

Merry Christmas



Newbury Boat Company News Letter Winter 2013

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your custom during 2013. We hope the improvements we are continuing to make around the marina help to make this an enjoyable place to come, and not just somewhere to moor the boat. The latest upgrade is to install a larger 'Elsan' disposal, which we hope you are finding easier to use.

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 our excellent engineers Peter or Clive, who we bring in for the more complex jobs.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Derek and Emma

Maintenance and Winter Checks

We have only had a couple of nights light frost so far this winter, in fact it has been unusually mild and dry. 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. 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.

Marina Services in Winter

As always, when we experience a prolonged cold spell, 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 now 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 there is a separate container for oily water.

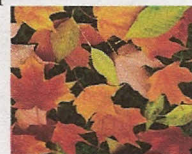
Ashes: There is a metal rubbish bin for ashes by the fence at the back of the recycling and general waste bins. Please do not put ashes anywhere else.

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

Antifreeze: please take this to the recycling centre on Newtown Road.

Leaves and drains

With the weather being so mild, there are still leaves on some of the trees. 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.



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Winter canal maintenance.

If you are planning to take your boat out over Christmas and the New Year, please check the CRT stoppage notices on our notice board before you go, there are amendments to the existing works program coming in at the moment.

There have been also some changes to start dates. **Fobney lock** is now scheduled for 24th February to 7th March. **Aldermaston lock** re-scheduled to 31st January to 1st February.

Pre-Season Dinner Last spring we hosted a very well attended pre-season dinner for the Marina 'next door' in Newbury Manor Hotel. If there is enough interest we will organise the same again.

We are proposing a similar date to last year, **21st March 2014**. This is again a Friday evening, so people may then stay on the boat and perhaps go boating for the week end.

Costs for 2014 are £21.95 for two courses or £25.95 for three courses per person. Drinks to be purchased individually.

Please let Emma know as soon as possible if you think you would like to come, she will then organise a formal booking.

Internet Banking

As you will know, the banks are gradually fading out the use of cheques. We have accepted payments via BACS or Internet Banking for some time.

If you would like to start paying in this way, you will see the account details on the bottom of your next invoice. Please use the boat name or invoice number as a reference.

K&A Canal Trust Newbury Winter Talks

There are three further talks this winter organised by the Newbury Branch of the K&A Trust:

January 29th 7:45pm Restoration of the Cotswold Canals.

26th February 7:45pm Waterways of Europe

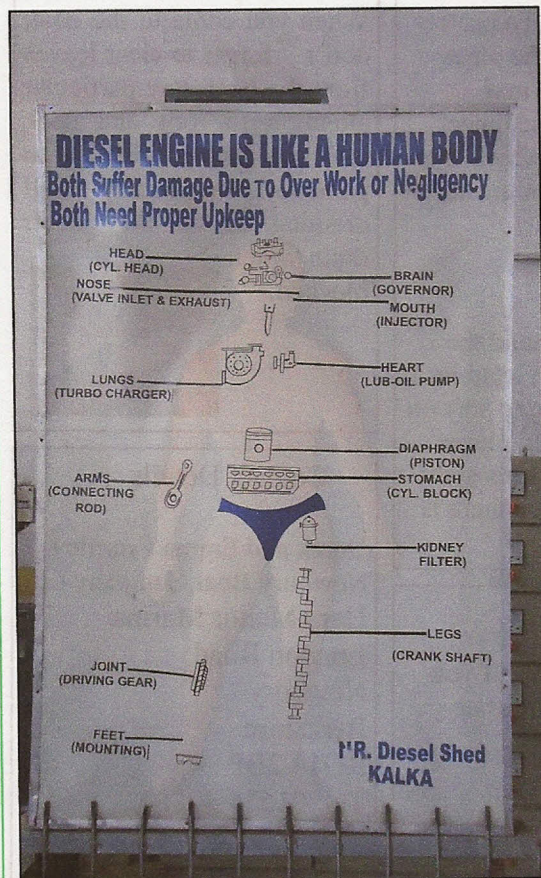
26th March 7:45pm AGM followed by The history of the West Mills area.

For full details please see the poster in the office.

Indian Engineering

We saw this poster in the Diesel Maintenance Shed at Kalka railway station on holiday in India.

Well that's one way of understanding diesel engines!



Canoe Races

Newbury Canoe Club kindly give notice of their winter / spring race program which this year is:

23rd Feb start 10am
Great Bedwyn to Newbury

9th March start 10am
Newbury to Aldermaston and back.

23rd March start 9am
Pewsey to Newbury

6th April start 7am
Devizes to Newbury.

For full details see the letter on the notice board in the office

Also, don't forget the National, Devizes to Westminster canoe race over the Easter weekend, which is late in 2014. Start date is Good Friday, 18th April 2014

