

Open Meeting and AGM on Monday April 3rd: "Writing the Canals: location, inspiration and story" by Sarah Jasmon.

Hello all,

Come join us for our next month's Open Meeting on Monday April 3rd (one week early than usual to avoid Easter Monday), at 7.15pm in the Castlefield Hotel: "Writing the Canals: location, inspiration and story" by Sarah Jasmon.

Sarah has lived on a boat for nearly twenty years and is currently moored on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal near Burscough. She will be talking about her work of writing novels centred on canals & waterways, which is reflected in her two novels "The Summer of Secrets" (2015) and "You Never Told Me" (2020). She is also writing a PhD in creative non-fiction, which explores the canals and rivers of Manchester. This will be a great chance to meet a novelist working on the canals, so don't miss out.

Following the talk we will be holding the Branch AGM. To keep this short, it will be based on written reports followed by an opportunity for members to comment and ask questions. There will then be the election of the committee and officers for the next year. We are very keen to get new members involved in the Committee. You can offer fresh ideas; help us to track what's happening around our canals; help organising things; almost anything! We aren't asking for anything arduous or time consuming and you find out more about the canals that we all love. What's more, the branch's survival depends on your support for this!

Many of our small committee are each holding multiple roles so some of these suffer neglect and there are not enough of us to cover other important waterway and IWA topics. Could you help with any of these – perhaps for just a couple of hours a month?

- Producing meeting minutes
- Liaison with local waterway societies
- Identifying plans that may affect a waterway
- Supporting events
- Supporting campaigns
- Membership (we need to attract and retain)
- ... or simply working alongside a member of our current committee.

Please consider offering to join us or to be co-opted after the AGM in a more temporary basis. We hold committee meetings by Zoom (so no travelling needed), on average once every 2-3 months. Please or email Phil Broughton if you wish to discuss this or ask any questions: 01204 300541
phil.broughton@bromleyx.co.uk

For the open talk and AGM, we will start gathering 7.15pm at the Castlefield Hotel on Liverpool Rd Manchester (M3 4JR) for 7.30pm start in one of the ground floor conference rooms. The entrance to the hotel is on the side facing towards Deansgate overlooking the Castlefield outdoor arena. The talk is free to attend and everyone is welcome.