

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust e-news



No.4 November 2009

Trust will make a splash at the IWA National

The K&A Canal Trust will be out in force at the IWA National Festival in August 2010 when it returns to Beale Park near Reading. The display site has been booked, there are plans to take the restored Burbage Crane there on the Trust's work boat, Avon Vale and the event is being opened by K&A Canal Trust's Vice President, Timothy West. Put the date in your diary now and come along to support or volunteer. And if you can think of other ways to celebrate the K&A's bicentenary at this national festival do get in touch with the staff at the office in Devizes.

2010 calendars on sale

The 2010 calendars, produced by BW to celebrate the K&A's bicentenary, are selling well. There's still time to buy copies for Christmas presents. Pop into a Trust shop or contact the office at Devizes (01380 721279) to place an order.

K&A 200 celebrations

Events are being planned along the length of the canal throughout 2010. Confirmed so far are:

February to March: K&A 200 exhibition, Frenchay Museum, Frenchay Hospital, Bristol

May 8th to 15th: A rambler's relay from Reading to Hanham

May 22nd: Devizes Branch celebrations at Devizes Wharf

May 30th: RNLI Fun Day at Caen Hill

June 5th: 1799 canal opening re-enactment at Great Bedwyn Wharf

June 13th: Widcome Rising Street Party in Bath

June 19th: Reading WaterFest

July 15th to September 30th: K&A Canal Exhibition at West Berks Museum

July 25th: Newbury Waterways Festival

August 30th: Devizes Street Festival

September 4th: Devizes Carnival

October 9 to 16th: Thatcham Festival of Arts and Leisure

December 28th: Fire Sculpture and Lantern Parade on Caen Hill.

If you have organized something else or know of anything else happening during the year, please get in touch.

And if you haven't got anything planned yet, it's not too late to start thinking about it. We want the whole of the canal corridor to be buzzing with news of the bicentenary, so we need to talk to other people holding events – carnivals, festivals and so on. If you know anyone involved with an event, let them know it's our bicentenary – or put them in touch with the office. Together we can make it the biggest event of ... the last 200 years!

Cruising with Santa

The Santa Trips are selling well, so if you want to take advantage of our special early celebrations with Santa, then get in touch very soon.

Contact the Rose on 0800 121 4674, Barbara Maclellan on 0800 121 4679 and the Kenavon Venture through the shop at Devizes on 01380 729489

Carols on the canal

Dundas Carol Service. The annual Boaters' Carol Service on the first Saturday in December is always a popular event. Make it an extra special day with a trip to the carols on board the Barbara Maclellan. The boat leaves Bradford on Avon Wharf mid-afternoon on 5 December, arriving at Dundas in plenty of time for the Carol Service. Passengers should bring a savoury or sweet plate to be shared in open buffet supper on the journey. The return journey cost £6.00 per person.

Booking is essential for the boat trip. Contact 0800 121 4679 or barbaramac@katrust-ent.org.uk

Devizes Wharf: Carols under the Christmas Tree on with musical accompaniment provided by the Salvation Army from Trowbridge. Helping the singing along will be Trust President, the Rt Hon Michael Ancram QC MP. Refreshments available. Starting at 6pm. Contact Alice Boyd on 01380-724701 or email alice@3pplus.co.uk for further details.

Visit our Museum this winter!

The Canal Museum at Devizes Wharf is hoping to attract many more visitors this winter. What can be better on a cold wet winter's day than to wander around our award-winning museum — and enjoy a lovely cup of tea or coffee? The Museum is open during shop hours and it is a great antidote to Christmas shopping.

Telling the K&A story

Promoting the canal and the Trust's work by giving talks to the wider community is one of the most useful ways members can help the Trust recruit new members and raise funds. Recent talks have been given by Adrian Softley, who spoke to the IWA in Salisbury about the Boatbuilders of Honeystreet, and Trust General Manager Mike Rodd, who spoke about the K&A to an audience at the London Canal Museum earlier this month. Warren Berry has also been out and about with more book signings. If you are a member of another group who you think might like to learn more about the K&A, get in touch with the office to book a talk.

Honeystreet Pub short listed for Lottery grant

The Barge Inn Community Project, set up by local villagers to lease or buy the pub, has been short listed for grant aid from the Lottery Fund's Village SOS scheme.

This is a joint scheme launched by the BBC and the Big Lottery Fund to help six villages develop business ventures to breathe new life into their communities and sustain or create jobs, improving the quality of life for local people.

From hundreds of applicants across the country, The Barge has been named as one of the 28 short listed projects, giving them a one in five chance of winning the grant.

But they will have to wait until next May to hear whether or not they are one of the final six successful projects.

The K&A is making news

The K&A made national news last weekend when the Politics Show (BBC 1 12.00 Sunday) featured our canal during a feature about BW funding. Watch it again on iPlayer or download it at:

http://www.yousendit.com/transfer.php?action=batch_download&send_id=779662164&email=7247ee9fd2a78b8dff5922b1445f4f7f

Have you seen the K&A mentioned on the media or in the press? Remember.... You are our eyes and ears in your neck of the woods. Please let us know when you see anything about the K&A in the press or on the net. Send cuttings or notes about broadcasts to: [diharris@thebutty.co.uk](mailto: diharris@thebutty.co.uk) or send cuttings to the office.

Events calendar

Wednesday 25th November: Newbury Branch talk: Secret Canals of Britain: A canoeist's-eye view of the system with particular emphasis on the canals that you cannot reach easily from here, by Stuart Fisher, editor of Canoeist magazine and author of the recently published Adlard Coles book The Canals of Britain: A Comprehensive Guide, The Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, 7:45pm

Friday 27th November: Reading Branch Christmas party and 'Illustrated Reading Quiz'. All Saints Hall, Downshire Square, READING, RG1 6NH. 7.30 for 8.00pm. £2.50

Saturday 28th November: Devizes Branch Skittles evening challenge vs the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust. Venue: Black Horse pub, Bath Road, Devizes. Contact Rob and Helen Wright on 01225-793267 or email [robert.wright8@homecall.co.uk](mailto: robert.wright8@homecall.co.uk) for further details.

Saturday 12th December: Santa Cruises

Devizes Branch. These ever-popular cruises will run from The Wharf. Departing 11.00 for a 1hour journey to see Santa. Price: £6.50 per person. This includes mulled wine and mince pies for the adults, and a drink, sweets and individual present for the children. Tickets available from The Wharf or by calling 01380-721279. If you would like to help with the organising/running of this event, please contact the office on 01380-721279.

Saturday 12th December: Carols at The Wharf

Devizes Branch. Join us for a selection of Christmas Carols under the Christmas Tree at The Wharf. Musical accompaniment provided by the Salvation Army from Trowbridge. We will be joined for this evening by the Rt Hon Michael Ancram QC MP, who is the new President of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust. Refreshments available. Starting at 6pm. Contact Alice Boyd on 01380-724701 or email [alice@3pplus.co.uk](mailto: alice@3pplus.co.uk) for further details.

Sunday 13th December - Santa Cruises

As above.

Saturday 19th December - Santa Cruises

As above.

Sunday 20th December - Santa Cruises

As above.

Saturday 23rd January 2010 - Navvies Dinner

Devizes Branch. Celebrating the 200th anniversary year of the Kennet & Avon Canal - with a Navvies-inspired Dinner. An entertaining evening celebrating 200 wonderful years. Contact Alan West on 01380-725527 or email:

[west@compasspoint.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto: west@compasspoint.wanadoo.co.uk) for further details.

Wednesday 27th January: Newbury Branch. A Racy Victorian Lady Restored: the restoration of the Goring built Thames steam umpiring launch Consuta, by Derek Brown of the Consuta Trust, The Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, 7:45pm

Saturday 20th February 2010: Devizes Branch. Pancake social evening. We'll provide the pancakes, you bring your own fillings! 7.30pm at The Wharf. Raffle. Contact Pete Jordan on 01380-720780 or email jordan422@btinternet.com for further details.

March 13th & 14th 2010: Reading Branch. RESCUE (the annual clean up event.). For more information, Contact David Copley on 0118 959 8247 or email: d.copley247@btinternet.com

Saturday 27th March 2010

Devizes Branch. Annual canal clear-up and towpath tidy, held in conjunction with British Waterways. Meet at The Wharf at 10.00am. Contact Alice Boyd on 01380-724701 or email: alice@3pplus.co.uk for further details. Branch AGM, followed by a talk. 7.30pm at the Canal Centre, Devizes Wharf. Refreshments available. Contact Helen Wright on 01225-793267 for further details.

KACT e-news is brought to you by:

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