat
and add lentil mixture with the
garlic and stir. Cover and cook
gently over low heat for about
10 mins. Serve with boiled rice
and a green salad.

Serves 4 – 6.

New Arrivals

We are happy to announce the safe arrival, at 11:10 on 30th August, of
a great-nephew for Michael and Christine Turner. William Edward Jack
Turner weighed in at 7lb 9 oz. Hurrah!

Happy Birthdays

This Autumn we celebrate the 70th birthdays of Pam Saunders and
Sheila Campbell. Looking well on it, ladies!

No 1 in a series – Countdown to the Volunteer Points Scheme

The Facts

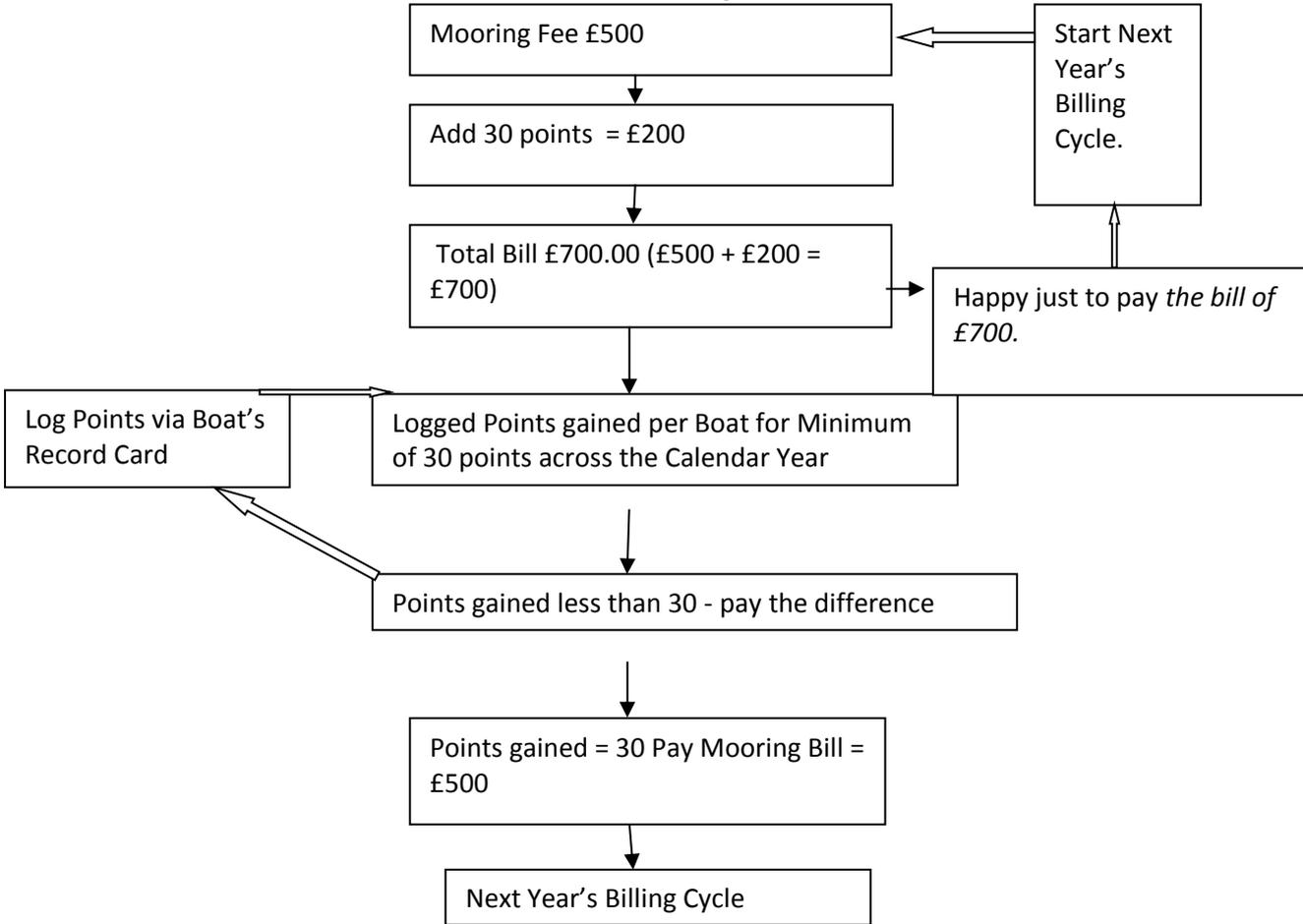
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why do we need it?** - To reduce the basic running cost of the Trust and Hawne Basin and to meet some of our charitable aims..
2. **Who does it affect?** - Moorers
3. **What is it?** - It's a scheme where boaters give their time in exchange for a reduction in mooring costs (Bartering).
4. **Sounds complicated** - See the flow chart; it answers a few questions.
5. **I can't be bothered to participate due to other commitments** - That's fine. The Trust will add a reasonable surcharge to the yearly invoice; just pay the invoice in total, that's the end of it (See flow chart).
6. **Why have I been chosen for the pilot, when others in the Trust know nothing of this scheme?** - It's not a secret! It was discussed at the AGM. Because it's new there are bound to be teething problems in getting the scheme to function for the benefit of the moorers and the Trust, but it's hoped you could help us in explaining to other moorers its benefits - or not! If it's not working then you can tell us and together we can find a solution.
7. **What jobs can I undertake to earn 'Points'?** - Initially these will be published on the notice board at the side of the Cabin. Alongside the job will be its 'Points Value'. These points are then entered on to a boat record card which will be put in to the Office at the end of the trial period so that the admin. can be done.
8. **I have more time than money these days; can I reduce my mooring bill if I work more than the 30 points?** -Unfortunately not. The Trust still needs the income stream set at the lower level. That does not mean it will never be available in the future, but not while running the pilot scheme.
9. **I'm unable to physically do the work I did years ago** - The scheme has to be equitable for all moorers, so the task can be suited to personal abilities. If you can operate the boat then you can participate in the scheme. Everybody is of equal importance to the smooth functioning of the Trust and its assets.

10. **Don't we end up with a complicated mooring system?** -The moorer receives the invoice just the same as now; it's the monetary amount that changes. If you don't wish to participate, settle the invoice in the normal manner. Complete confidentiality is maintained throughout.
11. **I feel I do enough now for the Trust** - Quite possibly you do, but why not receive the benefit of your labour? The current system accumulates total hours which the Trust must report to the Charities Commission in support of its status, but the individuals who do more than their share don't benefit. Also the moorers need to be reminded that Coombeswood has charitable status, which brings with it financial benefits to all moorers, helping to keep fees at a very competitive rate in comparison to other locally available mooring facilities. There is a fairly active participation from some moorers in supplying services to the Trust by way of volunteer labour, which contributes to reducing the cost of running the Trust and ultimately the mooring fees that contribute the highest percentage of income for the Trust, via Coombeswood Canal Company as covenants.
12. **I'm a member but not a moorer** - Sorry but this scheme does not affect you. We haven't started working out how to enable non-moorers to benefit from their volunteer labour. If you have any ideas, please suggest them to a member of Governing Council, bearing in mind that our rules do not allow us to give payment in cash or kind to volunteers. The system for moorers is allowed because it is a discounting scheme and, as such, is within the Charities Commission guidelines.

Everyone's input is necessary if this scheme is to work for the good of the Trust. It's not perfect at the moment and it depends on you to help get it there. Write in with your questions to Governing Council and give your ideas.

Points System Flow Chart



Potential Points Tariff

Office

1 hour of filing/spreadsheets etc.	1pt
Project e.g. Gift Aid sort-out	15 pts
Regular role e.g. helping M'ship Sec	15 pts

Projects

e.g. Electrical work	15 pts
Modifications/ Repairs to buildings	10 pts
Grass cutting (rota job)	3 pts
Gardening	1 pt
Open Weekend set up and take down	<i>to be arranged as different rates may be appropriate</i>
(Perhaps if a team is needed then points should be shared.)	

Shop

Holiday Cover for Caretakers (<i>after suitable training</i>)	3 pts per day
Gate cover (regular duty)	30 pts

Social Club

Serving at Sat/Sun lunches or bar	1 pt
Clearing after lunches/events	1 pt
Shopping for bar/kitchen/tea spot	2 pts
Cooking for lunches/events	2 pts
Bar responsibility (rota) <i>after training</i>	5 pts
Washing cups and cleaning tea spot daily	1 pt
Cleaner Cover per day	1 pt

Slipway

Due to the nature of this work a team who is trained and used to working together will be needed, so this job won't be open to all.

Typically five volunteers are needed and should earn 1 pt each per slipway day

Pressure Washing	1 pt
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Work Boats

Maintenance	1 pt
Breakdown	1 pt
Canal Clear up per trip	2 pts
Organiser and Dep Organiser per trip/project	2 pts

A sign-up sheet will be displayed for people to volunteer for training for Bar/Shop/Slipway/Cleaner/Project Organisation. A notice will also go up to invite volunteers for teams to cover grass cutting, strimming, bar responsibility and Holiday cover for the shop and cleaner.

In addition many of our outreach activities will attract points:

Maintain web pages on website	3 pts per occasion.
Maintain facebook page	3 pts per occasion.
Volunteer hours coordinator	30pts for year.
Archives	3 points per occasion.
DVD and book library	3 pts per occasion.

Arts and Crafts: *(fulfils our Education objective)*

Cookery lessons /demonstration.	3 pts
Creative writing	3pts
Guitar/music lesson	3pts
Art classes.	3pts per sessions or 8 pts per day
Write articles for <i>Interchange</i>	5pts
Fender making/rope work lessons	5pts

Lifestyle:

Lead a walk/encourage physical activity	10pts
Plant out trees /wild flowers alongside canal corridor	8pts per day
Man publicity stand at events	3 pts per occasion or 8 pts per day.

Environmental:

Review current spending on electricity @ £4800pa

As a group: 30pts split per Task and Finish group

As individual: 1pt per hour on research/costings.

Save the Trust 10% of the current bill over the next financial year 30pts.

As above for any supplied utility/water/gas/waste/oil disposal.

Enhance greater use of recycling: as above:

Rental of roofs for solar heating /electrical solar panels

Wind generation.

Lock-wheeling

15pts per day.

Working on committees/task and finish groups/e.g. Open weekend

Manufacturing/apprenticeships/skills enhancement for those seeking new employment

Building/welding/woodwork

Centre for alternative energy design/manufacturing/wind turbines /composting/green toilets/insulation.

No doubt there will be many more Points Opportunities as the Trust continues to meet its Aims and Objects as a Charitable Trust. As the pilot scheme runs there will be adjustments and we'd like all members and moorers to give their input. Look out for more information in subsequent issues of *Interchange*.

WISHING AND HOPING.....

Last year I wrote a piece for *Interchange* about my visiting a Birds of Prey Centre for my birthday. At the end of it I gave a subtle hint about receiving an American Bald Eagle for this year's birthday! It was very obviously far too subtle as no eagle was forthcoming!! However - be that as it may - we can now forget the eagle in favour of a Hooded Vulture. They're so cute - I held one at the Whittington Country Fair and fell in love!! So NEXT birthday (a slightly more subtle hint) - a baby Hooded Vulture would be totally acceptable!! Many thanks in anticipation

Chris Turner

n.b. Enfor

Social Club Up-date

During the summer work has been going on to modify the Cabin and make it weatherproof for the foreseeable future. Members have put in a lot of effort and Governing Council has accessed outside funding for half of the cost.

The next Social Club Committee meeting will be held on 4th October and all are welcome to attend. Nibbles will be provided, in return for your ideas.

The kitchen opens for Saturday and Sunday lunches on 18th October and we look forward to welcoming old and new customers.

Please look out for e-mails and notices so you don't miss any of the forthcoming events. Volunteers to help with events are always welcome. Just see a committee member and offer your skills.

Hawne Basin Social Club Committee



In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Colin Watkins and Geoff Peakman.

Colin was a stalwart at Withymoor Island Trust and will be known to many from his association with Alvechurch Boats, Severn Valley Cruisers and the *Penny Short* band playing at Open Weekends in the Basin.

Geoff was a hardworking member of BCNS as well as a staunch supporter of CCT and will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts are with their families and friends at this time.

PUNOGRAPHY

- I tried to catch some fog. I mist.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
- How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club but I'd never met herbivore.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- They told me I had type A blood, but it was a type-O.
- This dyslexic man walks into a bra .
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- A cross-eyed teacher lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils.
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds.
- I wondered why the ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me!
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool .
- I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

- I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
- All the toilets in London police stations have been stolen. Police say they have nothing to go on.
- I took the job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- Velcro - what a rip off!
- Cartoonist found dead in home. Details are sketchy.

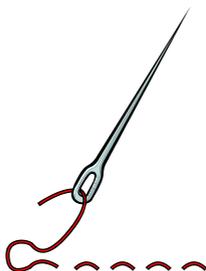
Stitchcraft Evenings

As many of you know, the Cabin has hosted regular Stitchcraft evenings on the second Friday of every month. Unfortunately, Pat Walker, who was running these evenings, is now no longer able to do it. Anyone who would like to continue please get in touch with Jeni (07974302979) and we'll sort out a way of keeping them going.

The Social Club stall at Open Weekend wouldn't be the same without the Stitchcraft contributions,

The Cabin will be open so it's just a question of turning up from 7.30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. We're happy to have the Cabin open as long as we know people will turn up. Anyone can bring a skill to share, or just turn up to see what's available to learn.

No pressure! And tea and coffee is available (and something stronger if you are so inclined!)



COOMBESWOOD CANAL TRUST

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Membership is renewable annually on 1st August

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, Dr,)

First Name

Last Name

Address

Post Code

Telephone

Email

Membership Paid £
I wish to make a donation

£

Total Enclosed (cash/chq)

£

Please make cheques payable to
'Coombeswood Canal Trust'

Associate Membership **£25.00**
(Associations, Organisations & Companies)
Individual (18+) **£8.00** Joint: **£14.00**
(Individuals and Families)

OAP* /f/t student: **£ 6.00** Joint: **£10.00**

*I declare that I am eligible to receive the state
pension/ a full time student: Signed

I have read and agree to abide by the Rules of the Trust.

The information on this form will be recorded on a computerised database. In accordance with the Data Protection Act (1984) members may examine their entry at any reasonable time by prior arrangement.

Signed _____

Date _____

**UK Taxpayers may like to increase the worth
of their contributions by signing a
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**or call the office on 0121 550 1355
or 07761 555353 and we'll send you the form**

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