

Meet the newest boater on the cut

BABY Elizabeth is certainly a boat child. Born last month to David Ray and his partner Sarah she has lived on board David's boat Ant since returning from the hospital and will get her first taste of back-cabin life when the couple take their working boat, Ibex, to the Historic Narrowboat Rally at Braunston in late June.

Hardly surprising really, as David is a dedicated boater who was also introduced to narrow-boating at a very early age. He is not only something of an expert on historic narrowboats but his day to day life is spent surrounded by all types of boats as Manager of Norbury Wharf Ltd on the Shropshire Union Canal.

Elizabeth arrived 3.15 in the morning of April 9, weighing in at 5lb 11½oz by which time David had managed to adapt the accommodation on Ant to fit in a cot bed for Elizabeth and make room for all the many other essentials a new baby needs.

Resourceful

David, who still has a large smile on his face, week's after Elizabeth's arrival, said: "Sarah is very resourceful and we have managed to give Elizabeth everything a new baby needs on board.

"Ibex is a sort of new baby too, at least she is to me, and I have been getting her ready for this summer over the past few months.

"It will be wonderful to be able to take Elizabeth and our working boat to Braunston where a lot of my friends in



Elizabeth

the historic narrow-boating community will be able to get together.

"Whole families use to live their entire lives in the back cabins of boats like Ibex so I am sure Elizabeth and Sarah will be comfortable for a week or so." If Elizabeth's early-hours arrival is anything to go by she may well help ensure David can 'get ahead' on the journey to Braunston, with lots of early starts.

David added: "I suppose we are all concerned about how we get more young people involved in the waterways and I can't help hoping that Elizabeth will be at the helm of an historic boat a few years down the line. "I enjoyed lots of boating as a young child and I want her to have that experience too"



David Ray and Sarah with their baby Elizabeth and Ibex, whose back cabin will be home for the family for a week or two this June.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Diesel price drops cuts holiday prices

page two

New dradging experiment by C&RT

page three

Boaters take key partnership roles

page four

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:

59.9p

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

May Day buzz at Norbury

By the time most of you read this we will be recovering from the excitement of the Norbury Canal Festival – a May Day celebration that has grown in popularity in recent years. With trading boats lining the towpath, art craft and plant stalls to say nothing of boat trips exploring the lovely Shropshire Union Canal, it attracts both boaters and visitors from a wide area. Food in abundance, both from the Junction Inn and food stalls, including a Mexican food bar, accompanied by a real ale festival and plenty of activities for youngsters makes the weekend buzz.



And it doesn't stop as the day darkens with a special marquee behind the pub with guest acts and local bands on both the

Saturday and Sunday nights. If you missed all the excitement this year, put it in your diary for May Day 2016.

Diesel drops holiday prices

The fall in diesel prices is not only benefiting boat owners who buy Norbury's FAME-free diesel at the lowest price at a boatyard on the canal system, the benefit is also being passed on to potential hirers.

Norbury Wharf's Managing Director, Simon Jenkins said: "Unlike some hire firms we include diesel in the whole hire package and, as it is now costing us less to fuel the boats we are passing this saving on to anyone who books one of

boats for the vacant weeks that are now available." A quick check on the Norbury website will show the discounts now available, despite the fact that the hire boat holiday season will soon be in full swing.

New T&Cs get minor changes

The Canal and River Trust introduced its new Terms and Conditions for all boaters on May 1, but it seems a highly critical assessment of the document by the National Association of Boat Owners has led to some small scale changes.

The changes around the definition of a home mooring, the liability of joint owners of a boat and an assurance that C&RT will only attempt to recover 'reasonable costs' from boats owners have had a cautious and muted reaction.

The Trust has also made some changes to its plans to pass boaters' data on to a wide range of third parties and the circumstances in which staff can come aboard private boats and moorings.

It has not substantially changed the requirement for boats with a home mooring

to cruise when away from their home mooring, claiming the requirement to cruise is not new and the amendment to the terms and conditions had only been made to make this requirement much clearer. The trust goes on to say: "... other changes were requested on the basis that they were either alleged to be outside the powers of the Trust or claimed to be unfair, unreasonable or unnecessary. We have not made these other changes on the basis that we do not accept that any of the revised terms and conditions are outside the powers of the Trust.

"We are also satisfied that the other specific terms and conditions that were questioned are fully justified and reasonable for us to include."

How about a mucky break...?

If you want a canal holiday with a real difference the Waterways Recovery Group, which does magnificent work restoring some of our lost canals is looking for new volunteers. Their summer camps involve lots of mud and machinery and you can join and book a place on the WRG website They have some great sites this year from the Stover Canal to the Driffield Navigation all with a variety of work going on.



Site testing best dredging disposal

The Canal & River Trust has opened a pilot dredging treatment site near Coventry as part of its plans to carry out £80m worth of dredging over ten years.

With new legislation, the cost of disposing of dredging via landfill has increased dramatically in recent years, and the aim of the site is to provide a cost efficient place to process dredgings that aren't suitable for other uses, such as being spread onto agricultural land or re-profiling eroded canal banks.

It is now illegal to take 'wet waste' to landfill, so the Trust has decided to explore other avenues of processing dredgings. Because of the nature of the dredging work, which can result in lots of material being dredged at once, it is difficult and costly to find companies to take the dredgings.

At the treatment site, the Trust is trialling various methods of drying out the dredgings, which will then be reused or, if they are contaminated, safely taken to landfill.

The site has been set up in partnership with Land & Water and FCC Environment Ltd, and the trial is part of investigating the need for, and viability of, setting up a network of such sites. The first 3,500 tonnes of dredged material was taken to the new site in March (with more arriving throughout the year) and the Trust will be monitoring how quickly and efficiently it takes to dry out. The site includes drying lagoons which drain the wet dredgings.



Dredging waste drying out at the new testing site.

This opens up opportunities for a range of uses for the dredged material including: landscaping; capping for landfill sites and; use in land restoration.

The volume of material should dry down by a third on average, which reduces the amount going in to landfill, and the associated costs to the Trust.

Vince Moran, operations director at the Trust, said: "This is great news for boaters. If the trial site proves successful we will have more control over our dredging works. We will be able to plan with greater confidence about the availability of places to deposit the dredged material, which can be notoriously difficult and expensive to get rid of."

"We'll also be saving money that will be ploughed back into the waterways.

Meanwhile a £700,000 dredging project aimed at making Leicestershire's waterways easier for boaters to navigate has begun.

The project will see a floating digger clearing 12,000 tonnes of mud and silt from the bed of the River Soar, with almost nine miles of the river dredged in two phases. The first phase from Belton Road in Loughborough to Zouch Lock near Hathern - should be completed by the end of May. The second phase of the project will then focus on the river between Junction Lock near Rothley and Lime Kiln Lock to the north of Leicester city centre with work expected to be completed by the end of June.

Mark Weatherall, project manager or the Trust, said: "We'll be dredging something like 12,000 tonnes of mud and silt from the river channel as well as around moorings, bridges and turning points which will make the river a much more attractive prospect for boaters. That can only be a good thing for local businesses and people on the towpath who love to see colourful boats out on the water."

Boaters take key roles

The Canal & River Trust has appointed seven new members to join the North Wales and Borders Waterway partnership.

The partnership works closely with the Trust's local waterway management team to help shape plans, guide the Trust's spending decisions, develop contacts with local people, seek new funding and champion the interests of the waterways. The new partnership members are:

John Yates, a heritage conservation specialist from Shropshire.

Nicola Said, a marketing expert from Wrexham.

Mike Carter, a marine surveyor from Weaverham, Cheshire.

Sara Mogel, a further education specialist from Flintshire.

Campbell Boyle, a construction

specialist from Gnosall. Barry Stamp, a councillor and charity CEO from Stafford. Sue Cawson, leader on education on the waterways from Audlem, Cheshire.

Several are boaters. John Yates, a heritage conservation specialist and he and his wife have owned a succession of historic narrow boats.

Mike Carter has worked in, operated and owned boat repair businesses with full boatyard facilities and his family have owned ex-working narrow boats since 1956 which they lived aboard and his childhood was spent either living afloat or in a canal side cottage. Mike owns, or has an interest in, several historic narrow boats and barges, including a commercial grain barges operation. Campbell Boyle has been a

sailor and boater all his life, for the last 27 years, mooring his narrow boat on the Shropshire Union canal at Gnosall.

Barry Stamp is a CEO of a registered charity in Stafford and owns a 50ft narrowboat, which is moored at Norbury Junction. Sue Cawson is well-known at Norbury and has been boating since 1960. Her first trip was with her mum, dad and family on the Shroppie and Llangollen, and Sue subsequently went on to work for Peter Froud on the hotel boats Saturn and Jupiter. She is still very passionate about canals and believes that by becoming a partnership member she will have the opportunity to get more involved and contribute. She is already a member of the Trust's Navigation Advisory Group and Navigation Advisor for HNBC.

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



Boats for sale

Boats hardly arrive with us for sale before they have gone again, we are literally selling them faster than we can re-stock.

If you want a quick sale for your vessel why not get in touch with us at Norbury Wharf?

Our brokerage rates and service are difficult to beat - we charge just 5% + VAT of the sale price to sell your boat with a minimum charge of £1,250.00 + VAT.

We offer a six month rolling contract, when your boat will be advertised in most major waterway publications and on the internet. We will also advertise your boat at our busy location where we have an extremely high through-put of potential buyers.

Moorings are free whilst your boat is for sale. Our combined knowledge of living on boats and the sale of them is extensive and our friendly team are always here to help make the process very easy for both buyers and sellers alike. All monies are handled securely through our escrow accounts.

Interested? Then contact Simon or David now on 01785 284292 alternatively email us on: info@norburywharf ltd.co.uk

Cloud Nine

As the name of the boat suggests, the new owners will be on 'Cloud Nine' when they own this beauty. Cloud Nine is a 62 foot long traditional stern narrow boat built by Alexander narrow boats and fitted out by Sandhills Narrowboats - a little known fit out company of exceptional standards.

Although the boat is a trad it has a very large rear slide which once open reveals a large deck area where there is ample room for a couple of people to stand/sit with ease. Under the wooden decked area is a Beta 43HP cocooned engine, this engine is super silent and also has the benefit of a 240V generator (Travel Power) coupled to the engine, as well as the usual alternators for the 12 volt system. The boat has an impressive electrical inventory, including inverter, land line, 12v/240v battery charger and galvanic isolator. The boat has been seriously designed for either long term cruising, living aboard or indeed cruising with guests.

£54,950



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.

£9,999.



Maiden

Quality built 50ft Trad by Simon Piper boats. This particular boat was one of the last of the David Piper and one of the first Simon Piper boats to be built in 1999 so it has all of the original attention to detail of David's previous experience coupled with the new enthusiasm of Simon Piper. This one owner boat has been maintained to a very high standard and it looks like a new boat. You could eat your dinner in the engine compartment its that clean!

The boat is powered by the reliable Vetus 4 cylinder diesel engine, domestic hot water is via a calorifier and the ALDE gas central heating boiler serves radiators throughout the boat.

There's also a landline, inverter, and battery management system. £32,500



Badawi - 45 foot cruiser built in 1997 with a 1.8 BMC engine. The boat has full central heating and the engine has been regularly maintained. £24,950.00



Temperate is a 3 year old 57 ft cruiser stern narrow boat built Collingwood boat builders and fitted out by Orchard Marina for the New and Used boat company. The design is the Peacock range, the new current list price is £69K as standard and this boat has had lots of extras fitted which would take the price well over 70K when new, grab a nearly new boat at a very good price and a fraction of its new build price.

Temperate is powered by a quiet running Isuzu diesel engine with a PRM gearbox and has only completed 1100 hours and is in excellent running order

The boat has a satellite dish fitted, solar panels, full diesel central heating, hot water cylinder supplied from the engine, the boiler and an immersion heater, 1800W inverter and it comes complete with a full inventory; this boat would make either a superb luxury cruising boat a very comfortable home.

£54,950



Duchess

A 47ft all steel cruiser stern narrowboat built by Wessex Narrowboats in 2000. She is powered by a three cylinder Barrus engine with PRM150 hydraulically operated gearbox which was fitted new in 2008.

From entering the cabin at the stern is the fixed double bed with wardrobes at the foot of the bed. Next comes the shower room with full sized shower, pump out toilet and vanity basin.

Following this is the galley which is fitted with a four ring gas burner, grill/oven, stainless steel sink and drainer and 12v fridge. At the front of the cabin is the saloon with a fixed seat on each side which can be used as two single beds or converted to one large double.

Heating is provided by a Webastodiesel heater which feeds the radiators throughout the cabin. This boat has been well maintained and is ready to cruise.

£29,950

