

BRAUNSTON WATERWAYS LITERARY FESTIVAL 2019



A moment towards the end of the first Bra Lit Fest - 2018

**Saturday 14th September
Braunston Marina NN11 7JH**

Sponsored by:
Braunston Marina, CanalBookShop & Towpath Talk



CANALBOOKSHOP

**TOWPATH
TALK**

THE FULL PROGRAMME

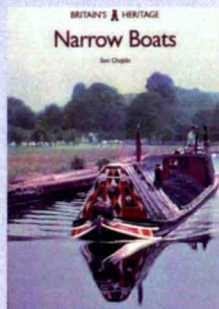
10.00 – 11.00 *Raymond Marquee* (Booking code: AA - £10.00)

Tom Chaplin – canal author and photographer on his latest book *Narrow Boats*.



Tom has been a canal enthusiast since a teenager in the 1960s, when he worked a pair of narrow boats during the twilight of canal carrying, including delivering to the famous Jam 'Ole factory. A good photographer, he had the foresight to record something of what he saw. Some of these appear in his canal books, a selection of which will be included in his presentation. He will be interviewed by Nick Lake, a trustee of the Friends of Ray-

mond. They lovingly maintain the former pair of Braunston working narrowboats, the Nutfield and the Raymond, and will be the principle beneficiary of the Braunston Literary Festival.



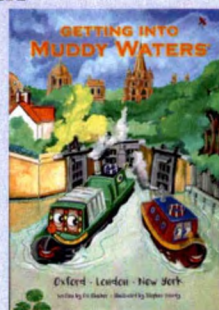
10.15 – 11.15 *Nutfield Marquee* (Booking code: BB - £10.00. Children under fifteen are free.)

D. H. Clacher – author of the children's book series *Muddy Waters*



In a special children's session, Dan will be giving selected readings from his much loved canal books, where narrowboats come alive. He will be interviewed by Braunston's former District Councillor Abigail Campbell. Abigail read English at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and is a former festival programmer for the Birmingham Literature Festival, and Chair of the Children's Laureate. She has two young

boys, so she is very much in touch with children's literature. The presentation will be followed by a puppet show from Alarum Theatre.

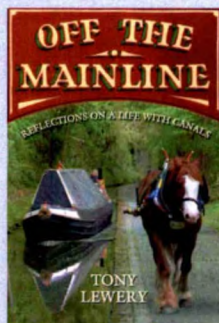


11.15 – 12.15 *Raymond Marquee* (Booking code: CC - £10.00)

Tony Lewery - canal painter and author, on his latest book *Off the mainline – Reflections of Life with Canals*

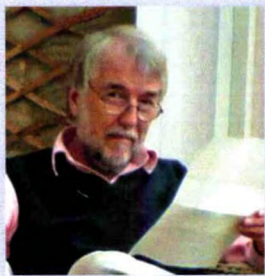


Tony is probably the most famous decorative canal artist alive today. He is steeped in the ancient canal folk art tradition about which he has written extensively in his earlier and now classic book *Narrow Boat Painting*. Tony's new book is a collection of articles on canal heritage, boats, architecture and history. Tony will be interviewed by Jane Marshall, herself a canal artist and author on the subject, with her book, *Roses & Castles; A Practical Introduction to Traditional Narrowboat Decoration*. A former actor, Jane played for many years the female role in the itinerant duo-canal theatre company Day Star, with her husband Peter, who also wrote the plays.



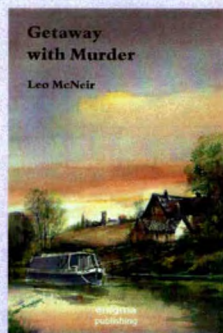
11.30 – 12.30 Nutfield Marquee (Booking code: DD - £10.00)

Leo McNeir – canal crime writer on How to Getaway with Murder on the Canals!



Leo is the author of the Marnie Walker series of novels which have been described as 'intelligent entertainment for the intelligent reader'. They have become the most well-known crime novels with a waterways setting, since the publication of the first in the series, *Getaway with Murder* in 2000. To date 12 novels have been published. The books have received nominations for a number of awards, including a Crime Writers' Association Dagger, and

WH Smith's 'Thumping Good Read'. Leo will be interviewed by Antony Richards, Chairman of the Inspector Morse Society, and a crime writer himself, as well as being a master of arranging murder mystery evenings on locations as diverse as country hotels and cruise liners.



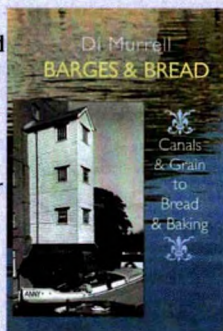
12.45 – 13.45 Raymond Marquee (Booking code: EE - £10.00)

Di Murrell - former boatwoman and author of Barges & Bread.



Di was not born into a working boatman family. She was what the boatmen called a 'scholar' and was drawn to the waterways in the late 1960s – early 1970s, doing the last lime juice runs from London docks to Hemel Hempstead, and grain carrying to the River Wey. She has since spent many years living on the Continental canals. Her book is both a reflection of her life of carrying on the waterways, and a recipe book for bread,

and she will be talking about both. Di will be interviewed by Cassandra McNeir, wife of the canal crime writer Leo McNeir. Cassandra is a food-writer, who for many years wrote a canal-cooking page for the magazine *Canal & Rivers*. She is also author of *Creative cooking in small spaces: The Wow Factor*



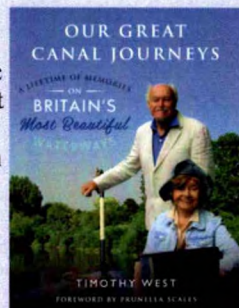
14.30 – 15.30 Raymond Marquee (Booking code: FF - £10.00)

Timothy West & Prunella Scales on Our Great Canal Journeys



Actor and canal enthusiasts Tim & Pru will be talking about their 'Great Canal Journeys' – the television series and the book. *Our Great Canal Journeys*. Whilst the book was published in 2017 - after the popular TV series had already been running for a few years - the very last episodes of the twenty plus series were filmed during this year at two opposite

corners of the world's waterways - the Mekong River in Vietnam and Cambodia, and the South Oxford Canal. That final episode ended in a family tea party on the green at the entrance to Braunston Marina. It will screened about the time of the Bra Lit Fest – so timely indeed.

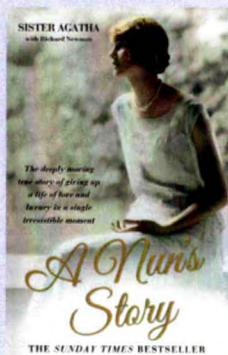


16.00 – 17.00 Raymond Marquee (Booking code: GG - £10.00)

Sister Agatha on her best seller *A Nun's Story*, interviewed by Lord Deben



Lord Deben (formerly the Rt Hon John Gummer MP) will interview the 88 year old Sister Agatha Leach about her life as a Catholic nun. Her autobiography *A Nun's Story*, about her sudden and dramatic choice of a convent life - and in so doing, forsaking her debutante lifestyle and fiancé - is an international best-seller. Lord Deben PC is a Catholic convert, and now serves as the Chairman of the Independent Committee on Climate Change. (If time permits, Lord Deben will also talk about his key role, as Secretary of State for the Environment (1993 – 97) in John Major's Cabinet, when he was instrumental in laying down the foundations for the creation of the Canal & River Trust. In this he later worked closely with the former BW / CRT Chairman Tony Hales.)



18.00 – 19.15 Raymond Marquee (Booking code: HH - £20.00 front seats, £10.00 back seats)

Timothy West and Prunella Scales performing their favourite passages from Shakespeare – with musical accompaniment



By way of an early evening entertainment, Tim & Pru will perform a selection of favourite passages from Shakespeare – both soliloquies and duets - and where possible with a waterways theme. Between the pieces the leading counter tenor William Towers - who has performed at Covent Garden and Glyndebourne amongst other distinguished venues - will sing a selection of Shakespeare songs from his plays, accompanied by the distinguished lutenist Toby Carr.

BOOKING SEATS

Either: Email litfest@braunstonmarina.co.uk with your order, quoting the booking codes and the number and price of seats required. We will then email back confirmation, giving you the total amount payable and our bank account details to pay on line, or you can then ring 01788 891373 with your credit card details. Tickets will be collected at the door on presentation of our confirmatory email. Or alternatively just ring 01788 891373 with your order and pay by credit card. Tickets will then be posted to you by way of confirmation.

Due to generous sponsorship from hosts Braunston Marina for all the costs of putting on the Braunston Literary Festival, all tickets sales – bar Sister Agatha's presentation, will be donated to the SINKING FUND for the Friends of Raymond. Sister Agatha's ticket sales will be given to the Bar Convent's charitable fund.