



The Basingstoke
Canal Society

Basingstoke Canal Bulletin

No. 25 DECEMBER 2014 – APRIL 2015

New Panels For JP2 As Cruising Begins

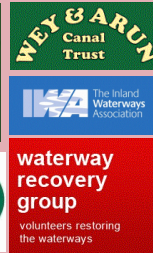
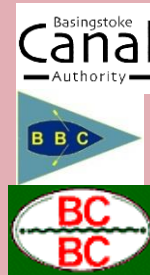


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The [John Pinkerton II trip boat](#) has been treated to some new artwork for the current season. Resident Society artist John Ross has created some new panels for the outside of the boat and for the cabin doors. They depict typical subjects such as castles, roses etc, but King John's Castle, Odiham (*centre top*) and King John himself (*bottom left and right*) are given pride of place in recognition of this year's Magna Carta celebrations. The Buckby water can (*front*), which was an integral part of the old John Pinkerton furniture, has also been given a new lease of life.

Learn about the Canal by clicking these links

- [Join the Society](#)
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- Sign up to receive future bulletins (if this one was forwarded/downloaded): [Members](#) [Non-members](#)
- [Read previous Basingstoke Canal Bulletins](#)
- [Read the Basingstoke Canal News \(BCN\)](#)
- [John Pinkerton cruising on the Basingstoke Canal](#)
- [The Basingstoke Canal Picture Gallery](#)
- [The History and Restoration of the Basingstoke](#)
- [Basingstoke Canal Wiki Page](#)
- [Basingstoke Canal Authority \(BCA\) Website](#)
- [Joint Management Committee \(JMC\) Papers](#)
- [Latest BCA Canal Management Report](#)
- [Map of the Basingstoke Canal](#)
- [John Pinkerton on Facebook](#)
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- [See what they are saying on Twitter](#)
- [Contact the Society](#)
- [The Society Website](#)



Click on the [website links](#) in the Bulletin articles to read more

Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Celebrations

A message from Society Chairman, Philip Riley:

The Society will be holding an event and boat rally at Colt Hill, Odiham on **Sunday 24th May** as part of the Magna Carta 800th anniversary celebrations.

The rally will host visiting boats and there will be activities on the wharf including music, children's entertainment, catering (there will be a bar provided by Andwells Brewery), stalls, canoe demonstrations and Morris dancing. Boats will also be departing from the wharf to take visitors to King John's Castle where there will be a number of activities throughout the day including medieval re-enactments, falconry, archery demonstrations and sword fighting. The rally will also provide us with an opportunity to publicise our plans for the Colt Hill area which include a new boat basin and a visitor centre.

Details on how to take part in the rally can be found [here](#) (or contact [Jan Byrnes](#) on 07747 000519). Further information can be found on the next page.



Help Needed

We urgently need Society members to help us run the rally. In particular we need support for **car parking**, the **organisation of children's entertainment** and **catering**. We would also appreciate help in setting up the rally site and taking it down in the evening. Any help would be appreciated - even for an hour or two. If you can offer your services, please contact [Philip Riley](#) (01256-702109) or [Verna Smith](#) (01252-517622). Thank you.

Philip Riley, Society Chairman

The Society boat rally is part of wider celebrations going on in Odiham during May and June. For more information, please see below, and the [Odiham Magna Carta website](#).



The Basingstoke
Canal Society



Magna Carta Boat Rally

at

Colt Hill, Odiham

Sunday 24th May 2015

Attractions include:

- Decorated boat competition
- Prize for furthest travelled boat by water
- Prize for furthest travelled boat by trail
- Heavy Horse Display
- Music by Cactus Brass Band (pm)
- Canoe Demonstrations
- Morris Dancers
- Mobile Caterer
- Andwells Brewery
- Childrens' Entertainment:
Punch & Judy and Kids Magic Show
- Canalia and Sales Stalls

Visiting Boats Welcome!

Visiting Boat Information

BCA Licence fee: £45 for 10 days allowing time to explore the Basingstoke Canal

Trail boat licence: £3 per day

Booking fee to reserve mooring at Colt Hill: £10

Space limited - first come, first booked!

For more details see: <http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/?p=1976>

In addition to the rally, there are many other events taking place in Odiham and at King John's Castle (KJC) in celebration of the 800th Anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta. Here are some of them:

- Exhibition, All Saints Parish Church, Odiham **22-25 May**
- Archaeology Dig in field adjacent to KJC **23-25 May**
- Embroidery at Library in the Bridewell **22-25 May**
- Boat Rally Hog Roast at KJC **Sun 24 May**
- Food and Ale Trail **From 1 May**
- Art Festival **From 1 May**
- Heritage Medieval Market
- Flower Festival All Saints Church **22- 25 May**
- Village Festival in The Bury **6-8.30pm, 22 May**
Grand Parade starts **6.30** from Close Walk
(Live TV from the Church Tower)
- Medieval Re-enactment at KJC **11.00-4.00pm 23-25 May**
Feudals Living History Group in fields near KJC.
Food and Refreshments

For more information, see the Odiham Magna Carta website: <http://magnacarta800th.com/events/odiham/>



See **King John's Castle** and surroundings, including the canal and River Whitewater, as you may never have before in this 9 minute [HD video](#) taken from a camera-carrying drone.

A Bit More Progress Made On Dogmersfield Landslip

Unfortunately, it was not possible to start the second phase of works to repair the Dogmersfield landslip before the cruising season started, so this has been deferred to the Autumn. Read the [latest update on the website](#) for the background. However, the towpath *will* be opened over the Summer, but it hasn't happened at the time of writing, though is thought to be imminent.

We heard that the JP II was taken past the slip recently (*just!*) – it was just as well it carried no passengers..

BCA To Launch “Share The Space, Drop Your Pace” Campaign



Based upon an [initiative by the Canal and River Trust \(C&RT\) intended to promote better sharing by cyclists and pedestrians of towpaths along London canals](#), the BCA will launch its own “Share The Space, Drop Your Pace” campaign in Woking on **Friday 15th May**. This is to educate and to promote more considerate usage of the Canal’s towpath through the town. If the event is effective it will be repeated at other locations along the Canal. C&RT have allowed the BCA to use their campaign materials, which include an adapted 6-point Greenway Code for Towpaths (*left*). The proceedings will be kicked off by Linda Kemeny, vice-chairman of the Canal’s Joint Management Committee outside the WWF

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building at around 2pm. “Towpath ambassadors”, including BCA rangers and Society volunteer lengthsman will be around all afternoon, talking and handing out leaflets to towpath users. Boat trips will also be available. **If you would like to be involved and haven’t already been invited, please contact [Betty Hansell](#) at the BCA, on 01252-370073.**

Work Party Activity

Regular Workparties

Since the [last bulletin](#) was published, the regular Society workparty has been busy with bank and overhanging tree clearance and, in particular, with the clearance of the Greywell Tunnel portal of a heavy layer of vegetation, as a result of which the façade of the tunnel is now visible again (*right*). The fence over the arch has been replaced, and a path and steps down to it laid. For more on the [tunnel portal project](#), and a bit of history about it, see the [website article](#). The group have been more recently working to improve the state of the Colt Hill, Odiham, car park in readiness for the Magna Carta rally (the next bulletin will report on progress).



The BCA’s Tuesday volunteers under the leadership of rangers Chris Healey and Steve Bennett have been working hard in Surrey over the last few weeks; among other jobs, removal of hydrocotyle weed in Woking has kept them occupied. Other groups have been out preparing King John’s Castle for the Magna Carta celebrations. These include our chairmain, Philip Riley, who has spent several days tidying the hedge between the castle and the Canal, so the castle can be seen better as you approach on foot or by boat (*left, as seen from towpath*).

Society Engineering Team

This team led by John Wharf is making good progress on the refurbishment of the BCA’s patrol boat (*right*). This boat



was apparently acquired in 1976 by then manager David Gerry as the first workboat for the Hampshire section. It was rebuilt in the 1980's by his successor Tony Harmworth to include a cabin and remote steering, and it was put to use for checking boat licences and other day-to-day tasks. Unfortunately time has not been kind to it – the wooden superstructure has rotted, and more recently the boat has been relegated to Greywell Tunnel inspections only. The team is in the process of replacing the woodwork following the same pattern as Tony used, so it can be used again for its originally intended purpose.

The same team (*right*) will also shortly resume work with the BCA's weedcutter to remove the invasive hydrocotyle weed from the Woking pound.



Visiting Waterways Recovery Group Workparty

We welcomed the WRG "BITM" group to the Canal in February, led by Dave Wedd and Jeff Hill. They cut back overhanging rhododendron bushes along the stretch just downstream from the Barley Mow, picking up from where the Society team left off last year. Thanks go to the team.

Spare Steel Racking

We are still in need of some additional racking to allow more efficient storage in the Society's barn at Colt Hill. Please contact [Derek Taylor](#) if you happen to know where we could acquire some.

John Pinkerton News



The [John Pinkerton II](#) (*right*) winter maintenance has been completed, crews have been retrained, and the cruising season has already started. Another busy year of [Charter](#) and [Public trips](#) is likely. If you are interested in taking a JP II cruise, take a [look at the website for more information](#).

Financially, 2014 was the best recorded in recent memory, with nearly £55000 being raised by the trip boat operation. This arose primarily because we were running both John Pinkertons for part of the year (we were allowed to hold on to the old JP by its new owners to fulfill our obligations to provide trips during the Farnborough Air Show). As a result that year was a bit of a one-off, nevertheless we are optimistic that during 2015 it will again raise a lot more funds towards the Basingstoke Canal.



Ash Embankment



Many may be aware from the [recent Basingstoke Canal News](#) that the aqueduct on the Ash Embankment underwent its second 10 year inspection recently (*left*), which took place without incident (the editor is hoping to obtain a copy of the report in due course).

[This event brought to mind](#) how the construction of the aqueduct (completed in 1995) and of the embankment itself through which it cuts (which was built by John Pinkerton in the early 1790's) were both [significant engineering achievements of their times](#).

The old Society website carries [a very comprehensive article on how the Ash Aqueduct was built](#), including how the Society was involved in its design, for those who are interested.

Forthcoming Events



The Basingstoke
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

Saturday 16th May, 2pm

The Society's AGM takes place at the [Deepcut Village Centre, Swordsman Road, Deepcut GU16 6SR](#). Our guest speaker will be Fiona Shipp, Basingstoke Canal Manager who will talk about her time working on the Canal. For more details, see the [website](#).
Please make a special effort to attend and show your support.

- **Members Evening Cruise on the JP2**, on **Monday 11th May at 7.30pm** from **Colt Hill**. Bookings and more information available from [David Horwood, bookings manager](#), on 01256-765889.
- **Magna Carta Rally** on **Sunday, 24th May from 12 noon**, at **Colt Hill, Odiham, RG29 1AL**. For more details, see articles above. Please come along and enjoy the occasion. Helpers still wanted, if you can spare an hour or two.
- **The Mikron Theatre Company Visit** takes place on **Thursday 16th July at 7.30pm**, at the **Fox and Hounds pub, Crookham Road, Fleet, GU51 5NP**. The show is called "One of Each: A Savoury Tale of Fish and Chips". For more details, see the [Event webpage](#), or contact David Millett on 01252 617364 or Verna Smith on 01252 517622. Come along and enjoy the show!

The [Illustrated Talks](#) at the Parish Pavilion in Chobham have now concluded for this season. Look out for the announcement of the next series of talks in the Autumn.

Bulletin Articles Welcome

We welcome short articles about the Canal with accompanying photos if possible. Please send them to the [bulletin editor](#)

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