

## NEWS LETTER – Autumn 2016

Autumn leaves are falling, the hedgerows are bursting with fruits and berries and the family recipe for hot chocolate has been made several times already! My favourite time of year is here once again! The boats are, as I type, winding their way on the final leg of this seasons journey and will be due into Banbury in just 2 days time to wave goodbye to the final guests of this season. The last few months have been full of exciting cruising through the waterways of London, having enjoyed a brief encounter with The River Wey, the tidal Thames and their first visit to the Big Smoke. No rest for the wicked though and after several days of cleaning down and winterising them, the dry dock at Tooleys awaits, where John will be spending 3 weeks renewing the colourful but weary looking paintwork, cleaning and blacking the hulls, redoing the roofs and many other works to improve the overall appearance of the boats which, after a long 6 months of boating, are in need of some TLC. We will then be tucking them up in Cropredy Marina for the colder winter months before thinking about jobs that need doing inside and on the engine. I also have a very long list of items needed in the galley, such as teapots, milk jugs, wine glasses and other odd bits and pieces.

### Autumn Newsletter no. 2?

Following our announcement that I am expecting baby no. 2 at the end of November, many of you have requested that we let you know as and when the momentous day arrives. We have decided that we will send out a HTML newsletter to our mailing list to let everyone know the good news, but we will not be posting a printed copy. I guess we will have our hands fairly full for a while and this seemed like the easiest way of letting those that want to know without spending hours typing, printing and stuffing a printed version into envelopes. If you want to receive this e-newsletter then just go to the main page on our website [www.bywaterhotelboats.co.uk](http://www.bywaterhotelboats.co.uk), complete the subscription form with your name and email address and click the button. You will then receive an email from Mailchimp (the online mail provider that we use) asking you to confirm your subscription by clicking the link. Once you've clicked, you will be added to the list and should receive all my updates and waffling every 3-4 months. Our next printed newsletter will therefore be in the Spring.

We will also post on our Facebook page which should also update the Twitter feed so if you have 'liked' or followed us on either of these social media you will also get an update when the time comes.

## Tales of 3 cities

This season very much feels like it has been characterised by city breaks. First a cruise into the heart of Liverpool in early July, for another splendid weekend by the River Mersey, in view of its own version of the Millennium wheel and in the hub of restaurants, bars and cafes that make modern cosmopolitan city life. Bristol provided a similar metropolitan feel over the August bank holiday weekend with sunshine and a bustling harbour with steam train rides, harbour ferries, the replica of The Matthew and a wonderful feel good atmosphere. Finally, London and Little Venice where the boats enjoyed a quiet weekend in the very heart of the city at the end of September. It lacked the dockside atmosphere of the previous two cities, but perhaps provided more enjoyment to guests who spent more time exploring the backwaters of our sprawling capital city: cruising through Regents Park and London Zoo and around The Olympic Stadium on the Bow ring has to be some unusual highlights for sure!

## Season 2017

In my last newsletter we released our outline for the 2017 schedule and explained that we were in the complicated process of selling the business and would be in touch with more news when we had confirmation of any changes that would be taking place for next season. I can now confirm that unfortunately the sale has fallen through and so John and I will be operating the cruises ourselves, as usual. I know many of you will have mixed feelings about this and we appreciate the good wishes and hopes that we may achieve a successful sale, but with a tiny (or large!) tinge of happiness that actually you get us for one more year! I apologise for the length of time it has taken for us to confirm this, but I decided it would be best to 'kill two birds with one stone' or rather one postage stamp by getting the descriptions booklet done early and including this with the newsletter, so everyone can see the details and highlights of the routes we have chosen for next year.

Bookings have, despite the uncertainty been brilliant and unbelievably I have us as being 60% booked already - Again we have been humbled by your faith and confidence in us! I have included our provisional availability table overleaf as well as our descriptions booklet.

I am now asking that all those who have made a provisional booking with me, confirm this with a completed booking form and deposit payment of £150 per person to be sent to the address on this newsletter (2 Knowle Close). I will then send out initial confirmations. I have had a few enquiries from people who have already been disappointed that their first preference was not available so if any cabins have not been confirmed with a form and deposit by the end of October, then I will open these for re-booking.

That just about covers everything for this season. Thank you, to all of you who have cruised with us this summer, making it the wonderful success it was. What were your favourite bits? Why not let me know on our Facebook Page – and if you've got some photos, why not share those too! Till The Spring...

*Hanna, John, Alex, bump and crew*