

Dinghy Dawdle on the Newport Canal

by John Myers of the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust

On Saturday 27 June a small band of Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust enthusiasts gathered at the Black Shed in Newport, for the second year running, to boat along the Newport Canal. The canal is divided into sections by the filled in locks and other obstructions, so the idea was to manhandle the canoes from section to section. At the same time they planned to extend an organized litter pick on the bank and clean up the canal by collecting rubbish and litter and removing anything that should not be there.

The parts of the Newport Canal that are in water are a Site of Special Scientific Interest, so permission for the trip had to be obtained from Natural England (NE). NE agreed but limited their approval to just five boats so as not to disturb the environment

The five canoes set off eastwards towards the A41 and, almost immediately, discovered a large doll floating in the canal. It was immediately given a home in the floating "litter lighter" being used to carry debris and it was towed behind one of the boats for the duration. The equivalent of about 8 bin bags of rubbish were



collected, mainly bottles and cans and packets. The biggest items were some upholstered chairs which had to be dragged out with great difficulty.

After returning to the Black Shed some of the boats set off westwards, offering a chance to admire the magnificent lilies growing at that end.

A small group of SNCT volunteers helped the crews transport the boats from section to section and a good time was had by all.