



## *Canal News for 2017 – Judith Paris*

Well it's all happening on the canal in 2017!

After almost 5 years of campaigning, the Friends of the Canal in 22 ( AC22 ) have triumphed.

Next year, the Régional Council of Brittany will take responsibility for the 42km of the Nantes to Brest Canal that passes through Côtes d'Armor. What does this mean ?

Well, we have been asking the Departmental Council to take much better care of the canal here since 2012. Their responsibility goes back to 1968 when the State conceded its management to the department of the Côtes du Nord. The concession was supposed to last for 50 years but it was renewed in 1986 for the Côtes d'Armor and concludes at the end of 2016.

As a result everyone should benefit from a more frequent maintenance of the canal path, the bridle-paths, associated ponds and reservoirs, and the canal banks. This part of the canal boasts some of the most beautiful countryside in Brittany and a programme of work will be announced in January 2017 which will also see locks and lock-houses being repaired. Once the locks are all functioning we can once again sail on the canal.

And what we need more than anything else are boats - lots of boats !

To help with this, the Friends of the Canal in 22 will be launching a cloud-funding campaign in January 2017 to raise money to buy a traditional, flat bottomed boat, called a toue.

Small, no more than 15metres long and equipped to carry up to 12 passengers, AC22 plans to offer short boat rides along the canal from Gouarec to Coat Natous and from Gouarec to Bon Repos. Longer rides will include half-day excursions to Lake Guerlédan and we are talking to the Bon Repos Railway to include a combined circuit of train and canal for visitors. The boat will be moored at the Gouarec campsite and its managers, our friends Kate and Geoff Husband also plan to moor boats on the canal and offer them as accommodation.

So will 2017 be the birth of a new water-borne tourist industry for Central Brittany? Join us and see for yourselves . Come and visit our website at :

[www.amisducanal22.fr](http://www.amisducanal22.fr)

