Spring 2026

ISSUE 188

FORTH & CLYDE CANAL SOCIETY

forthandclyde.org.uk



A Memorable Trip

Maintenance Update

A Blast From The Past: Canal News - Issue 01

CANAL NEWS

ABOUT US

We were formed in 1980 and as a registered charity have continued to promote the use of the Forth and Clyde Canal and surrounding areas since then.

Our current Board members are:

James Pert - James is currently enjoying his second period as Chairman and can be contacted on Chairman@forthandclyde.org.uk. As one of our MCA qualified Boatmasters he is very involved with the sailing of our MCA registered vessel, Voyager, as well as helping with maintenance and training.

Jim Miller - Jim was recently appointed as Vice Chairman and can be contacted on vicechairman@forthandclyde.org.uk. Jim is also a MCA qualified Boatmaster and our Maintenance Co-ordinator

Paula Braceland - Paula has been a member for several years and has recently qualified as a RYA Helmsman IW instructor. Paula is also our Training Manager and can be contacted on Paula.Braceland@forthandclyde.org.uk

Fiona Murray- Fiona joined 5 years ago and currently processes new membership applications, charter bookings and general administration. Fiona who also helps with fundraising and event organisation can be contacted on Operations@forthandclyde.org.uk

Tuulia McCourt - Tuulia is our Treasurer and deals with all financial matters, banking, payment of invoices etc.contact details are Treasurer@forthandclyde.org.uk

Lynda Harper - Lynda is a recent volunteer who is happy to undertake the role of Secretary and is responsible for hosting meetings and issuing minutes, as Secretary Lynda will also deal with any complaints: Secretary@forthandclyde.org.uk

The above board members are ably assisted and supported by **Craig McFadyen, Jim McFarlane,** and **Robert Cruickshanks** who bring a mixture of experience, enthusiasm and excellent ideas.

General enquiries should be made to info@forthandclyde.org.uk or call 07498 965368

Paper or digital? You choose...

Canal news will be issued digitally to members unless you specifically request a paper copy. Paper copies will be available from our office at Boatusers Block, 4 Strathkelvin Place, Southbank Marina, Kirkintilloch G66 1XT on a Friday from 12 noon till 2pm. Alternatively, we can post a copy to you, please email membership@forthandclyde.org.uk to request a copy via post.

Editor's Note

Happy new year! I don't know about you, but 2025 seemed to just fly by. I can't believe it's 2026 already!

You know how it goes: new year, new you. Well, we're doing the same with Canal News. It's a slightly rejigged layout to try and freshen things up a bit. I hope you like it.

This issue brings you a society maintenance update and a hilarious article about a wedding party that took place on one of the FCCS boats. The whole event reads like an episode of Fawlty Towers.

We're also introducing a replacement to Splashback: Back in Time. Where we take a look at what was in some of the old issues of Canal News. This time we go way back and take a look at Canal News #1.

All the best for 2026
Ronnie
ronnietucker@gmail.com

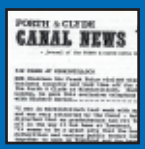
CANAL NEWS CONTENTS



Society - p04



Features - p06



Blast from the Past -p16



News - p20



About Us - p24

SOCIETY NEWS

Society AGM 2025

The Society held its AGM on Saturday 29th November and was reasonably well attended. The meeting started by having a look our achievements in the previous year:

- Over 3,500 volunteers hours were carried out by a few core members.
- The Society organised themed cruises and local celebrations to engage the community and promote canal heritage.
- Participated in educational trips and local festivals to raise awareness and celebrate regional culture.
- Conducted litter-picking and Walk n Talk activities to protect the canal environment.
- Strengthened volunteer commitment through inter-canal society lunches and managed operational tasks

Voyager

Had been on loan to Scottish Canals until May 2025. She failed the MCA assessment in June as due to change in regulations, a Fixed Fire System had to be installed along with a few other minor issues. During this period we cancelled/rescheduled 8 charters. A huge acknowledgement and thanks to James Pert who (due to unavailability of other Boatmasters this year) completed 88% of Voyager's sails.

Gipsy Princess

Had over 40 charters/transits including being filmed for a BBC Alba program called Saor Na Doar (episode 1 Glaschu) this can be viewed on Youtube

Maryhill

Had her first paying, overnight, guests

Financial Information

Financial Statements for the year ending 30th of Sep 2025 are showing incoming resources of £47,865 and expense of £29,009, with surplus of £18,856. Funds on the bank account as per 30th of Sep 2025 were £60.4k which was increase of £18.9k from previous year. As per end of previous financial year, £12.5k is "ring fenced" for unexpected expenses.

Canal News

Will be pick up only from the marina office for local/regular members to reduce postage costs. Those who wish to receive a posted copy can opt to make a further donation if they wish.

An appeal was made to 'silent' members that even although we had recruited over 20 new members in the last year we would still appreciate and benefit from assistance from those experienced members who used to be active volunteers if they were fit and able to do so.

SOCIETY NEWS



A Cracking Start to the Year

The Society held its annual New Year Sail on 2 January 2026. The day was brilliantly sunny, though bitterly cold, and the canal was partially frozen, as the photographs show. More than 30 Society members came together, and the sound of Voyager pushing its way through the ice was both deafening and exhilarating. Plenty of photos and videos were captured to mark the occasion.

Clearing the ice proved useful not only for the local wildlife but also in discouraging any would-be skaters from attempting to venture onto the frozen surface — definitely not advisable.

FEATURES



Ronnie Rusack Flotilla of Light 2025

The event began on Friday 7th November at the Almond Aqueduct on the Union Canal. Boaters and friends gathered, and the evening opened with a large bonfire made mostly from scrap pallets. The flames rose up to around 18 feet into the air. The firework display started at 7pm, and it was wonderful to see the dark sky lit up with a rainbow of colours. A gazebo had been set up, and boaters new and old met to catch up on news and enjoy a barbecue, followed by music and fun.

The next morning, Saturday 8th November, boaters and friends cleared away the embers and litter. The party then moved on to assemble at Slateford Aqueduct for a briefing before the procession of 15 boats, decorated with lights, themes and musicians, set off from Harrison Park at 6.30pm. All along the canal, families with children holding lanterns eagerly awaited the arrival of the boats. There were well over a thousand spectators attending the event, organised by the Lowland Canals Association (LCA), which arranged everything including publicity, stewarding, first aid support and insurance. At one stall, the LCA helped children make lanterns with candles before the boats arrived. Scottish Canals assisted the event by adding barriers in certain areas for safety, along with some funding.

Music was played from the banks before the event, beside a stall where paper lanterns could be made with the help of dedicated stewards.

The first to appear were a pair of small model boats, followed by a dragon boat crewed by women

FEATURES

recovering from breast cancer which arrived to the sound of beating drums. Behind them, music could be heard drifting along the canal. A wide variety of music filled the air across Edinburgh. The nearly full moon rose in the clear night sky, highlighting the church spires and buildings of Auld Reekie. The flotilla of boats and their decorations with musicians on board were of an exceptionally high standard. The boaters threw soft sweets to the children, while the stewards handed out hard sweets such as lollipops along the towpath.

The boats made their way to Lochrin Basin, where a buffet provided by the LCA was laid out aboard the boat Lochrin Belle, kindly made available as a gathering venue by the charity Re-Union. Hot noodles were especially welcome after the cold evening. A prize is always awarded for the best-dressed boat, and this year the unanimous winner was Karen Bradford's boat Panacea, which featured a replica of the Falkirk Wheel made by volunteers from Go Forth and Clyde, in conjunction with Re-Union and the Sorted project. Pierre presented the quaich to Karen and it will be engraved with her name before next year's flotilla.

The entire event was made possible by the efforts of many helpers, under the leadership of Pierre Potel. All the work was worthwhile to see the delight on the children's faces and the magical atmosphere of the evening. The weather was kind, with no rain and an almost full moon. Photos of the event are now widely shared on social media. The LCA also runs a competition for the best photograph, as well as compiling a short video for their website to remind everyone what a special night it was, not just for Edinburgh but for all the boaters, friends and family involved.

What creative ideas will next year bring?

Written by Christine Cameron



FEATURES

Twechar Outdoor Pursuits Centre

After two decades of vision, determination and community backing, Twechar Outdoor Pursuits Centre has officially opened its doors, bringing a brand-new hub for adventure, learning and opportunity to the heart of East Dunbartonshire.

The centre is operated by Twechar Community Action, an organisation that has played a central role in transforming the village over the past 20 years. Significant support from East Dunbartonshire Council, alongside funding from the Scottish Government, sportscotland and the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund, helped turn the long-held vision into a fully equipped, modern facility.

Activities at the centre will include an exciting range of water and land-based activities catering to everything from introductory taster sessions to progressive training courses, from birthda teams.

The building itself includes state of the art accessible facilities, as well as warm showers, lockers, changing areas, a food/tea preparation area, meeting rooms and outdoor seating, everything needed to support groups, families and individuals looking to get active.

Perfectly placed for canal-side adventures and well linked to local trail networks, the centre is set to become a major asset not only for Twechar, but for East Dunbartonshire and surrounding communities. It will provide new opportunities for young people, support regeneration, and create a welcoming space for learning,

FEATURES

Twechar Outdoor Centre (cont.)

wellbeing and adventure.

Mark your calendars - our official season launch takes place on March 28th and 29th. Come along, explore the centre, try out activities and be part of this exciting new chapter for Twechar.

To find out more, please visit twecharoutdoors.org.uk, or for enquiries get in touch at info@twecharoutdoors.org.uk or call on 01236 807900.



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FEATURES

Maintenance Update

Maintenance Update by Jim Miller

2026 has started off as a very busy time for the Maintenance Team who are working hard to get the boats back to being shipshape and serviceable for the start of the new season.

The increase in sailing and other such activities last year has taken its toll on the fabric of the boats leaving them a little tired and in need of TLC.

The team have started their New Year with all hands on deck with a number of tasks namely:

- Deep cleaning,
- Internal painting (Voyager),
- Checking systems and repairing as required,
- Fitting of new batteries for both engine start and for leisure items such as kettle, urn, heaters etc. (Voyager),
- Fitting of new LED lights for Voyager's Engine Room means that we can actually see all of the inside of said space. What the new lighting exposed was how dirty the Engine Room was so cleaning of that area has also commenced,
- New non-slip mats for Voyager's wheelhouse
- Manufacture of new bracket for Rudder Angle Indicator sender unit, gauge to be recalibrated.
- Preparation for re-installation of rebuilt Generator (Voyager),
- New hoses and connections for our pump-out (sewage removal) system to be fitted.

The above is, of course, the big ticket items that need to be tackled immediately but there remains a number of smaller tasks that are being addressed as they come to light.

Gipsy has also had a new set of fan belts fitted, her engine oil changed and her coolant topped up with anti-freeze.

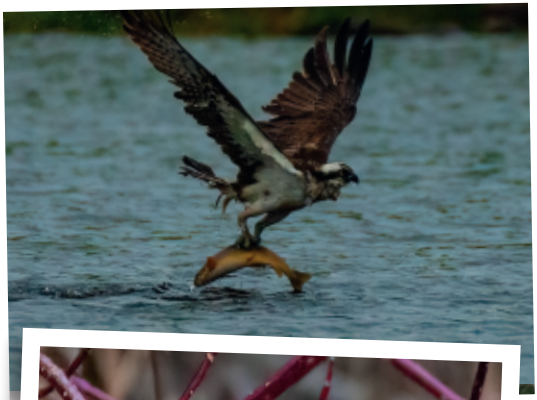
Maryhill is being cleaned internally, once complete we will look at internal decoration before hiring out as overnight accommodation. Maryhill needs a full engine service.

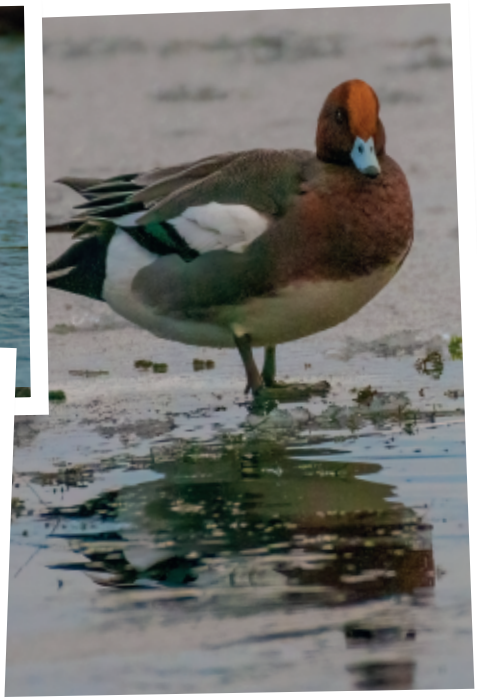
A huge thanks to everyone who has helped with the maintenance, especially over the cold winter months.

If you would like to help or get involved with Maintenance please contact membership@forthandclyde.org.uk or call 07498 965368 for more information.

FEATURES

Gillies Gallery









FEATURES

A Memorable Trip

By Jennie Hargreaves

Please accept my utmost apologies for not writing before now to thank the FCCS for the Voyager charter for our daughter's wedding on the 06th August 2025. Things have been quite chaotic as you'll see. Please pass on our utmost thanks for the unforgettable trip. The guests all had a memorable time and can now look back with fondness and laughter. Chartering the boat was certainly an excellent way for the guests to mingle and get to know each other as part of the whole day, and I highly recommend it as a way of getting guests to a canal side venue.

I've never been to a wedding where the bride and groom were waiting for the guests to arrive because the majority of guests had broken down. I must say that the guests did walk towards the venue like they'd just escaped some major catastrophe. However, I've seen the pictures and everyone was smiling and laughing on board. Although, I've not seen pictures of the crew.

One person onboard was very evasive about how he knew the couple but assured everyone the wedding wouldn't start without them. It was therefore quite a shock when this same person whipped off his Harris tweed jacket and put on his regalia to start the service. He was the officiant! He broke the ice with a comedic reference to the boat trip and continued to entertain during the remainder of the ceremony. This also involved the near collapse of the canopy above the couple. This was partially expected and contingency plan Z was in place where the Matron of Honour did a Superman move and leapt forward to grab it before anyone really noticed. The mother of the bride took the other end and ensured no more movement. The best man was meant to take the other end but looked totally unaware of what was happening.

Why did we suspect the canopy might topple? Well the lead up to the wedding had been plagued with incidents. Any one of which would have been hard to deal with, but these had built up into quite a story. We thought the day before the wedding our disasters were behind us, but when the photographer arrived on the morning of the wedding, later than he expected, and obviously clearly in shock we knew we weren't clear yet. Apparently he'd been involved in the nasty M8 crash where a motorcyclist had been knocked off his bike by a van returning to the inside lane. The photographer had

FEATURES

A Memorable Trip (cont.)

needed to break and swerve to avoid running over the motorcyclist. Despite the obvious shock, Gary James did a phenomenal job of capturing the day. He even took the couple out onto the canal path to take some lovely photos. The couple experienced the typical Glasgow scenario where they met someone who'd collected his tinnies and commented on how lovely the couple looked. However, whilst up by the canal, the gate to the Engine Works closed shut and the photographer and couple were shut out of the venue. Unfortunately, help was a long time coming as the bride had especially requested all phones be turned off. Luckily one of the guests had got the call and rushed past everyone enjoying the canapes to declare they were on a rescue mission. We didn't realise until much later it was the bride and groom.

So why were we not surprised by the boat breaking down?

Well it appeared to be the curse of the canopy. The first time the canopy was going to be built by the groom and his dad, the father of the groom had a heart attack and was in hospital for a couple of weeks. The second time it was going to be built by the bride, her dad and a friend, the friend's boyfriend had a diabetic coma in the friend's flat in Glasgow. It was a rush to get someone with a key over to the flat to get the door open. He was found on the floor in a bad way. He was blue-lighted to the Royal where he spent around 8 days in critical care. It later transpired the doctors had given him between half an hour to an hour before he would have had a heart attack.

That story could be told in much more detail, including the part where the groom's parents were having dinner with the bride's parents to sort the canopy but we're duly dispatched after their last mouthful of roast beef to rush up the road to the hospital. There was also the part where a posse was sent out to pound the streets of central Glasgow to look for the guy's car, which had indeed been ticketed. Glasgow City Council did do the decent thing and cancel the ticket when the bride explained the circumstances of why it was left five hours over the allotted time.

Now fearing this canopy was cursed the mother of the bride took no chances when it came to her turn to build it. When she woke with tingling fingers, toes and face she called NHS24 who made an appointment to see the out of hours doctors at the local hospital. So off she set only getting 4 miles before large quantities of smoke started emanating from the engine bay. It was a further half mile before she could pull up safely in a layby and call the rescue people. They were fantastic and put customer care at the forefront and

FEATURES

A Memorable Trip (cont.)

arranged a taxi to take her to hospital. Unfortunately, the taxi had been dispatched to some field in the middle of nowhere to collect her. She'd been reassured by a lovely lady on the phone that she'd informed the doctors she'd be late for the appointment and very grateful that the hospital receptionist had recognised her and said "Is that you Jennie?" The reassurance was just what was needed as she paced the layby for an hour and a bit. The cause of the tingling turned out to be an overdose of vitamin B12, but the car was terminal. The car wasn't rescued for another 2 days and went to the big scrappy in the sky.

Then we had the mother of the bride dress incident. It had been bought on a whim in November 2024 and looked rather a knockout. In the time between the purchase of the dress and the wedding it no longer fitted. The bride had calmly suggested it could be let out, but a wonderful woman who answered a Facebook plea suggested the bride was being a bit too kind and there wasn't the hands width of material to let it out. So what was the solution? When the immediate depression lifted and the talk to the creative friend had been drafted a replacement dress expedition was arranged. Several shops were visited but they didn't have the Summer wow of the original dress. The bride meanwhile had been scouring the internet and found someone in Gatehouse of Fleet who was selling the dress one size up, bought at the same bridal shop as the MOTBs original dress. So a day out was arranged, stopping at the bridal shop for a couple of back ups. The dress could be done up, and with much relief the MOTB began to relax. Another plea on Facebook also yielded a wonderful lady who made the dress fit a little better and is likely to become a good friend.

Then, there was the celebrant incident. The celebrant had been booked at the start of the process, although finding a religious celebrant had been tricky. When we read through the contract it appeared to be a blessing not a wedding. We were assured by someone, I can't remember the circumstances, that our celebrant could be linked to our religious group and everything would be ticketyboo. It was a risk, but everyone had been consulted and it all looked fine. The marriage schedule was lodged exactly three months prior to the wedding. All was going well until the paperwork was being dealt with. There were rumblings that our celebrant wouldn't be linked. We'd had a zoom call with the celebrant so that we knew who he was, but the camera pointed to his chest and that was all we saw. Finally, it was confirmed, our celebrant would not be permitted to marry the couple. So we had a venue, the gear, food, a

FEATURES

A Memorable Trip (cont.)

honeymoon but no marriage. The couple did well and sorted it in 24 hours, but with a cost of another £500. Another celebrant would legally marry the couple in a private ceremony at the venue in front of two witnesses and then the blessing could occur downstairs in front of the guests. We weren't one of the witnesses but we could hear a lot of laughter coming from the print room where the legal marriage was taking place. We later found a video on Facebook in which Tina the Celebrant labelled it #quirkywedding and explaining that as the couple were exchanging rings downstairs they might want to exchange daggers. They took this to heart and exchanged 8 inch swords. I'm glad the father of the bride didn't know he'd been driving around Glasgow and the Southwest with a couple of swords in the boot. The couple assured us later the daggers were legal but I wouldn't put it to the test. Who sells these things?

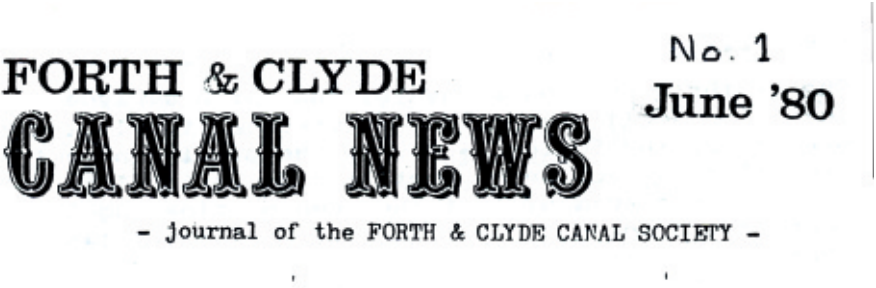
Now this wasn't all that was going on in the household at this time. The roofers had finally made an appearance after a wait of 19 months from the date of the quote. This was partly due to being in a conservation area and partly busy roofers. Expensive planning permission has to be obtained in a conservation area. The planners are very strict so you can't send in a photo of the roof and say that it will look like this but with new tiles. No, you have to spend a fortune getting an architectural technician to draw plans to say this is the roof before and after.

The roofer came and set up the scaffolding about 4 or 5 weeks before the wedding. Things were slow but going well, until 2 weeks in. The builders had stripped the roof but needed to reline it. This involved bashing galvanised nails through plastic and into the walls. Little did we expect them to come out the other side. The roofers had packed up on Friday night and gone home, and the rain started. It started outside but then it started inside in the spare bedroom with all the wedding stuff. The roofer drove from his home 15 miles away, donned his waterproofs and climbed up on the roof. Despite buckets and boxes under the drips the carpet was a soaked mess of fine wet plaster dust. The following day another leak, this time over the dining room table. The son realised it was caused by the bashing of the nails into the roof shifting the toilet cistern so that a large crack appeared and toilet water was pouring through the bathroom floor.

I'm sure I've missed loads of other incidents. The key performance indicators have been completed: the couple are legally married and very much in love. We put on a very memorable wedding, and people had fun. **RESULT!**

FEATURES

A Blast From The Past
Canal News #01 from 1980


FORTH & CLYDE
CANAL NEWS
No. 1
June '80
- Journal of the FORTH & CLYDE CANAL SOCIETY -

SIR FRANK AT KIRKINTILLOCH

BWB Chairman Sir Frank Price visited Glasgow on business recently and took time off for a trip to the Forth & Clyde at Kirkintilloch. Back in London, he gave this exclusive telephone interview with Richard Davies...

"I was in Kirkintilloch last week with my engineers and was very attracted by the Canal - but very disturbed that my predecessors saw fit to cut it off in the way it has been at Townhead.

"It seems to be a great pity that the Local Authorities and various public bodies cannot get together to open up Townhead and the beautiful stretch from Maryhill to Castlecary.

"It's a great asset. We should try to see if it can be utilised. We should try and deal with this particular problem. It would be a pity if funds cannot be found both for the culvert and increased maintenance costs.

"The main problem is that the Board is short of cash AND the law doesn't allow us to spend any more than we do at present.

"I am pressing the Government to appoint a Scottish member now that the future of the Board is secure. I have already raised this with Her Majesty's Government."

ACTIONWAGON

The Forth & Clyde Canal Society is all ready to take to the road with a caravan recently acquired by several Society members. With its tremendous potential for towpath exhibitions, working party HQs etc etc, it's hoped the caravan will eventually become official Society property. In the meantime, the Actionwagon has featured at the June 21 Barbeque Cruise and the festivities at

FEATURES

A Blast From The Past (cont.)

Auchinstarry Loch, June 23.

SOCIETY NEWS

The first general meeting of the Society was held in the City Chambers, Glasgow on May 30. The following office-bearers were elected and voluntary posts filled:
Chairman: Paul Carter
Secretary: Richard Davies
Treasurer: Mrs Nancy Lawton
Other Posts
Newsletter: Morna Chambers
Publications: Kevin Francis
Social Events: Donald MacKinnon
Membership: Patricia Davies
Fundraising: Mrs Nancy Lawton
Exhibitions + Universities/Colleges: Nigel and Nikki Waters
Boating Activities: Tommy Lawton
Historical Research: David Forrester
Land Activities: Post vacant, but June Ross-Smith can offer advice and help.

It's a Wash Out...

Bishopbriggs Gala Day on June 14 was plagued by wet weather. Boat trips run on the Canal by Tommy Lawton sadly attracted few passengers. However, one voyager was impressed despite the rain. Mrs Rogan, Chairman of Strathkelvin Amenities Association, was enchanted by her trip from the Sports Centre to Cadder and back, and her Association has since joined the Society. Tommy's gallantry may have helped impress the lady, as he stopped the barge to pluck her a water lily and promptly ran aground!

BUT... the weather stayed dry the following Monday evening when Tommy skippered a barge full of 8th Pack Bishopbriggs Brownies on a happy outing from the Sports Centre to Hungryside and back.



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"It seems to be a great pity that the Local Authorities and various public bodies cannot get together to open up Townhead and the beautiful stretch from Maryhill to Castlecary.
"It's a great asset. We should try to see if it can be utilised. We should try and deal with this particular problem. It would be a pity if funds cannot be found both for the culvert and increased maintenance costs.
"The main problem is that the Board is short of cash AND the law doesn't allow us to spend any more than we do at present.
"I am pressing the Government to appoint a Scottish member now that the future of the Board is secure. I have already raised this with Her Majesty's Government."

* * * * * *

Have you any CANAL NEWS?

Morna Chambers on 041-339 0995 compiles this bulletin and would be delighted to hear from you.

SOCIETY NEWS

Society Events

Just some of the upcoming events that the Society will be involved in this year- if you want to help/participate in any please contact Membership@forthandclyde.org.uk for more information.

- Easter Bunny Sails
- Canal Clean Up Weekends
- Bishopbriggs Community Day
- Fish Supper Evening Sails
- Pasta Evening Sails
- Campsie Show
- Kirkintilloch Gala Day
- Millenium Link 25 yr celebrations

Further details will be posted on Social Media (Facebook/Instagram) Follow us so you don't miss out.

Friends of Forth & Clyde – Social Group

We meet every Friday from 12:00 to 2:00pm in the Boatusers Block at Southbank Marina, Kirkintilloch.

Everyone is welcome to drop in — members and non-members alike. Come along for a free cuppa and a friendly blether.

We'd love to see you there. Contact 07498 965368 for more information or email operations@forthandclyde.org.uk

Santa's Grotto

Caledonian Estates kindly donated funds to assist the Society in hosting a free Santa Grotto where children were able to chat to Santa and receive a small gift. Santa saw several hundred children between Saturday and Sunday and he really enjoyed the stories about how good the children had been and were going to be.....

Any gifts Santa had left over were donated to the charities Kilsyth Foodbank and Ruchazie Pantry Growing 21



SOCIETY BOATS

Enjoy a relaxing cruise on the Forth & Clyde Canal by hiring one of our boats

Very popular for birthdays, special occasions or family get togethers.

GIPSY PRINCESS

from £100 per hour, suitable for up to 12 passengers



VOYAGER

from £150 per hour, carrying up to 45 passengers



MARYHILL

Subject to availability, overnight stays are available on Maryhill at Southbank Marina



Longer sailings and alternative pick-up points can be arranged on request.

For bookings or further information, contact operations@forthandclyde.org.uk or call 07498 965368.

GIFT VOUCHERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE SPECIAL PRESENTS

Further information at forthandclyde.org.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soundmapping project to create community sound art on the Forth & Clyde Canal

A new research project is set to create sound art in the communities and natural spaces located along the banks of the historic Forth & Clyde Canal in Falkirk.

Over the next three years, local artist, musician and architect Andrew J. Brooks will work with Scottish Canals and local people on a new Canal Listening Project.

The aim is to engage local communities to produce an ecological and cultural soundmap of the area around the canal. Participants will work with Andrew to record their stories and the sounds of the canal environment producing sound art and installations.

Andrew's, project is entitled Presentation of Acoustic Ecology through Community Co-Produced Sound Mapping in Human and Non-Human Spaces. It forms part of his PhD at Queen's University Belfast at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Sound and Music (SARC) and is funded by a UK Department for the Economy studentship.

"I am eager to begin working with Scottish Canals and the communities around the canal," said Andrew. "The sounds of the environment where we live hold so much cultural significance for us and can help us understand so much about ourselves and the world we share with our communities, both human and non-human. The canals are a rich cultural and ecological setting to develop this research and make artwork with the local communities."

Source: Scottish Canals



NEWS IN BRIEF

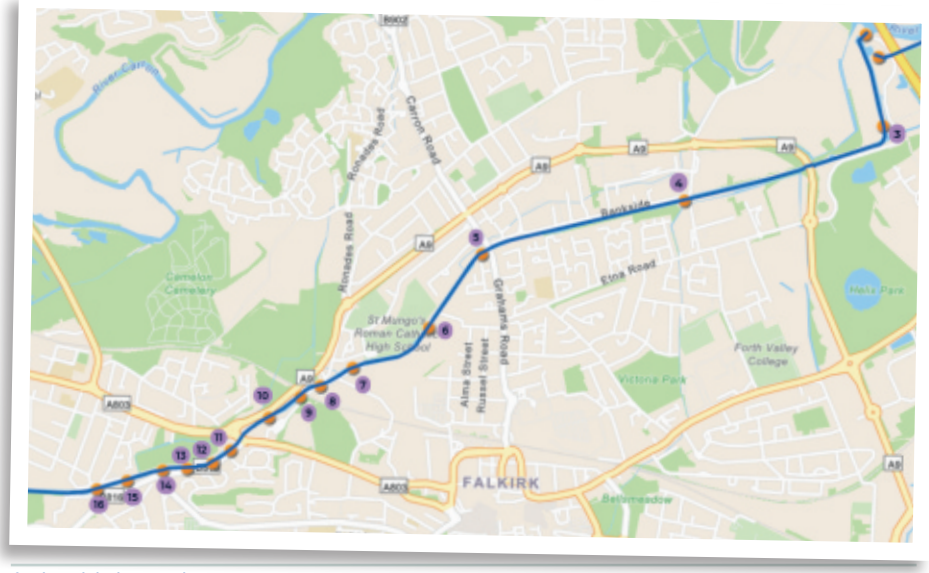
Forth & Clyde Canal Set to Re-Open in August 2026

The re-opening of the Falkirk Flight of the Forth & Clyde Canal (between locks 3 and 16) is now rescheduled for August 2026.

To date, we have replaced six sets of lock gates (upstream and downstream gates at Lock 16, as well as downstream gates at locks 15, 14, 13 and 12). Meanwhile, our Maintenance Team has over-planked the upstream gates on several locks to extend their lifetimes. We have also installed a new lock bypass beneath the busy Lock 16 bridge – an important step in ensuring safe and reliable water management along the canal in the years ahead.

While the canal was dewatered and excavations were underway in 2025, we also carried out a series of inspections to ascertain the condition of the canal bed and structure. This gave us an unprecedented view of the embankments, masonry and clay linings – seeing areas of the canal that have been covered for many decades. We identified additional repairs were needed to the canal.

Source: Scottish Canals



SOCIETY NEWS

More Than Boats: The Lively Heart of Our Society



At our Society, life isn't all ropes, rigging, and canal breezes. Sure, we love our boats—but we also love a good laugh, a bit of mischief, and the kind of camaraderie that keeps a community thriving.

Recently, we hosted a Team Games Social Night, and let's just say the competitive spirit was alive and well. There was playful rule-bending, plenty of cheeky tactics, and enough laughter to echo down the canal. Bragging rights were fiercely contested, but the real victory was the sense of togetherness among such a genuinely lovely bunch of people.

And the fun doesn't stop there. We hold a social event on the first Wednesday of every month, each one completely different from the last. Over the past year we've:

- Cheered our way through the panto as a group
- Enjoyed meals out together
- Battled it out at quiz nights
- Tucked into a classic fish supper evening
- And when the lighter nights return, we take to the water for a gentle sail along the canal

It's all part of what makes our Society special. We work hard to keep the canal and surrounding area vibrant and well-used—but we also make sure there's room for joy, friendship, and a good dose of fun along the way.

If you're looking for a volunteering role where you can make a difference and enjoy yourself while doing it, we'd love to welcome you aboard.

Get in touch at memberships@forthandclyde.org.uk or call **07498 965368** to find out how to join our motley crew!

SOCIETY NEWS

An Overnight Stay With a Difference

Looking for a getaway that's a little out of the ordinary? Step aboard Maryhill, now available for overnight stays at Southbank Marina in Kirkintilloch.

Perfectly positioned in the heart of historic Kirkintilloch, Maryhill is just a five-minute stroll from a great selection of shops, restaurants and pubs. It's an ideal base for exploring the beautiful countryside of East Dunbartonshire, with scenic walks and the Campsie Hills all within easy reach.

On board, life slows down in the best possible way. With no television or Wi-Fi, Maryhill offers the chance to switch off, unwind and enjoy a simple, peaceful escape from the everyday rush.

Sleeping up to four people, she's a cosy and memorable spot for a night away. Prices start from £95 per night.

Contact operations@forthandclyde.org.uk or call **07498 965368** for further information and to check availability.





Join the Forth & Clyde Canal Society!

Be part of Scotland's canal heritage

Are you passionate about our waterways, local history, or simply enjoy being part of a friendly, welcoming community? The Forth & Clyde Canal Society is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us preserve, celebrate, and share the story of our historic canal.

We have a range of rewarding roles available:

Stewards

Help us welcome visitors aboard. Stewards provide a friendly face, serve refreshments when needed, and share basic historical facts about the canal. If you enjoy meeting people, this is a great fit.

Housekeeping

Support us behind the scenes by preparing our vessels and office areas for private functions and volunteer gatherings. You'll help keep everything clean, tidy, and ready for use.

Crew Members

Interested in life on the water? We offer a structured training programme covering rope handling, steering, health & safety, basic maintenance, and more. Build your skills and become a confident, competent crew member.

Maintenance Team

Help us care for our fleet of three vessels. We welcome skilled tradespeople — engineers, mechanics, electricians, painters — as well as general helpers. Tasks include routine servicing, repairs, and responding to the occasional emergency fix.

Why Volunteer With Us?

- A friendly, sociable environment
- Full training provided
- A chance to support local heritage
- Opportunities to learn new skills and meet great people

If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.
membership@forthandclyde.org.uk

Annual membership Fees: Concessions £15, Standard £25 and Family memberships £30
Email Memberships@forthandclyde.org.uk for application form or further information.