



In happier times. *Nuneaton & Brighton* on parade in the 2017 Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally, which was opened by Timothy West on *Nuneaton* and *Prunella Scales* on *Brighton*. PHOTO: TIM COGHILAN

the engineless butty through. They would sometimes be starting before dawn and tying up after dark, going non-stop all day.

At night the crew of four would sleep one in each boatman's cabin in the old way, with the other two in sleeping bags in well-socially distanced tents in *Brighton's* holds. There would be crew changes along the way – roughly every week, with some returning later on. Amazingly there is no shortage of volunteers for this.

The Narrow Boat Trust – note the old spelling of narrowboat – was founded by a small group of enthusiasts in the early 1970s after regular carrying had ceased, with the intention of preserving the skills and traditions of the former

working boatmen. It is a heritage charity run entirely by volunteers, which for few years now has operated the pair of former Grand Union Canal Carrying Company Town Class narrowboats, the motor *Nuneaton* and the butty *Brighton*.

These boats were both built in the mid-1930s, but never seem to have worked as a pair in their working days. The boats are kept just as they were, and the volunteers are trained to work them, as they were once worked by the working boatmen. To attract new volunteers, the catchphrase is: 'Come and join us for a dirty weekend on *Brighton*!'

This is a reference to the lack of washing facilities, rather than the prospects of anything untoward!

*Brighton* in its working days, seen here moored three out at Northampton Wharf in about 1951 – the fine Phipps Brewery beyond. It seems that the boat was never paired with *Nuneaton* in its working days. PHOTO: JIM PAYLER COLLECTION



# Taking to the water at Gloucester Docks



A young visitor tries her hand at paddling. PHOTOS: CANAL & RIVER TRUST



NEARLY 100 people took the chance on September 26 to take to the water in Gloucester Docks to sample paddleboarding and kayaking.

And on dry land, a team from the Canal & River Trust chatted to people and Gloucester Rowing Club was on hand to inspire visitors.

Covid guidelines were followed ensuring the event was safe for everyone attending and organising.

Max Ward, community and youth events co-ordinator for the Canal & River Trust, said: "There are so many ways to enjoy life by water and we're delighted with the positive response we got for our special event."

"Seeing so many people of all ages and abilities out on the water really did bring

a smile to my face. They were able to enjoy the quiet haven of canal alongside the National Waterways Museum to safely sample

paddling, boarding and kayaking. We're grateful to colleagues at Discover Paddling and really hope to do more in the future."

**Above: Caroline Kendall and Max Ward manning the Canal & River Trust stand on dry land.**

## Boaters' views sought on licence terms

THE Canal & River Trust is reviewing the terms and conditions of its private boat licence and is inviting feedback from boaters on the proposed changes.

Most of the terms and conditions remain the same, but in a number of areas they have been made clearer or strengthened to protect both boat owners and the trust. They were last updated in 2015.

Boat licence holders are encouraged to complete an online survey which highlights the changes between the proposed and existing terms and invites feedback on the changes. The consultation started on September 28 and will run for 12 weeks.

Jon Horsfall, head of customer service

support at Canal & River Trust, said: "I encourage everyone to familiarise themselves with the proposed changes and let us have any feedback. The terms and conditions are there to ensure that the waterways are used fairly and safely by every boater who cruises on them, and to help us with the smooth running of the canals and rivers in our care."

"We want them to be as clear as possible so that everyone understands the part they play in making the waterways a pleasant place for all boaters."

Boaters can take part by clicking the link in the email they should have received or by visiting [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/t&cconsultation](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/t&cconsultation)



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