



## **RCTA Monthly News Bulletin**

*What we have been up to in February!*

### **Firstly, a big welcome to our new members!**

Diane Worthington – Birdsong Arts & Crafts  
Hayley Wild – Book n Tuck'  
Colin & Andrea Wood – Birdbox & Jenny Wren  
Nici Griffin – Beanie Boat  
Susan Barker – Suzie Sue Creations  
Richard Moriaty – The Bare Weaver  
Tracy Perks – Anchor Rope Trading  
Andi Kennard – Canalside Naturals  
Lorraine Parker – Inspired Homecrafts  
Sarah Talbot – Honey Badger Crafts  
Nevil Ingram – The Sweet Barge  
Helen Griffith – Croeso Crafts

**We wish you all much success with your floating businesses and hope that you will find the RCTA a supportive & knowledgeable resource with traders' best interests at its heart.**

We have a dedicated RCTA Facebook Group for members

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/137291806456287/>

And useful information for existing and new Traders on our website

<https://www.rcta.org.uk/members/useful-information-for-members-old-and-new-0/?fbclid=IwAR2a4phAzR4XnXXPDLBVp4uPp6A3zbPSLWm-lrumnyB6fBpCmyLHdSDWMo8>

### **New PR Guru!**



At the beginning of February, RCTA member Julie Tonkin, who trades as Canal Art by Julie, joined the Steering Committee and became the new Volunteer PR & Advertising Officer. This is quite a challenging role as the RCTA has a limited advertising budget, which has to be used as creatively as possible; but Julie, who brought prior experience of this role with her, has already managed to secure a nice editorial for us in the March issue of *Towpath Talk* – page 21 in the 'What's on Section', so do grab a copy and let Julie know what you think. Julie has also been in conversation

with Gerry Goode from <https://www.canalsonline.uk> who has offered a quarterly 'RCTA Trader of the Season' feature spot, so do please send your profiles and photos to Julie, if you would like to be considered. Brian, the Blacksmith has been chosen by the Webmaster as the first trader to feature.

## New Market Banners!



The new market banners (being modelled in the pic by Colin from *Mugs Afloat*) have arrived and they are huge! They have a snazzy new eye catching design, which Sue Meades spent a lot of time on and we hope that these will attract lots of attention and bring the people to our markets.

Flyers for the Easter markets will soon be ready, so please do display in your boat windows and distribute to members of the public that you may meet on the towpath once you are in the relevant area. Mark Evans will have the flyers & posters for Great Haywood & Karl Wager will be have the Linslade publicity materials.

## RCTA Markets

There are still places Left at the following markets

Chester (May Spring BH)  
Tamworth (June)  
Coventry Basin (June)  
Merry Hill, Dudley (August BH)  
Birmingham (Sept)  
Stoke Bruerne (Nov)

if you fancy joining other members at any of these events, go to [www.rcta.org.uk/events](http://www.rcta.org.uk/events) log into your profile & book

## Polite Reminder

Please refrain from advertising/posting the products that you sell on the RCTA members page as this group is a resource and information sharing group – use *Canal Traders* or the *Buy It Off A Boat Shop* - thank you

## Members Discounts

Please note that the 5% discount offered by Midland Chandlers, is for all members. If you want to set up a trade or business account with them, that is a completely separate arrangement between you and Midland Chandlers and you will need to apply via the form on the Midland Chandlers website

## Other Trading Opportunities We have Been Notified of Recently

*The Old Union Canals Society in co-operation with C&RT is organising a weekend celebration to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the official re-opening of the Welford Arm following extensive restoration.*

This will take place on Friday 17 - Sunday 19th May, with the main events being on the afternoon of Saturday 18th May.

We will have historic narrowboats, steam traction engines, a pop-up canal museum, live music provided by the Wharf Hotel etc.

This is the weekend before the Crick show and only 10 lock free miles or so distant.

We would be happy for any canal traders also to attend, although lack of mooring length means that they would be unable to trade from their boats, but more than welcome to set up stalls in the wharf area. No charge for this - but will need to book their space. If any of your members are interested, we can be contacted at [oucsinformation@gmail.com](mailto:oucsinformation@gmail.com) to book a mooring for the weekend, contact [matthew.harris@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:matthew.harris@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

An organisation called GVW are potentially interested in hosting a floating food market along The Water's Edge as part of their Brindley Place Food Festival, which takes place on 13 – 14 September 2019 . If any of you are interested in attending this event please contact [stacey.muir@gva.co.uk](mailto:stacey.muir@gva.co.uk)

Saul boat festival is coming back 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July 2020. This is a big festival with land based stalls & floating traders, entertainment, live music, traction engines and children's activities. Boat trading spots are £80 and includes marquee entry and all entertainment. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email [dragonflyeventssaul@outlook.com](mailto:dragonflyeventssaul@outlook.com)

*Lots of other trading opportunities are listed on the RCTA website under 'events'*

### **A selection of Other Interesting News & Info shared in the RCTA members Facebook Group Recently.....**

*Congratulations to Founder RCTA members, Alison Tuck, Louise Moore & Jennie Howland for their considerable achievements in developing the Urban Moorings, which is a fantastic initiative by and for boaters. They were recently visited by Councillor Phil Bateman MBE, who wrote this report.*



On Friday 8th March I visited Urban Moorings a Community Interest Business, on the banks of the Wyrley and Essington Canal in Eastfield Ward of Wolverhampton. I visited them after receiving an invitation. I also met with the landlords of the site CRT, and city of Wolverhampton Council. It was a good visit and I was impressed with the work they had done in the last year. I was also very impressed with the vision they have for this listed site. It had been derelict for decades when the Urban Moorings took it on. I am hopeful the East Park Councillors will be invited to take a look at what is slowly being developed. The vision will help the Wyrley and Essington canal immensely, in helping to attract and sustain even more Narrow Boats than there are now visiting, that in turn will help the canalside economics,

and the wider economic development, through tourism and the retail trade along the length of the W&E canal in Wolverhampton. It's a tough old job Urban Moorings have set themselves! In 2019 they are going to continue bank restoration, Create a Boaters Service Area and Off Grid Power. They are also going to continue to clear ground using the recyclable materials for paths and hard core for restoration of the banks. If you want to know more about Urban Moorings plan, or you want to help them, contact [admin@urbanmoorings.co.uk](mailto:admin@urbanmoorings.co.uk)

I for my part was very impressed with what I was shown, the vision the plans, the people. I would urge the Councillors of East Park to pay a visit. It's a great environmental project for Wolverhampton. It will help increase and sustain tourism in the City and on our heritage canals. With the big news about the Wyrley & Essington canal being given Local Nature Reserve status...this will increase the already considerable interest in the Curly -Wurley. It was a cold day on Friday, but the visit was very worthwhile.

*Posted on the members page by Sandra from The Doggie Boat*

Thought this was an interesting article for those trying to get to grips with social media & hashtags. A few on here roving traders could use. Although too many cat ones & not enough dog ones for my liking lol!!

<https://blog.hootsuite.com/daily-hashtags/>

*Andrew Mills met with Peter Moore our CRT liaison officer for the last time recently as he is retiring very soon, and he shared this with members.*

Peter is a 100% nice guy and I think we are going to miss his huge experience of the canals and his sensible pragmatic approach to resolving problems. We wish him well in his retirement.

I only picked up one interesting piece of news. You will remember that we had a problem last year with a canal side council demanding that roving traders must have a street trader's licence if they wished to set up on the towpath in their area. This would have serious financial and logistical implications for traders if it were the case.

We took this up with CRT and it has been slowly working its way through the system since then. Peter reports that the legal team are presenting their conclusions to CRT Business Managers next month. He says he has read the report and the only question in his mind that it didn't seem to answer was 'Do we need one?' Once we know who Peter's replacement is going to be and once they have had their presentation from the legal team, we will see what further information we can obtain.

*Andrew also shared Peter Moore's recent reply regarding the, arrive, trade, trade, depart agreement between RCTA and CRT which led to the question, what are local mooring agreements?*

"Andrew.

It is something which has been discussed as part of the mooring policy. Previously the policy addressed issues from a national perspective which is good for a level of consistency. However it aimed to address issues which may not be prevalent in every area. As an example a shortage of visitor moorings is not always the case on some navigations but a serious problem on others so local plans allow a more dedicated approach. If these do come to fruition it is hoped that there is still some national consistency on things like durations of stay so as not to confuse too much.

It was also agreed to reduce linear moorings and while some areas have too many long stretches of boats, some areas have some capacity to create new lengths.

No final decisions have been made but it seems a popular route to take with many people. Regards Peter"

I think we are all agreed that we need to know what local decisions are being made so that traders aren't disadvantaged and therefore it is important that we all keep our eyes and ears open and report back to Ronni if we become aware of any local mooring discussions that we need to get involved in. A link to the London Mooring Strategy is below as that seems relevant here!

[https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/where-we-work/london-and-south-east/boating-facilities/london-mooringsstrategy?fbclid=IwAR1mIJ3gg5gXKQLWGFvQ0qcau2ZqDdeMW-s17CooVz1f8wQ4k\\_eEzrSUMw](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/where-we-work/london-and-south-east/boating-facilities/london-mooringsstrategy?fbclid=IwAR1mIJ3gg5gXKQLWGFvQ0qcau2ZqDdeMW-s17CooVz1f8wQ4k_eEzrSUMw)

**New flyer and poster designs to match the new banners, don't they look fab!!**



British Summertime is almost here!! I expect that most of us are brushing off the cobwebs now and looking forward to getting 'trading ready' and setting off on our planned routes. Travel safe everyone wherever you are.

**P.S. If you are attending a market, don't forget to post about your business on the FB event page!**