



Newbury Boat Company

News Letter Winter 2019

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your custom during 2019.

There are some quick reminders detailed below about winterizing, in case you haven't drained down yet. We haven't had cold enough weather yet to cause freezing in boats, but it is more common in January and February.

Because it is the season to be jolly and there is too much grumpiness in the country at the moment you are spared Derek's moans in this newsletter. I can't promise you won't get double next time though!!

You are quite an international bunch at the moment, with customers in all corners of the UK - except Ireland, as well as New Zealand, Dubai, South Africa and Finland. We love getting a weather report from around the globe. We are off to a cottage in the Lake District for Christmas for a mixture of walking and a good rest. Wherever you are, be it warm or cold **We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year** and look forward to seeing you in the New Year, if not before.



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 if there is snow or ice.

Opening hours during winter.

We don't have set opening hours, however please don't assume there will be someone here all day everyday during the winter. If you are coming to your boat and think you will need electric or another service, please check ahead of time that we will be here. If you are here and need something, even if the office looks locked, there is a good chance we are actually here, so please either come and knock on our boat / in the workshop, or call us on the office phone and we will probably appear!

Christmas Holidays Derek and I will be away from 22nd to 30th December. If you know you need electric, gas etc please try to get it from us before we go. Tina will be here while we are away. She will have the office phone, so if you need something please give her a call, ahead of time if possible, because she will not be here all day everyday. Obviously, unless there is an emergency, please don't bother Tina during the public holiday days - only Dylan Cat has special dispensation for that!

Anyone due a moorings invoice for 1st January have will received it with this mailing, so it will be earlier in the month than other invoices.

Greenham Canal Services - I had a call from Claudia to say the pump out, diesel and other services will be closed for Christmas on 23rd December opening again on 2nd January. As with us, because it is so quiet in the winter, please don't just expect them to be open every day, but call Claudia on her mobile 07824 612557 and book services ahead of time.

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:

Going East:

Assuming Towney lock finishes on time, there are no planned stoppages to the East after 13th December. Please note however, there has been a **Strong Stream Warning** for Upstream of Blake's Lock for a number of weeks, and we would expect this to continue unless we have a long dry spell. It is therefore not advisable to go from at least Fobney lock to Kennet Mouth.

Going West:

Picketsfield stoppage has been extended to 20th December.

After Christmas work starts:

Crofton Locks 56,60,61,61 from 6th January to 13th March

Cadley Lock 6th January to 21st February .

Harris Lock 6th January to 28th February

Bradford on Avon Lock 13th to 31st January.

As always - please remember stoppage dates do change, so if you are headed West in early March check the dates before going.

Strong Stream Warnings

Those of you who have moored with us for a number of year will have seen the red and yellow 'sleeves' that were put on the lock beams to show when the river flow has increased. Sadly CRT are not supporting this system anymore and are moving to an automated system. This automated system isn't in place yet, so if you are going out on your boat, please check with us what the flow is before you go. It has been a very wet Autumn and the groundwater in this area, in the aquifers, is much higher than we have had for a number of years. This means any rain we have goes straight into the watercourses and affects the flow of the Kennet very quickly.

We have access to some flow gauges, so please do ask us about the conditions before you go - we don't mind! Please also remember, it is the flow of the river you need to know, not the level, because the Kennet is controlled by sluices and weirs, the river level changes very little, even when the flows are very strong.

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. Because 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 five 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.

We do still have honey for sale, so do come and ask. It is all set honey now, but if you warm it gently, it will go back to runny honey if required. Unlike a certain supermarket that hit the headlines recently, our honey is straight from the hive - nothing added and not heat treated.

Due to some frosts most of the trees around the marina have now lost their leaves, sadly not quite all yet. Don't forget leaves block roof and deck drains so must be cleared to prevent damage to paintwork and in the worst case engine compartments filling with water. Please come and clear them to stop all sorts of trouble.

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

£6.60 for 500ml spray bottle.

Oil Absorbent Pads £1.00 each

14mm Hempex Line. Suitable for bow, stern and centre lines. £2.00 per meter and if you bribe Derek with a bottle of something he will splice it for you!

Sanitation Hose Having recently replaced a toilet we have excess 1 1/2 inch and 1 1/4 inch sanitation hose.

Please ask Derek for details.

Saniflo Macerator Descaler £20.00
5 Ltr

Toilet and sanitation hose maintenance

Having recently had to change some sanitation hose, Derek would like to remind everyone again about the importance of descaling you toilet macerator and therefore the sanitation hose. All hose will become scaled up in the long run and effect the performance of the toilet as it cant pump away as easily as it should. Scaling will also increase the chances of blockages in the hose. In this area with very hard water the scaling problem in very bad. Saniflo make a descaler specifically for their toilet macerators which is ideal for boat toilets. As well as descaling the macerator it will help to descale the sanitation hose. It is important that you don't use very harsh chemicals as they will damage the odour barrier in the hose. Look after you macerator pump and hose because replacement is a horrible job!! Even if you do look after your sanitation hose unfortunately the odour barrier will deteriorate after some time. If you notice a smell always check for leaks first, but then check to see if it is coming from the hose, in which case you may think about replacement. Ask Derek, he's the expert on loos at the moment.

