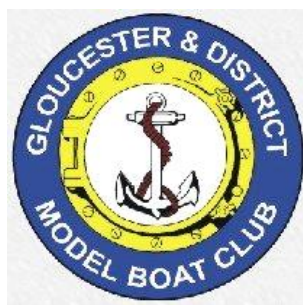




September 2026 Newsletter

GLOUCESTER & DISTRICT MODEL BOAT CLUB

www.gdmbc.co.uk

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SARA OPEN DAY

IF YOU WEREN'T THERE, you missed a treat. The July 5 Severn Area Rescue Association's (SARA) annual Open Day was brilliant for the general public and our Club members alike. Come again next year!

SARA is located down a lane off the Sharpness docks in a stylish 19th Century headquarters building overlooking the large pool at the tail end of the Gloucester to Sharpness Canal.

Our Club Gazebo was set up on the causeway overlooking the pool, with a fine view of the rescue demonstrations put on for the general public, and a clear zone marked by a line of buoys for our boats, whether yachts or electric powered. The weather was good and there was a steady breeze.

GDMBC members turned up before the 10am official opening to erect the Club gazebo, get the tables organised and models ready for display.

SARA did an excellent job of organising the day's events, the provision of catering and all the other needs called for on a sunny summer's day starting with car parking and general safety precautions.

Since 'a picture is worth a thousand words', here goes:

SARA members demonstrating on the pool



A game of water gladiators progresses on the Sharpness Pool

The SARA Sharpness Lifeboat Station, dock in the foreground



The Causeway to the Lifeboat station was the home of the GDMBC gazebo and other groups



The Sharpness high speed lifeboat on an errand of mercy to raise funds for SARA



The high speed lifeboat has radar, transponder and full night running equipment



Our Derek demonstrates his own design of model launch gear, lashed to the metal barrier and weighted by a water-filled canister



Our gazebo provides excellent UV protection for the models and members



A SARA rescue inflatable is hauled off the sand and mud at the end of the day, and the GDMBC team packs up the gazebo



Packing Up the Club Gazebo at Sharpness

Barry Model Boat Club Open day Sunday 6th September 2026

We would like to invite you all to our open day at the Knap lake , Barry, South Wales. CF62 6 YU. 9 am to 4pm. There will be models of all types of from scale, fast electrics, submarines, yachts, cars and lorries. The lake will be open for sailing, with some yacht racing in classes DG 65, IOM and DG 95 depending on entries.

Stalls, games and a raffle

Have a go at the boats .Free parking at the lakeside.

All proceeds will go to the Ty Hafan childrens' hospice.

Help us to raise money and support our children. If you want to support the event with your own display please let us know.

OVER BASIN USERS

This message is going to the Sailing4disabled, Model Boaters and Yellow Hat Fishing group; the Lock Keepers and occasional users of the basin at Over.

We are working on plans to drain the basin from October 5. We hope this will be for about four weeks. But it could be six. This is from the lock to the entrance to the basin that is marked roughly from the flagpole (towpath side) to the fencing on the far side (by the houses). The rest of the canal will be available and the slip way as well.

We are pulling the resources together and will keep you updated. It will not happen before 5 October 2026.

The reason for this is that the bank on the towpath side is failing and we need to fix this.

Thank you and please come back to me if you have any questions.

Ralph Barber

Chairman, Canal Trust



FROM THE HARBOURMASTER

26 August 2022

Why was the Fun day cancelled? Principally because of weed whose growth has been accelerated due to the continuing warm weather. Normally the weed would have been cleared on the Monday before a Fun day & the Micromagic racing that was scheduled to be held on the Friday before; essentially killing two birds with one stone. However, we didn't want to kill anything on that Monday before, let alone our aging workforce in the 25 degree heat. There were thoughts of delaying the weeding session to later in the week, but the weather only got hotter and the weed more prolific. The situation is not helped by the continuing dry weather which has seen a fall in the water level to that not seen before, which has allowed more sunlight to penetrate the depths and so increase the weed even further.

The continuing hot weather meant that the Over basin was out of use for the GDMBC, but they aren't the only ones. The H&GCT have cancelled all their boat trips and sailing4disabled struggled to keep going, resorting to only using their canoes. They were constantly getting tangled up in weed and their boats are often grounding. They have thus suspended their operations.

Frustrated that everything was coming to a halt, a limited section of the basin was individually weeded over many days when it was not too hot. This allowed the GMBC to recommence model boating on Wednesday and Sundays, as well as MicroMagic sailing/racing on Fridays. In addition as other sailing/boating on the canal has ceased, the two booms have now been able to be deployed on a more permanent basis to keep the section clear of leaves/debris. The reduced water level however is allowing the weed to grow almost as fast as it is being removed so is still proving problematical. In short the canal desperately needs filling up as the level has now fallen over two feet with the maximum depth now only around that depth in the middle.

Just an update on the H&GCT plans for work on the canal.

The bank adjacent to the pontoon is crumbling and H&GCT are planning to rectify this by constructing a block wall along the bank. To facilitate this, a coffer dam will be erected across the basin and the water pumped out to allow the work to be undertaken in the dry. This operation is planned to start on Monday 5th October. Before then, currently the plan is for the boats - Bosley & Alder to be moved and moored on the opposite bank. The Sailing4disabled boats & pontoon (i.e. one wheelieboat & two Canoes, two wheelie boats having already been taken out of the water) to be moored beyond Mr Maysey. It is planned that this will happen no later than Thursday 1st October. The work is scheduled to last 4 - 6 weeks ie October / November but like all projects we have been warned that it may slip.

The implication for the GDMBC is that there will be reduced clear water for boating due to the moored boats and possibly not for MicroMagic yacht racing. The winter

series of racing scheduled to start at the beginning of October, may therefore have to be delayed.

The slipway however will remain clear, so still allowing boats onto the restricted water.

John Hamer

Speech House Vintage Show

Coleford GL16 7EL

Sunday 13th September 2026

Steam & Vintage Show

On the grounds of The Speech House Hotel and in support of local charities, enjoy a display of vintage vehicles and machinery including motorcycles, cars, tractors, stationary engines, steam engines, commercial and military vehicles.

Hosted by the Forest of Dean Vintage Vehicle and Machinery Club and celebrating 90 years of the ERF, this promises to be a fantastic day for all ages. The Vintage Show of the year.

SHARPNESS POOL OPEN TO GDMBC

Derek Young has negotiated with the Canal Trust and SARA for the club to use the pond at Sharpness on Sunday afternoons (GL13 9UB). Access is by a locked gate (can be by-passed on foot) so members will need to be let in or walk 100 yards to the water.

Can you let Chris or Derek know if you are interested in going as we will need to move the safety boat from over to Sharpness and depending on the response we can arrange this.

GDMBC.secretary@gmail.com

SARA Lifeboats

Sharpness Lifeboat Station, The Old Dock House, Shsrpness, GL13 9UB

NB: The Club has not finalised the use of the pond with the Canal Trust and SARA. So could members refrain from using it at present until the OK is given and a recovery boat and buoyancy aids are available on site.

The Club fun day on the 6 September is still on track to be at Sharpness after 1.00 as SARA train in the pond in the morning so members can arrive before 1.00 but will probably not be

able to sail until 1.00. Its Bring your own food and drink but the local dockers club may be open to members.

THE OLD LOG POND, GLOUCESTER

As some of our sites are difficult to get to or a bit short on water Derek has agreed on the club's behalf to use the Sharpness canal 'Old Log Pond' at Severn bends GL2 5GR by the Costa Coffee shop. This is close to the Netheridge Swing Bridge. It can be used any time but to be on the safe side it would be better for a group to meet rather than lone sailing. If you need the location of further information ring Derek on 07968817841.

He can arrange for the vegetation to be cut back if there is sufficient interest

GD MBC.secretary@gmail.com

A site inspection 'Log Pool' of the on August 9 revealed a nice are of suitable sailing water, but access on foot for our boating purposes can only be described at present as being very difficult. There is no slipway. In addition to the bankside vegetation, the drop from the bankside to the water surface is an estimated 2-3ft. Retrieval of a boat in distress would require assistance for the unfortunate member.

The Old Log Pond



Over Back in Business

Harbour Master John Hamer advises that Over is once again open for business. The bulk of the weed has been removed from the 'MicroMagic racing section' of the basin which should allow boating to resume.

The canal may be a bit short of water and there may still be a bit of weed around, but the situation is being sorted. The road traffic situation has also improved since the contraflow system was introduced. In short, Over is once again useable for the GDMBC.

GDMBC.secretary@gmail.com

Access by car is more complex than previous, and members wishing to use Over Basin need to drive first to Highnam roundabout on the A40 and then reverse direction to leave the dual carriageway at the Over Farm shop, where there is a new slip road left to the Over Basin via **Horseshoe Drive**.





The canal bank at Over on August 9

HEREFORD WEEKEND August 1-2, 2026

The GDMBC was invited to share in the Hereford Model Engineering Club Open Weekend and our members joined in on 1 and 2 August.



The Hereford boating pool is surrounded by garden railway tracks



Relaxing under Hereford's shady gazebo. Photo: Anthony Beckett, Hereford Model Engineering Club



Crewed by Popeye and Olive Oyl, built and skippered by Ted Tedalis, the Fantail was in its element

There was the usual eclectic mix of models cavorting around the Hereford pool, as always weed-free and welcoming.

Leslie Lambert's Hydrocar

David Dexell

Some time ago I was encouraged to construct a model of a very early amphibian, originally built in 1913 by a Mr Lambert , who was an engineer with Yarrow's ship builders in Glasgow.

I was sent two somewhat faded pictures and a short write up from a cyclecar magazine from 1913 as I tend to build historic working ship models this was an interesting project.

Looking at the photos this seemed an interesting project.

The original 1913 amphibian had a wooden hull containing a single cylinder engine and then two clutches which either drove one back wheel by chain or move a lever and drive the propeller. Steering was by turning the entire front axle (rudders on the front axle not at the rear like most boats).

What you see is my interpretation from the photos, I am not sure if the original was ever finished as WW1 started the next year and Mr. Lambert went on to build a successful one based round a 1920's chassis. Sadly I cannot find out what happened to that craft.

The model built mainly of wood like the original with metal axles and mechanical parts it has two motors and ESCs, one drives the chain drive to back axle and handles steering, the other just drives the water propeller. It handles surprisingly well

and I run it for quite long sessions and always creates interest although due to the smooth tyres it struggles to climb out at Over.



David Dexell's model Hydrocar, sadly not a Bugatti, but an early Scottish amphibious car

Marcle Steam Rally, July 2026

David Dexell

The Club was asked to support the Marcle Steam Rally with a display of model boats. Last year's display was a disaster because some idiot let their dog loose in the pond, which then wrecked the waterproof liner, this year was better managed and we ended up with a suitable pool and proceeded to show that models not only look good but work properly on the water. I took those of my boats which suited the somewhat limited space and created a lot of interest.

The greatest credit must go to David Pearce who not only sailed his Glasgow Puffer for long periods but also splendidly manoeuvred his Micro Magic under sail on a very small pond. Luckily we had just enough depth of water for this small craft to sail well.

We hope to encourage more people to come and sail next year now that we have proved the system works, it's a nice Rally well worth a visit with all sorts of vintage machinery in action.

Now that the problems have been solved I hope members would support this event, there is a lot to see, only a 30 minute drive from Gloucester and I will arrange free passes and there is a good model tent. Next year we could do with more boats; you could come for one or two days.

FROM THE GDMBC SECRETARY

Information for members wishing to attend the stand or talks at the Gloucester Hub on the 5th September 2026

Location
Gloucester Hub
Clarence Row
Alvin St
Glos
GL1 3DW

Arrive after 9.30 to set up, tables will be provided for models.

Please unload by the front door then move to the free car park at the rear of the building.

The Hub opens to the public at 11.30 and closes at 4 pm.

Refreshments will be available during the day.

The site contact is club member John Putney. **01452 425295**

GLOUCESTER RETRO EVENT 2026

Owing to the poor location offered to the club and lack of parking available the Club Committee has decided not to attend the Retro event this year.

Chris
Secretary G&DMBC

GDMBC at the Cwmbran Modelling Society Summer Open Day

Derek and Nick attended the above open day on 8 August. Cwmbran open day proved to be an excellent and highly enjoyable event.

The open day featured hundreds of expertly crafted models, each demonstrating a remarkable level of skill, time and attention to detail.

There was a wide and impressive variety of models on display and it was both interesting and informative to view them and to speak with their creators.

The atmosphere throughout the day was exceptional; friendly and welcoming. We had the opportunity to meet many engaging individuals who were generous in sharing their enthusiasm and expertise regard model boats.

Overall it was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion and a highly successful event for everyone with an interest in model boating.

I would certainly recommend it and look forward to attending again in the future.

Nick





Gloucester and District Model Boat Club

Events Calendar for September and October 2026

If you intend to sail at any of the club's venues, please ensure that you have read the Club's Constitution, Appendices and the Risk Assessments before sailing. This is for your safety and the safety of others.

It also ensures that the Club's insurance is valid.

Please ensure that your details are on the ICE database, before sailing, you never know when they may be needed !

Regular Club Activity

Day	Time	Date	Location	Description
Tuesday	1pm-3pm		Saul	Club day any model
Tuesday	6pm-Dusk		Docks	Club day any model
Wednesday	1pm - Dusk		Over	Club day, mainly motor boats but yachts welcome
Friday	1pm - Dusk		Over	Club day, mainly yachts but motor boats welcome
Friday	1pm - 4pm		Saul	Club day, any model
Sunday	10am – 1pm		Docks	Club day, any model
Sunday	1pm - Dusk		Over	Club day, any model

Over is not available on other days without prior arrangement with H&GCT management

Organised Events

Day	Time	Date	Location	Description
Friday	1.45pm – 3.15pm	4 Sept	Over TBC	Micro Magic racing
Sunday	10am-	13 Sept	Ploddy	IOM racing
Friday	1.45-3.15	18 Sept	Over TBC	Micro Magic racing
Sunday	10.30 -5	Sept	Sharpness	Fun Day
Sunday	10am	27 Sept	Ploddy	IOM racing
Friday	1.45pm-3.15	2 Oct	Over TBC	Micro Magic racing
Sunday	10am-	11 Oct	Ploddy	IOM racing
Friday	1.45pm-3.15	16 Oct	Over TBC	Micro Magic racing
Sunday	10am -	25 Oct	Ploddy	IOM racing

Please be considerate when parking, especially by launching areas. Leaving space for less mobile membersAt Over, the area by “slipway” is for Blue Badge holders or unloading / loading only.

When operating “Faster” models, please keep away from other users, to prevent swamping, etc.

Please be aware of waterborne diseases, cleaning hands regularly, especially before having refreshment

If an incident occurs, boating activities are to halt until the situation is under control, etc.

Caution to be taken when retrieving a stricken model. Always get assistance from another member.

Your safety and enjoyment of Club activities are the Club's main concern

If you have any concerns about Safety or Club activities, raise it at the time or contact the Club's Secretary.