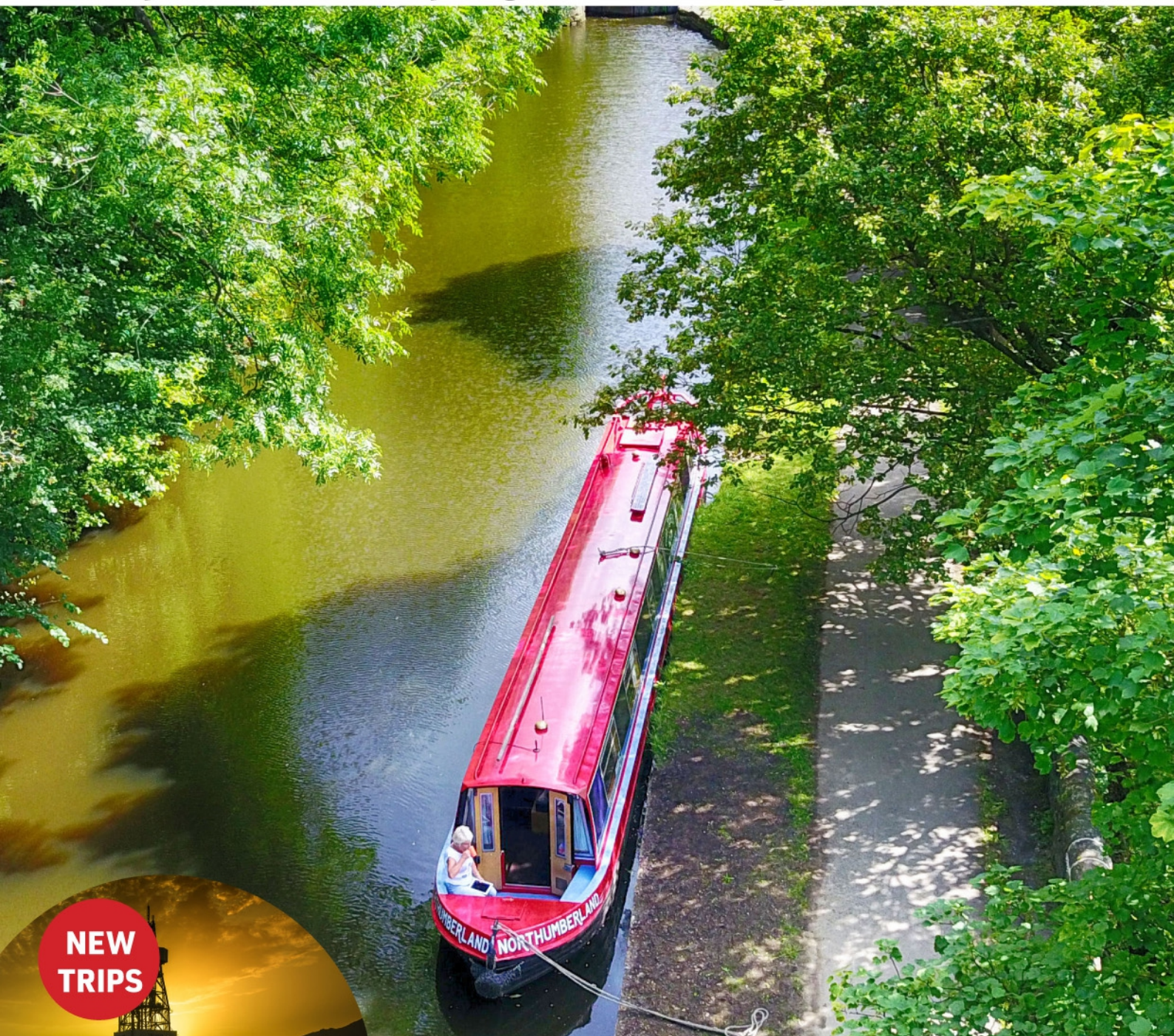


DRONE USER

Take your drone flying to new heights!

Issue 68 - May 2022



**NEW
TRIPS**



Out on the rigs

Resources

What's on your phone?



DJI

Good news and bad news



WELCOME...

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Sailing Yorkshire canals



The strangest of months

This month it has to be said has been rather strange. Despite the weather turning favourable, many drone users have yet to take to the skies and I'm not sure why. My general feeling is that the world is in such a sad place at the moment that people either feel guilty for having fun or have other, more pressing things to worry about than flying drones.

The commercial side of flying seems to be holding up with most operators relatively busy.

I'm pleased in one way that drones have been of great use in Ukraine. It's a shame

that drones have to be used in this way but at least some good is coming out of it. If we could turn back the clock just a few months, I could not have imagined where we would be today. It was only a few months ago that I, along with 15 other drone users were flying our drones in Kiev and in Chernobyl. I doubt we will ever get that chance again now.

It hurts too as I have lost a few Ukrainian people that I met and knew well.

I'm pleased to have managed a few short trips away this month and look forward to May.

Enjoy the issue

Stephen



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Yet another Mini on the way thanks to DJI - here's the 3 **p32**



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A DAY IN ROCK HISTORY

A never to be repeated event captured by drone thanks to Mark Leah **p56**



The smart route

Smart cities really is a thing

It may sound like something right out of a science fiction novel but it really is a thing - the cities of tomorrow, also described as 'smart cities' will be better connected, better designed and have features we have only dreamed about until now.

As 5G is rolled out, it opens up a whole new realm of possibilities when it comes to data transfer and connectivity.

Right down to the minor details of

intelligent street furniture such as lighting and signage, advertising space and yes, drones, it's all happening right now.

Companies such as SmartKO have already designed a bunch of new features and appliances that we could see in our future cities.

Governments are throwing billions of pounds at new concepts, new designs, features that are good for the environment and stuff that will make our lives easier and

more productive. Well, that's the theory at least.

When it comes down to the inclusion of drones, still, the biggest stumbling block is the safe sharing of airspace. As we discussed last month, drone deliveries will eventually be something we see every day and take for granted but we're a long way off that stage at the moment. Meanwhile, designs are still being drawn up and ideas are being expressed.

SmartKO have designed a Smart Kiosk. A modular structure that can be placed anywhere in the city. It houses innovative ideas such as charging hubs for cars, scooters and electric bikes. Touch sensitive advertising panels that can

raise income from advertisers surround the kiosk. It can even be used to promote tourist information with interactive panels.

Interestingly, the kiosks also have a drone landing pad on the top, ready to act as a delivery hub or for surveillance drones

operated by the emergency services and city councils.

Topped with solar panels, the kiosks are pretty much self powering, generating over 3kWp.



"Coming to a city near you"

DRONE USER

Another design from SmartKo is the VertiKO, a Smart Landing Pole, designed by architect Giancarlo Zema for SmartKO, a brand of the Calzavara company.

The drone, with a sophisticated infrared HD camera system, allows video surveillance of private and public areas to be carried out in complete safety and autonomy, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The drone is connected in real time with the command and control through a high-speed communication network to achieve intelligent management with multiple

modes and functions.

The system allows drone management from a remote command center with dedicated software or with a single front-line operator to easily control the flight platform, thus eliminating the need for professional pilots using traditional RC remote controls.

The VertiKO structure is 98% recyclable and houses and protects the drone as if it were in a cradle.

The hemispherical shell protects the drone from wind, rain and snow, opening

automatically before the vehicle takes off and then closing again once the inspection service is finished. The holes in the base of the landing plate allow for perfect drainage

The luminous LED strip attached to the pole allows night lighting of the area below. VertiKO's roof contains an innovative spherical photovoltaic technology capable of obtaining concentrated energy up to 200Wp for wireless charging of the drone.



Such modern facilities is as much about design as functionality and one of the top names to watch out for is Giancarlo Zema.

The famous Italian architect and designer Giancarlo Zema, had held an architecture studio in Rome since 2002. he specialises in innovative architecture,

eco-sustainable, smart and unconsciously attractive projects, characterized by soft and organic shapes.

GZDG is involved in a number of major international projects ranging from over-water hotel facilities in Qatar, Bahrain, scenic restaurant chains in

Iran, drone-taxi vertiports in China and over-water exhibition spaces in Italy. In the field of design, it boasts countless collaborations with important companies such as: Giovannetti, Origami Furniture, Luminexence, Luxyde, and many others.

So what's all the fuss about?

We as humans are naturally progressive - we strive to make things better, more convenient and we try our hardest to make things more attractive.

The digital age is upon us and things are progressing at a rate of knots.

According to Wikipedia, a smart city is a technologically modern urban area that uses different types of electronic methods, voice activation methods and sensors to collect specific data. Information gained from that data is used to manage assets, resources and services efficiently; in return, that data is used to improve

operations across the city. This includes data collected from citizens, devices, buildings and assets that is processed and analyzed to monitor and manage traffic and transportation systems, power plants, utilities, water supply networks, waste, crime detection, information systems, schools, libraries, hospitals, and other community services. Smart cities are defined as smart both in the ways in which their governments harness technology as well as in how they monitor, analyze, plan, and govern the city. Yes, it's that simple.

The McKinsey Global Institute has

conducted detailed research into Smart Cities and how they would be developed.

They place civilian safety and quality of life high on the priority list as well as better commercial practices, including the use of drones.

They looked at 50 cities around the globe that are already using some of this technology but claim that they all have some way to go.

'Smart cities - digital solutions for a more livable future', they say.



"The humble smartphone will be your key to the city"

One has to ask, 'will this be in my lifetime?', and the answer is, in part. We are already well connected in everything we do, all that has to happen is that someone joins all the dots. Our smartphone already gives us the power to connect to almost anything. In a typical day, count the online resources you use from simple things like mapping and route planning to live weather, traffic reports and news headlines.

In a smart city, your phone will be the key, connecting you to everything around you, even to finding the areas with the best air quality or serving the quickest pizza.

Eventually, you'll be able to order something online and a drone will drop it off at a drone station nearby, probably within minutes.

Cars are already utilizing smart tech, being able to see best routes, traffic congestion and turning on your lights when it gets dark.

It's an exciting prospect for sure but it still raises a whole new bunch of questions and concerns. We've all seen the tests on driverless cars, with varied results and a few disasters.

We've seen drone delivery companies come and go but we are slowly getting

closer.

We need these smart cities, Urbanization is a non-ending phenomenon.

Today, 54% of people worldwide live in cities, a proportion that's expected to reach 66% by 2050. With the overall population growth, urbanization will add another 2.5 billion people to cities over the next three decades.

Environmental, social, and economic sustainability is a must to keep pace with this rapid expansion taxing our cities' resources.