



**Worcester
Canal
Group**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 2016
Guildhall, Worcester.

Present

Matt Jenkins (Chair)
Jane Moorhouse
Peter Moorhouse
Graham Fowler
Alan Witts
Gerry Lowman
Peter Middleton
Denis Pike
Mark Mills (C&RT)
Caroline Kendall (C&RT)
Dave Ritchie

Apologies

Joy Squires
Ivan Smith
Dan Daye
Julie-May Adams
Dave Wheeler (WBDCS)

1. Denis, representing Worcester City Council, stated that the Council were planning to spend a day on Lansdown Allotments clearing scrub and asked if anyone from the WCG would be interested in helping – JM to email Heather Bainbridge to express our interest in helping and to act as contact point for further information.
2. Another milestone for the canal – marking the 2 mile point from Diglis – will be ready in the next week – help needed to install – DP to let us have further information when available.
3. Graham has been liaising with Jane Sedgley Smith from Worcester Wildlife Trust and will arrange for her to talk to WCG members at the next meeting. Discussion has also taken place for further projects such as her leading a canal walk looking at the wildlife and creating a leaflet about looking after the wildlife on the canal
4. The Work Boat for the canal should be ready on the 24th March – Caroline hopeful it will be available for the monthly litter pick on 26th March.
5. Members were keen to support more bridge painting this year – it was suggested that the Lansdown Bridge be painted on the opposite side from the towpath and the work boat be utilised for this – it will be available between 6th & 25th June. GF, PM & St Paul's group to meet beforehand to plan.
6. Communal trips to see the work of the canal group at Stroud and to the Waterways Museum in Gloucester (re-opening July 2016) were proposed. MJ to send out email to assess levels of interest
7. Some discussion around the use of the new wharf at Gregory's Bank with ideas for information boards etc. MJ to liaise with St Modwens re any proposals they have.
8. Discussion around creation of a raised garden at Lock 4 – Julie May has volunteered to take the lead in this. Other members of the group are happy to assist.
9. Thursday 7th April was set as the unveiling day for Myrtle – PM & GF to take the lead with MJ to liaise with press. Meet at 1000hrs on the day by the milestone in Lansdown Park. PM requested payment of expenses incurred re Myrtle and this was agreed as sufficient funds are available
10. .Next management meeting for C&RT is scheduled 10th March – Caroline will feed back any relevant information
11. Caroline was keen that WCG consider adopting the next stretch of the canal – perhaps up to the newly installed milestone – it was agreed to have further discussion about this at our next meeting

12. National Waterways Rally to be held in Birmingham in August – C&RT keen for WCG to have a stall to promote and inform others of what we have achieved so far. JM volunteered to lead on this
13. St Paul's were congratulated on the video they had made about their activities with WCG – Gerry kindly donated a copy to the group. This could be utilized at the Waterways Rally (see above)
14. Some discussion around leaflet distribution. Whilst it was acknowledged that the current leaflet was somewhat outdated it was felt important that we distribute these before producing new copies. Suggestions made for distribution points such as Tourist Information Centre, Art gallery and through letterboxes of newly occupied houses on Gregory's Bank. GF & MJ to co-ordinate.
15. Plans for a small leaflet about the groups achievements so far were developed – to contain photographs and words and poetry from St Paul's members. GF, MJ & GL to co-ordinate. Hopefully to be ready for use in August at the National Waterways Rally.
16. JM updated the group re the calendar project – just 3 calendars (from 100) remain unsold with some calendars given to those with whom we work in partnership. A small profit of £10 has been paid into the WCG bank account. Contact Jane if you would like one of the remaining calendars.
17. Provisional dates of meetings for the forthcoming year were agreed: Joy to book room
 - 25th February
 - 7th April
 - 19th May
 - 30th June
 - 11th August
 - 22nd September
 - 3rd November
 - A Christmas Social – date to be confirmed

Finally – a reminder – the next litter pick is scheduled for 30th January at 1030hrs

ACTIONS

- JM to email Heather Bainbridge to express our interest in helping with the Lansdown Allotment scrub clearance and to act as contact point
- DP to contact MJ with further information re milestone
- GF to liaise with Jane Sedgley Smith from Worcester Wildlife Trust re next meeting
- PM, GF & members from St Paul's to meet separately to plan next bridge painting.
- MJ to send out email to members re proposed trips to Stroud and Gloucester Waterways Museum to assess levels of interest.
- MJ to liaise with St Modwens at Gregory's Bank development re use of the newly constructed wharf
- Julie May to plan first stage of new garden by Lock 4
- GF & PM to ensure Myrtle in place for 7th April. MJ to liaise with press
- JM to ensure that adoption of another stretch of the canal be placed on the agenda for February's meeting
- JM to act as lead for WCG stall at National Waterways Rally in August
- GF & MJ to co-ordinate leaflet distribution
- GF, MJ & GL to co-ordinate development of a new leaflet celebrating the achievements of the WCG
- JS to book rooms for forthcoming meetings