

If you are interested in booking Derek to come and perform one of his One Man Shows for your group, club or association or for a specific event, please get in touch with him using the Contact Details shown below.

In asking Derek to perform, you will also be supporting the necessary and worthwhile cause of Canal Restoration as 50% of all his performance fees is donated to the:

Foxton Inclined Plane Trust



Contact Details:

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Derek first became fascinated by canals as a small boy while walking the towpath of the Grand Union Canal near his grandparents' home at Blisworth in Northamptonshire. The interest stayed with him and, along with two school friends, he hired his first boat for a holiday at the age of sixteen.

Immediately bitten by the boating bug, he wanted a boat of his own. Thirty years, and a number of hire boat holidays later, he and his wife had a boat built to their own design.

Derek has been singing with Peterborough Male Voice Choir for over 35 years. He has also performed with Westwood Musical Society in Peterborough.



*One Man Shows
inspired by the
History & Culture
of this Country's Canals*

*Presented by
Derek R Harris*



The Shows...

History & Culture

Up The Cut

An amusing and informative history of the Canals of England & Wales, Up the Cut is a whistle stop tour, starting at the beginning of the modern canal age with James Brindley and the Bridgwater Canal, through the growth of commercial carrying, to its decline and neglect. Added to this is a number of songs with audience participation in places!

Folk of the Cut

Similar in style to Up the Cut this show looks at the people involved with our canal system from the early engineers to restoration by the volunteers of today. On the way there are stories and songs (with some audience participation) about the lives of boating families, their employers and others who depended on the canal for their livelihood.



Entertainment

Characters on the Cut

A series of both humorous and serious insights into the people, past and present, who have, for one reason or another, been drawn to the canals of this country.

Told from the viewpoint of an observer at "The Pub on the Cut", the audience is introduced to a variety of characters including an "Idle Woman" and a "Gongoozler".

Each has a song to sing (some of which require audience participation) and a tale to tell.



Engineering & Architecture

A Cruise on the Cut

Aslide presentation looking at the architecture and engineering of the British canal system. It covers the general style of canal structures, and sees how techniques to overcome a variety of problems caused by the geography



of the routes evolved over time. It also examines the idiosyncratic designs of some of the individual canal builders.

Add to this some songs about bridges, locks, aqueducts, canal engineers et al (with, naturally, some audience participation!) and it becomes a show that is both informative and entertaining.