



Newbury Boat Company

News Letter Winter 2017

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your custom during 2017.

There are some quick reminders detailed below about winterizing, in case you haven't drained down yet. If you are planning some purchases for the boat during the dark winter nights - in anticipation of next seasons cruising - please don't hesitate to give Derek a call for suggestions. Often there are new items on the market, so rather than just replacing like for like, an improvement for less cost may be possible. If you would like us to do work on your boat next year please let Derek know asap so he can plan this in, or call in one of our excellent team of engineers and gas engineers who we bring in for the more complex jobs. This summer we have been working with two extra engineers we can now call on. If you have anything needs looking at please speak to Emma first so she can recommend who best to contact depending on their speciality and experience. **Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

Maintenance and Winter Checks

If you don't plan to use your boat and haven't winterized **now is the time!** As always, if you have any worries, just phone or come and ask us. We hope the tips in the Autumn newsletter were helpful, and here are a couple of quick reminders of things Derek recommends to do. To protect your domestic water pump after draining off all domestic water, remove the pipes from the pump, this way, any water still in the pump can drain out, which may otherwise damage the diaphragm when it freezes. Also, don't forget to disconnect the shower head / hose which may also hold water. Another quick check which can save no end of problems is to use a hydrometer to test the freezing point of the anti-freeze, particularly in engine cooling systems and central heating. If you are using heaters to keep your boat above freezing rather than draining down, please be aware we can not guarantee our electric supply. If something trips out and we are not aware, it is possible the supply to your boat will be lost.

Marina Services in Winter

As always, when we experience a prolonged cold spell (below freezing), the water taps around the marina will be drained off. There is always domestic water available from a tap in the toilet block; the entire toilet block is kept frost free. If you are planning to stay on your boat when it has been below freezing and need to fill your water tank, please let us know in advance so we can help with hoses and perhaps fill a few boats at the same time. Please take great care around the marina and on your boat when there is snow or ice.

Disposal of Waste Oil, Ashes, Batteries and Antifreeze

Waste Oil: We have the facility to collect waste oil to go for recycling. If you haven't used the new drum yet, please ask first, and remember no oily water - this is for oil only for recycling.

Ashes: There is a metal rubbish bin for ashes by the fence at the back of the recycling and general waste bins. Please do not put ashes anywhere else.

Batteries: We can dispose of batteries, please ask us where to leave them.

Antifreeze: please take this to your local recycling centre.

Christmas Holidays

Derek and I will be away from 21st December, back in the office on the 29th December.

Barbara will be here some of the time so you can get electric cards, gas etc but if you are coming in especially please call on the office phone first to ensure she is available.

For security, when Barbara is away there will be someone staying on their boat in the marina throughout the week, but not for services.

Please try to come and see Emma for services before 21st December or from 29th onwards. If you can't come in and want us to check your electric metre please contact Emma before the 21st December so she can put some credit on for you if required.

Anyone due a moorings invoice for 1st January will receive it with this mailing; sorry it is very early but means Emma has everything done before going away.

Winter canal maintenance.

If you are planning to take your boat out during the winter months, please check the Stoppage Notices on our notice board before you go, there are often amendments to the original list.

The works stoppages in this area are currently as follows:
Cranwells Weir replacement between Midgham lock and Cranwells Swing Bridge 20.11.17 to 15.12.17. Navigation Closed.

Lock 62 Longmans Cottage 08.01.18 - 09.02.18

There will also be spot dredging at this location from 11.12.17 to 18.12.17.

The navigation will remain open but please follow instructions from the dredging team and be prepared for delays.



Items for Sale:

We now have in stock -

From Kinver Canopies:

Algae Zapper for cleaning all boat canopies £25 for a 5ltr container that makes 30ltr once diluted.

'Keep Clear' - Canopy window cleaner and restorer

£6.50 for 500ml spray bottle.

Honeywell reusable water Leak Alarm £5.00 Battery

powered alarm ideal for in bilges or near water pumps. Only 4 remaining.

Oil Absorbent Pads £1.00 each

Jabsco 2.9 Automatic Water Pressure Pump £70.00

New in stock:

Pro-Kleen Macerator cleaner and descaler. £14.95 for 5ltr.

This descaler cleaner is suitable for descaling and cleaning macerator pumps and can be used as a general toilet cleaner as well. We have tried it in our loo with a macerator and it appears to work well. Also safe for use with septic tanks.

Leaves and drains

We have some pesky trees, which refuse to give up their leaves, but most are down now. When you come to the boat, don't forget to clear leaves from the boat. Pay particular attention to roof and deck drains, to prevent damage to paintwork, especially 'self draining decks' they don't drain when blocked!

Derek's Moans

Because it is the season to be jolly you are spared Derek's moans in this newsletter. I can't promise you won't get double next time though!!

2018 Canoe Races

As always Newbury Canoe Club have given us details of their winter season canoe races:

Sun Feb 4th Gt Bedwyn - Newbury

Sun Feb 18th Newbury - Aldermaston and back

Sun 4th March Pewsey - Newbury

Sun 18th March Devizes - Newbury

Full details of start / end times are in the office.

Charity of the year 2018 Cancer Research UK

We are really sorry to say we lost four of our moorers to cancer during 2017 and two others, we are pleased to say, have undergone treatment and are doing really well. Because we have seen so many people from a small marina and their families effected by cancer just this year we felt it only right that as a company we choose **Cancer Research UK** as our charity for 2018 to help the work this national charity undertakes.

We will have fund raising events throughout the year - don't worry we will keep you updated!! The two main events we have in mind so far are...

In conjunction with the Pre Season Dinner we will be hold a Boat Jumble. We have loads of boat 'stuff' we can sell to raise money for the charity, and we expect many of you will too. It could be a gift you were given for the boat and didn't really need. Some tools you bought and hardly used, or simply something you would like to donate to raise money for the charity. At the moment we are planning the pre-season dinner on the evening of Friday 23rd March followed by the Boat Jumble on Saturday 24th. We will confirm dates, and details closer to the time.

The other event we are planning is for Emma to do a sponsored walk from Bath to Reading, of course along the towpath. This one will take some planning to get as much publicity as possible to raise money not just from Newbury Boat Company's customers, friends and family, but hopefully from other boaters and canal users too. Watch this space, and if anyone would like to walk with me, I won't say no!! Full details to follow...

If you have any ideas on how you can help us raise money for **Cancer Research UK** throughout the year please do let Emma know.

The Nature Bit.....

The bees are hunkered down for the winter now. When its cold they go into a cluster, keeping the queen at the centre with the workers taking turns to go to the outside of the cluster. All the drones (the boys) have been kicked out by now; as they do nothing to help the colony survive the winter they get the push in the autumn. On warmer days the workers do cleansing flights or collect water, but apart from that they stay in the hive. We have three hives and we hope very much to get them all through to spring, but apart from feed them as required there is little we can do to help them now.

Something medium sized and furry was spotted in one of the marina soft banks a few weeks ago, so Steve kindly moved his wildlife camera to the hole, and much to our surprise it picked up a water vole! It has more than one hole, so we will try and keep an eye on its movements this winter.