



Mooring crackdown having unintended consequences

The decision by the Canal & River Trust to crack down on overstaying on visitor moorings may be having a distinctly negative impact on canalside businesses.

Simon Jenkins, managing Director of Norbury Wharf on the Shropshire Union Canal, says he has seen a dramatic drop in the numbers of boaters using the mostly 48-hour visitor moorings near his headquarters. He said: "Is it just a coincidence, or is the fact that the Trust is clamping down on people overstaying at public moorings having an effect on the amount of people we are seeing at Norbury visitors moorings this winter?"

Diminished

"We have noticed over the last two years the number of visiting boats that stay in this whole area over the winter period has diminished almost to none.

"If we look down the moorings here at Norbury there are one or two boats, and they are only here for a day or two.

"I am not condoning the overstaying by certain boaters at popular moorings, however, I do think that the hard line that the



The towpath at Norbury Junction three years ago - busy with boats - today there are just one or two on most days, says Simon Jenkins

Trust is taking is starting to impact on canal side businesses such as ourselves.

Dropped

"We used to sell plenty of coal and diesel in the winter to boats visiting Norbury and staying for a while, but we have noticed that sales have dropped as have the

visiting boats.

"I do think that C&RT should revise their mooring policies for continuous cruisers. One way they could solve this issue is to remove the short-term restrictions, like the 48-hour mooring limits that now cover most of the Shropshire Union Canal dur-

ing the winter months.

"They are not really needed then and it would mean boats cruising in the winter would not feel obliged to either move almost daily in bad weather or go somewhere less restrictive. It sounds easy to me."

INSIDE: The team making sure 2015 is a great boating year

Bargains

DIESEL

- Our fuel is the cheapest at a commercial boatyard on the waterways - and FAME free. It can change on a weekly basis but it is now at:

79.9p

BATTERIES

- 110amphr batteries JUST

£64.95

each when you buy four or more in the same transaction. £69.00 each if sold singly.

ECOFANS

The original and best fan for your stove just

£114.50

Norbury

All of one mind . . .

Heading up the company is the very good looking Simon (says the man who happens to have written this).



Simon has been involved with all sorts of boats all of his life, he has been boat building since the late 1980's, travelled most of the navigable connected system, had too many narrow boats to remember how many, and still loves boats and the canals.

Doing all things technical and woodwork is the not so good



looking Mick. Mick has been fitting boats out since the late eighties and has completed more full fit outs than he cares to remember (although he is getting on a bit now so his memory isn't as good as it used to be) Looking after the day to day

running of Norbury is the 'young one' David.



David has also been involved with boats since he was born and has never been away from them, apart from a very short stay in Spain; but the lure of the canals and boats beckoned him back.

In charge of the books, the bookings and far too many other things to mention is Angela.



Ange as she is known to everyone has been messing about with boats for the last 12 years and also lives aboard. Doing all of the painting on the boats is Lee (often referred to as Smurf, although he doesn't like the nick name). Lee too was born with boats and the canals in his blood, coming from a family of boatmen and women, his late moth-



er and father were some of the last working boatmen on the canals, you could say he has canal water in his veins! Looking after the wharf and doing the bottom blacking is split between Mike and Fred. They are both characters in



their own right, Fred who is well past his sell by date (retirement age) and Mike who is a



Mystery of the January boom

What is it about January and the sales? It's not just the department stores and supermarkets - the buying bug seems to spread to houses and especially boats.

At the start of 2014 both estate agents and boat brokers reported their best month for sales and now expectations are high for this New Year. Norbury Wharf boss, Simon Jenkins, said: "It

is something we have seen over recent years and it seems to have nothing to do with discounts or any of the other gimmicks the big shops use.

"I can't explain it, but sales have been quite fast and furious in recent months and, if we get another good set of sales this January we will soon run out of boats to sell.

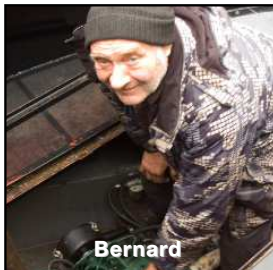
"It is very pleasing but I don't even have a theory as to why it happens."

people

... if not of one hat

young spring chicken by comparison, they both do a great job at looking after peoples bottoms, and they both live on boats.

Bernard, well where do you start with Bernard, he is really part of the furniture here at Norbury.



Bernard

He has been involved with narrowboats virtually all of his life, he is a well know, some might even say infamous, character around these parts of Staffordshire. He looks after most of the welding, fabrication and engineering tasks on all steel boats. He is well past his retirement age too, but he still keeps coming in and doing a bit, and leaving a bit for later! Sorting out the dining duties are Denise and Sylvia.

They are both great at their job,



Denise

they not only keep the staff well fed but also the thousands of



Sylvia

customers that visit the tea rooms every year, and they also keep the customers entertained too!

Keeping the rest of the customers entertained in the office is Joyce.



Joyce

Joyce is a one off (thank goodness) she looks after bookings for the hire fleet as well as the day boats and the trip boat, she also answers the phone, serves the customers, helps in the tea room and gives David and Simon a constant headache with her scouse wit! Making a lovely job of looking after the cleaning of the hire fleet, the trip boat, the day boats and the holiday cottage is Carol.

She's also known as Mrs Handbag (don't ask!) and suffers camera shyness, as you can see from the picture of her hat.



Carol

Making the the trip boat go in a straight line is Will, who also comes form a boating background. His grandfather was known as Chocolate Charlie, Atkins, so nicknamed because his main carrying contract was delivering chocolate crumb from the Cadburys factory at Knighton on the Shropshire Union Canal to the factory at Bournville - along the same canal where Will now steers our trip boat!

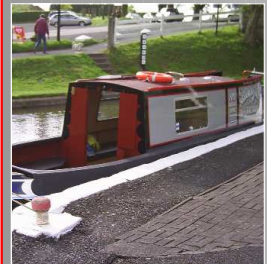
The latest member of our team is Jake.



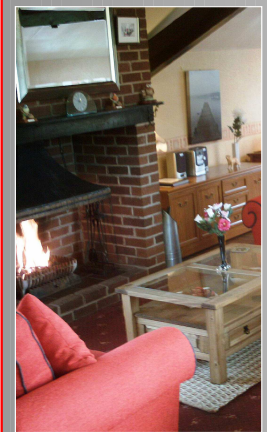
Jake

Jake worked here a few years back as an engineer, his main passion in life is tractors and vintage engines but boats come a close second so he loves nothing more than being in an oily bilge with a dirty engine! Of course, many more work here part time in the summer months and without them the place wouldn't buzz like it does.

Get afloat and try the fun of boating
Take a trip on Victory, Defiant, Bounty - our day boats for 10 people.
You can enjoy up to 17 miles of the beautiful Shropshire Union canal with no locks and 6 pubs!



Or stay ashore in our cosy cottage home from home



Winter cruise for romantic fish and chips

It may only be January but you can't plan too far ahead to be in a loved one's good books come February 14.

What could be more romantic than the winter canal by moonlight - a warm and cosy cruise from Norbury Wharf, southwards along the Shropshire Union, in our trip boat the Shropshire Star.

We'll be serving a proper fish and chip supper along the way as well as hot drinks and the opportunity to buy a winter warmer from the on-board bar. There will be fish and chip suppers on the Friday night and the Saturday night, costing £29.99 for two people to include Fish N chips, three hour cruise from Norbury to High Onn and return.



Boats for sale

TUG
 - 20ft 'Bantam style' pusher tug. Powered by a three cylinder air cooled Deutz engine. Hydraulic drive - motor recently serviced. Two winches and ropes to the front which are in excellent condition. Docked and blacked.



REF: 10297

£9,999.




REF: 10340

Ichthus - 57ft semi trad stern built by Cheshire boat company, powered by a Vetus diesel, professionally repainted in 2007, docked in 2012 for blacking. **£26,999**

Lacewing
 53 foot traditional stern narrowboat

VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT



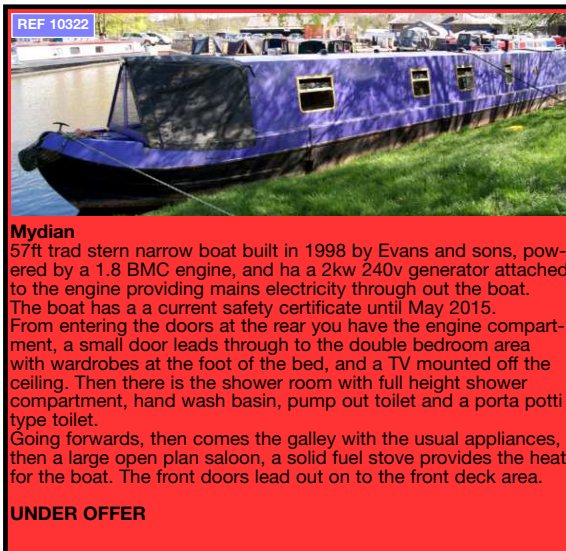
REF: 10344

£29,999



REF: 10339

Maid of Avoca - 23ft all steel cruiser built by Springer engineering, powered by an inboard twin cylinder diesel engine, does require some work internally. **£6,500**



REF: 10322

Mydian
 57ft trad stern narrow boat built in 1998 by Evans and sons, powered by a 1.8 BMC engine, and ha a 2kw 240v generator attached to the engine providing mains electricity through out the boat. The boat has a a current safety certificate until May 2015. From entering the doors at the rear you have the engine compartment, a small door leads through to the double bedroom area with wardrobes at the foot of the bed, and a TV mounted off the ceiling. Then there is the shower room with full height shower compartment, hand wash basin, pump out toilet and a porta potti type toilet. Going forwards, then comes the galley with the usual appliances, then a large open plan saloon, a solid fuel stove provides the heat for the boat. The front doors lead out on to the front deck area.

UNDER OFFER



REF: 10335

Temperate
 - a 2 year old 57 ft cruiser stern narrow boat built Collingwood boat builders and fitted by Orchard Marina for the New and Used boat company. The new current list price is £69K as standard and this boat has had lots of extras fitted.

£54,950

Lacewing - 50 foot traditional stern narrowboat built by the renowned builder Jonathon Wilson in 1988. She is powered by a BMC 1.8 which has been rebuilt by Calcutt boats.



ReF 10344

£29,999

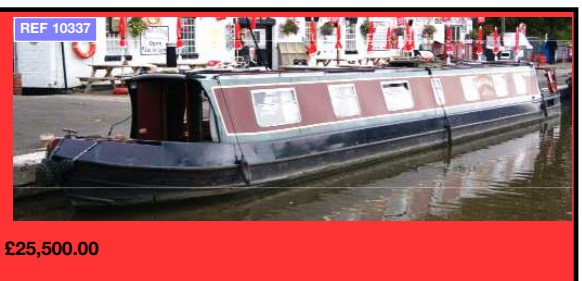
Crew:
 36ft unpowered welfare/work boat. Cabin at rear with bench seating, worktop with sink and space for a multifuel stove. Toilet compartment and tool store. Large open hold. The hull of this boat has been over-plated.



REF: 10296

£4,999

William
 A 56 foot cruiser built by Hancock and Lane. The rear cabin has a double bed, wardrobe space, and plenty of storage under the bed. The shower compartment has a pump out toilet, shower and handbasin. The galley has the usual appliances and a large 12 volt fridge and freezer. The large open plan saloon, has front doors leading out onto the front deck and the boat is heated via a solid fuel stove with back boiler as well as a Alde gas boiler. There is a 240 volt external hook up, an inverter, and battery charger. The boat is powered by an excellent running 3 cylinder Lister air cooled marine diesel engine which was removed in 2010 and rebuilt, last serviced in August 2014, the boat comes with documented service history since 2007. Last hull survey 2007.



REF: 10337

£25,500.00