



# AUSTRALIAN CANAL SOCIETY

6<sup>th</sup> August, 2007

*Hello Canalcoholic Friends!*

*The scene is the Ashby Canal. Steve & Lynne Brompton, Val Cooper and I are seated on the well deck of 'Florence Edith' with our lunch spread before us. There's a selection of bread, cheese, ham and spreads, and glasses of Aussie wine are in our hands.*

*'In July the sun is hot. Is it shining? No, it's not.' sang Flanders and Swann back in the '70s. However, today it beams down on us occasionally, before the clouds, which have been so persistent during this wet English summer, speedily cover it. This is the life!*

*Lynne and Steve are in the third week of their cruise around the popular **Warwickshire Ring**, (with extensions), on their excellent narrowboat from Kate Boats, which is situated at the top of the Stockton Locks on the Grand Union Canal. (There is also a base at Warwick).*

*Val and I have just joined the party.*

*It is so good to be back on the Cut .....*

Steve gives advice to  
James Brindley at Coventry



*A few days later 'Florence Edith' became the 9<sup>th</sup> ACS-associated boat to moor in front of the 'Blue Lias' pub at Stockton for the weekend. We were greeted by old and new friends.*

*The 7<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the Overseas Friends of the ACS was another highly successful occasion. The 'Blue Lias' is an ideal location for boats and people alike, and to everyone's delight the sun shone for two and a half days! We set another record attendance figure of 51, which included Aussies Derek and Helia Wolfson and Doug Pritchard, a new ACS member from Perth. We were interestingly and amusingly entertained .... and well fed.*

*There was enthusiasm for another Gathering in two years time. So, put **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2009** in your diaries. This gives plenty of notice for local members to work this event into an overseas trip, and overseas Friends to include it in their summer plans.*



English ACS members, Sonia Rolt, John Fletcher and Janet Stevenson with us at the Blue Lias

*Everyone's cruising experiences are different. Come to the September meeting to be entertained in word and picture by Steve & Lynne. They have awarded 10/10 to Cheryl from Kate Boats who recognised the ACS logo on their sweat shirts from our website. Since the website was updated and our participation in Britain's 'Save Our Waterways' campaign, the ACS has become better known around the country.*

*John Colville is a true 'canalcoholic'. Last year he dashed around the British countryside by car, dropping in on a number of well known sites and events. He will have lots to tell us at the meeting.*

## **September Meeting**

*Date: Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, '07 Time: 7.45 – 9.45pm + Supper  
Place: Marsden Rd Uniting Church Hall, Marsden Rd, Carlingford.*

*Features: \* **Back to British Canals - at Last!** by the Bromptons  
Join Steve & Lynne on the Warwickshire Ring*

*\* **English Pot Shots: Visits to sites, events including the Anderton Lift, the Foxton locks & project, Bath and the Caen Hill flight, the Falkirk Wheel – John Colville***

*\* **Blue Lias & other reports, Identification Quiz***



Blue Lias Gathering

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** Thank you to all those local and overseas members who have renewed their membership for the current year. If you have yet to do so, you may pay your \$30 at the September meeting or send it to Christopher Cooper at 31 Epping Ave, Eastwood 2122. Ph 9804 7473.

..... Your Annual Subscription for June 2007 – June 2008 has been paid. Thank you.

..... Your Annual Subscription for June 2007 – June 2008 is now due.

Overseas Friends who wish to become financial members, or want to continue as such, please send £10 to John Jeffreys, 1 St Georges Drive Ickenhham, Uxbridge Middlesex UB108FW

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** The June Meeting elected the following members to the Committee for two years

President: Jan Roden

Vice President: Lynne Brompton

Membership Secretary: John Colville

Minute Secretary: Susan Belshaw

Correspondence Secretary: Yvonne Clarke

Treasurer: Christopher Cooper

Planning Committee: Jim Pringle, Ken James, Yvonne Clarke

Supper Convenors: Terry and Judith Dewhurst

Keith Coble has kindly agreed to continue to be Auditor.

Many thanks to all the above people for their enthusiasm and contribution to the Society.

**DONATION:** I was so pleased to be able to present an ACS cheque for £150 to David Stevenson, President of the Foxton Inclined Plane Trust, at the Gathering at the Blue Lias. This gift was made possible by your donations for the late Brian Evan's books given to us by his wife, Carol.

**FOR SALE** at the next meeting: ACS lapel badges \$3.00, ACS car/boat stickers \$2.00 and ACS burgees (pennants) \$20.00

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**Cruising the Grand Union – a song written and presented by the Wright family & John Jeffreys (UK) at the June meeting**  
(Tune: A Policemen's Lot...)

When you're cruising the Grand Union  
The Grand Union, the Grand Union  
And you're locking up and then you're locking down  
Locking down.  
Don't forget to take the windlass  
Take the windlass, take the windlass,  
Or you'll surely see the Skipper with a frown  
With a frown.

When you're boat's descending slowly in the lock  
In the lock  
And you don't want all your crew to die of shock  
Die of shock  
Now the Skipper shouldn't really be a dill  
Be a dill,  
Or he'll end up with his stern upon the sill  
'Pon the sill.

When another narrowboat is coming at you  
Coming at you,  
And you can't remember what you have to do,  
Have to do  
If you don't want all your crew to die of fright,  
Die of fright  
You must make sure that you pass by on the right  
On the right

.....  
*Meeting Apologies to Susan Belshaw (ph: 9874 2295).*

*Next meeting: 4th December '07*

- 'A Venetian Christmas'

Sincerely,



President

When o'ertaken by a thirst that's really big  
Really big  
And you spy a pub where you can have a swig,  
Have a swig,  
One or two will be sufficient for the steerer  
For the steerer  
Then through the mist or fog, his vision will be clearer  
Will be clearer.

When at last you need to moor up for the night,  
For the night,  
Be sure to fasten ropes and tie them tight,  
Tie them tight,  
Or you'll wake up in the morning  
And tut tut, oh tut tut,  
You have finished up four miles down the cut!  
Down the cut!



We've locked up the Stockton flight