**Field Trip Wednesday 27th March**

**Wiltshire & Black Prince Hire Boats**

* 14 hire boats
* Live-ons use the canal a lot
* Private owners with a base on marinas usually out 4-5 weeks per year (usually weekends)
* 5 boats going out Fri 29th March
* Stag and Hen does are not allowed on the river at Bath (only allowed on the canal)
  + Usual route Fri travel to bath, Sat in Bath, Sun travel back
* Send boats out on Mon & Fri for 3-4 days or a week - Wiltshire
* Black Prince send boats out Tues & Sat
* 3-4 days most common, then 7 days
* Shorter boats tend to be families/couples
* Bigger boats are the drinks carriers
* Thinks W&B will create more rings

**Sally Narrowboats Hire Company**

* 20 holiday boats
  + out Mon & Fri
  + out 4 days or 7
  + 50% are big boats
  + Equal mix between Stag/hen, families and couples
  + Smaller boats out more regularly
  + Whole week tend to head to Devizes
  + Weekend tend to go to Bath
* 4 day boats
  + To Dundass aqueducts and Semmington 50% split
  + Go out any day
  + In Summer out every day
* Roughly 7 hours to Bath & 1 week to Reading
* Most out over the weekend except school holidays tend to be Mon-Fri
* Fri 29th March 18 boats out
* Basically all boats out all summer
* Blip around xmas holidays 50% boats out
* Bradford lock is one of the busiest and sometimes can have 4-5 hour waits
* Private boaters likely to do Cain Hill Flights
* Can boat as long as it’s light
* Hire boats rarely do Cain Hill – usually ~100 per summer
* Holiday boats will often go to the bottom of Cain Hill and turn
* Nearly half will stop at avoncliffe pub
* Boats can moor anywhere on the towpath
* Older people tend to start v. early in the morning and travel longer, stop for breakfast
* Most bring food for short trips. Week long stop half way for food
* Weekend most popular
* July even split between weekend and week
* An odd boat will go to reading – 2 weeks
* August – week is the most popular
* Hens/Stags – April-July
* Couple of boats out Jan-Feb
* Busy area – 15 residential boats moored at the side must move within 48hours

**Random Stuff from John**

* Roughly 1,500 private boats on the KA
* Midlands most boats go out for a week
* Wide beams on the W&B will only be able to get to Melksham
* Marina locations:
  + Near Semmington
  + A4
  + East, West, north Swindon