

Worcester Canal Group meeting

20th September '16. 19.07hrs - 20.43hrs

Attendee's.

Graham Fowler, Dan Daye, John Cheyne (Angling Trust), Caroline Kendall (CRT), Peter Moorhouse, Tim Brooker (CRT), David Ritchie, Joy Squires, Julie-May Adams.

- 1) John Cheyne from the Angling Association gave an informative talk on how Anglers, Angling Trust and the Environment Agency work together to promote good practice on canals and rivers. His talk then continued on the variety of fish that can be found in the canal: Roach, Bream, Ruffe, Gudgeon, Perch, Pike, Bleak, Tench, a variety of Carp, Chubb, Rudd, Zander (non native invasive predator) have good eyesight, are sensitive to light have 2 sharp teeth.
 - a) Matches give a rough idea of what's in the canal, most matches target specific fish. There have been no major pollutants in the canal for some years. Industrial fires are the worst, Environment Agency will attend. The Angling Association will sue for recompense re fish stock. Otters are OK on canals and rivers but can decimate gravel pits and carp. Barbel has suffered from Otters. Ducks eat fish as part of their diet.
 - b) Canal is healthier because of all the work put in by various organisations. It is an artificial watercourse. Anglers actually pay twice for fishing on a canal.
 - c) There is a national "Street fishing" event coming to Worcester in the future, anglers have a bum bag, rod and stand to fish. To take part they have to pick up a piece of rubbish.
 - d) Poaching and licensing are a problem. There is a voluntary bailiff service which liaises with the environment agency and police. Migrant anglers take the fish and eat them, where licensed anglers put them back. There are 3x Polish bailiffs and 1x Lithuanian who are speaking to and educating migrant anglers as what to do.
 - e) Peter thanked Graham for inviting John to talk to us.
- 2) Caroline and Tim explained that CRT has a difficult balancing act when managing canals and rivers. They have a 5year 'cut and burn' reeds and do need to cut over hanging trees for boats etc. CRT work with Ecologists who advise on fish stocks diseases, natural balances maintained, Mark Robinson is the person to speak too, we already have dealings with Mark as a group.
 - a) Short discussion on CRT contractors putting grass cuttings and other things in the canal.
 - b) David Morgan -CRT is looking at the Worcester Wildlife corridor, Worcester Canal Group need to speak to him and involve him in our work.
 - c) Bridge at Westbury Street still has not been repaired, Caroline and Tim know this is flagged and will chase again.
 - d) CRT also noted that the telegraph pole had gone up in the pocket garden in Westbury Street.

- 3) Graham was thanked for the paintings as well as the school. There is a 'share the space' event planned possibly around the Lansdowne area.
- 4) Treasurers report 311.39 in the bank.
- 5) David enquired about various posters at Gregory Mill, after a discussion he will sort them out and get rid of the ones that are of no use.
- 6) Joy thanked Graham for running the Wildlife Week earlier in the month. He lead a Moth Breakfast, Bat walk, Flower walk, Wildlife surveys on different days and times through the week. The results are being looked at and will be finalised soon.