



The Basingstoke
Canal Society

Basingstoke Canal Bulletin

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Society Acquires Another Trip Boat



CLICK IMAGE TO ENLARGE

The Society has recently acquired another trip boat, *nb Egremont*, from the Chichester Ship Canal Trust. The boat was handed over on April 22nd, and will undergo some hull repairs and a period of refurbishment. The intent is that the boat will be a Society “presence” at the eastern end of the Canal, and will have its home mooring in Woking. The boat is 32’ long with a beam of 6’10” and will accommodate 12 passengers, including 2 wheelchair users (it is equipped with a lift). The Society will now be looking to identify a team to undertake the refurbishment, plus willing skippers and crew. Society chairman, Philip Riley, explains the rationale for acquiring this boat in the article overleaf.

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Major Repairs In Woking And At Ash Embankment Now Complete

A [Society website article](#) explains the work that has been going on in Woking and at Ash Embankment. For several weeks, a large section in Woking has been without water while a repair to a culvert (channel) that takes the Rive Ditch stream under the Canal was repaired (*right*). Thankfully that is



now complete and this section is nearly refilled at the time of writing. Also completed is the relining of the canal bed with a clay “carpet” at the Ash Embankment downstream (east) side of the A331 aqueduct (*left*), which also required dewatering but the water has now been restored. (*Note: a similar repair on the other side of the aqueduct has been deferred to the Autumn*). Each dewatering required a major fish rescue operation, [of which there are many photos on the BCA Facebook page](#). Over 1 tonne of fish, including 21,000 roach, 2000 perch and 1000 bream were moved along in Woking. Much clearance of rubbish including shopping trollies, bikes and cones was also necessary. Other capital works recently completed include replacement of gates at locks 11 and 19. For the latest navigation situation, please refer to the [BCA’s winter stoppages page](#).

More On nb Egremont



Philip Riley, Society Chairman, gives his perspective on the purchase of nb Egremont (above) – Ed:

For some time now, the Society's committee has been considering the purchase of a small trip boat primarily for use at the eastern end of the Canal. The huge success of the [John Pinkerton](#) operation at Odiham has meant that our flagship is rarely available for use elsewhere on the Canal. In particular the JP is not normally able to visit the Surrey section below Deepcut. We have therefore been considering whether it would be feasible to run a small trip boat operation at the eastern end. A trip boat operating in the Woking area would enable us to promote the Canal more effectively, both to the general public and to the local authorities who are an important source of financial support for the Canal. (cont...)



Egremont Interior, bow facing



Interior, stern facing

An opportunity has recently arisen to purchase a small trip boat from the Chichester Ship Canal Trust and the Committee has therefore decided to take advantage of the offer to acquire this boat which was previously named *Egremont*. The JP company is fully committed to support the *John Pinkerton* from its base at Colt Hill and we have therefore recognised that, if *Egremont* is to be operated in the Woking area, it will need a dedicated team to crew and maintain it. At the present time that team does not exist although we are already receiving offers of support.



Stern deck, with steering wheel at the helm

I fully accept that there is a considerable risk to the Society in launching a second trip boat operation but I believe, and my view is supported by the Committee, that a trip boat operating at the eastern end is fully consistent with our primary aim of promoting the Canal as a fully functioning navigation. I do hope that members will come forward to assist in making the new trip boat operation a success.

Philip Riley

If you are interesting in being involved with the Egremont project, whether to crew, refurbish or maintain it, please let the [bulletin editor](#) know.



The opportunity to buy this boat came up suddenly, and it was priced very reasonably. It was the view of the Society committee that it was too good an opportunity to miss, which has resulted in the swift decision to proceed with its purchase.

The boat dates from 1987. It has a Beta Marine 3-cylinder diesel engine that was replaced in 2009 and has 4700 hours on the clock. The rear deck is of teak and has been extended behind the rudder post for additional space. Steering is via a hydraulically coupled steering wheel. Inside, there is inward facing seating, and varnished mahogany flooring and pine panelling. A wheelchair lift provides access to the cabin from the rear deck. There is a serving/storage cabinet on the port side but no galley or toilet facilities.

The hull will probably require welding and patching in places, and the stern deck will require a lot of attention over time. However, generally speaking it is in a reasonably good state, and if a car would be called a "nice little runner". It will benefit from a thorough service, repainting, and revarnishing to bring it up to a high standard.

We thank Pablo and Jill Howarth for agreeing to allow us to use their mooring in Sheerwater as the base for Egremont – Ed.

A New Name Needed

The *Egremont* had been stripped of its name when it arrived on the Wey. So at some point we will need to give it a new name. It was named after George Wyndham, the 3rd Earl of Egremont (1751-1837), who lived at Petworth House in Sussex and amongst other interests was an enthusiastic canal builder. He took a leading role in the construction of the Wey and Arun Canal, and by 1823, having invested in the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal and Chichester Ship Canal, his goal of a route from London to Portsmouth for barges was achieved.

If you have any ideas for a new name for this boat, then please let the [bulletin editor](#) know. The name should, in the same way as Egremont did for the Chichester, resonate strongly with the Basingstoke Canal (present or past) and be a fitting companion to the [John Pinkerton](#). And, by the way, Barge McBargeFace won't do...

2016 Celebrations

Work is proceeding apace to prepare for the [Woking Canal Festival](#) spectacular that celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the reopening of the Canal, and [50 years since the formation of the \(then\) Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society](#). The [Historic Narrow Boat Club](#), also celebrating their 50th, will be joining us at the event with many of their boats. Keep an eye on the Society's website and also local publicity for more information about this major event. Society Bulletins will be published with news as it becomes available. In the meantime, keep an eye on the [local press](#) for updates.

Anybody who would like to be involved with the event please contact [Dick King](#) on the Festival enquiries help line 01730-264178 or by [email](#).



The poster for the Woking Canal Festival features a blue background with a collage of canal-related images. At the top left is the festival logo, which includes a stylized sun and the text 'WOKING CANAL Festival'. To the right is a photo of a narrow boat decorated with flags. Below the logo, a pink banner displays the dates 'Sat 6th / Sun 7th AUGUST 2016' and the time '11AM - 4.30PM'. A green banner below that lists the location 'Brookhouse Common, Woking'. The central text, in pink, reads 'Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Re-opening of the Basingstoke Canal'. A green box lists activities: 'Historic Narrow Boat Parade, Film Shows, Live Music, Displays & Exhibitions, Morris Dancing, Childrens' Entertainment, Mikron Theatre Production, Food and Real Ale Bar.' Below this is a white box containing the '50th Anniversary' logo (1966-2016) and logos for 'The Basingstoke Canal Society' and 'Historic Narrow Boat Club'. A pink banner at the bottom provides the website 'www.WokingCanalFestival.info'. The footer includes logos for 'CELEBRATE WOKING', 'Basingstoke Canal', and 'SURREY', along with a disclaimer: 'ALL ENTERTAINMENT AND ATTRACTIONS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND FAVOURABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS'. A photo of a canal lock is in the bottom left corner.

WOKING CANAL Festival

Sat 6th / Sun 7th AUGUST 2016
11AM - 4.30PM

Brookhouse Common, Woking

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Re-opening of the Basingstoke Canal

Historic Narrow Boat Parade, Film Shows, Live Music, Displays & Exhibitions, Morris Dancing, Childrens' Entertainment, Mikron Theatre Production, Food and Real Ale Bar.

1966 - 2016
50th Anniversary

The Basingstoke Canal Society

Historic Narrow Boat Club

PARKING IN TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKS - USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT RECOMMENDED

www.WokingCanalFestival.info

CELEBRATE **WOKING**
BE PROUD... BE PART OF IT

Basingstoke Canal

SURREY

ALL ENTERTAINMENT AND ATTRACTIONS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND FAVOURABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Work Party Activities



Society Workparties

Several weekends were spent during January to March undertaking bank and overhanging branch clearance at Deepcut (*above*). The Society team then carried on with the work undertaken by the KESCRG team who joined us for a weekend in February at Wharfenden Lake, cutting back the rhododendrons that have long obstructed the channel here. This work could not quite be completed in time before the start of the bird-nesting season, but will be resumed in the Autumn. More recently, our team spent a weekend at the Deepcut depot to carry out a long-overdue tidy-up. Next on the list is the planned upgrade of the rather dilapidated waste disposal and water point near Bridge Barn in Woking, ready for the Canal Festival. The Society Engineering team led by John Wharf has recently completed the refurbishment of the open boat donated for Society/BCA shared use by the Boys Brigade.

BCA Workparties

The BCA's Tuesday workparties are now a well-established part of the activity seen on the Canal. Led by the rangers, they have completed a variety of jobs including "dog hole" repairs at Brookwood (*right*), bank and rubbish clearance at Woking while the Canal was drained down, and sapling removal and coppicing at Crookham and Coxmoor Wood. Another long list of work is planned for the rest of the year, and continues with the removal of the invasive hydrocotyle weed in Woking.



Chobham Meetings – Changes Afoot...



Past Society Chairman and now vice-president David Millett, ably supported by his wife Rosemary, has for many years been in charge of organising speakers for the winter programmes of [Chobham talks](#). These meetings provide Society members the opportunity to get together and socialise, and to enjoy presentations on a range of interesting and educational (and generally) canal-related topics. David has decided that the season just finished is to be his last, and received a gift of chocolates and flowers in appreciation for his efforts over the years (*left, with Robin Higgs, right*). We are pleased that Malcolm Brickwood, a Chobham resident, has agreed to take over from David for the 2016/17 series, and details of his first season of talks will be published in the Autumn.


200 Club – New Custodian Needed

Jim Johnstone has been running the 200 Club for around 15 years. The 200 Club is a lottery scheme that was started a long time ago to raise money for the Canal Society. On the quiet, Jim has been surreptitiously adding several hundred pounds a year to the Society coffers over that time. He has decided that (understandably) the time has come to retire from this role, and so we are looking for another individual willing to take this on.

Jim tells me that the job is not onerous. It requires basic bookkeeping abilities (spreadsheet knowledge is good but not essential). Drawing of winning numbers and dispatching of cheques to winners takes place twice a year. Records of transactions need to be passed to the Society treasurer and results to the BCN editor as required. In short, this is a self-contained activity that supports the Canal Society and does not require a great deal of commitment, and can all be done from home.

If you think you would be willing to take over running the 200 Club, please let the [bulletin editor](#) know.

Forthcoming Events



The Basingstoke Canal Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Saturday 14th May, 2pm

The Society's AGM takes place at the [Deepcut Village Centre, Swordsman Road, Deepcut GU16 6TB](#). Our guest speaker will be Graeme Lewington of the Wey and Arun Canal Trust. For more details, see the [website](#).

Please make a special effort to attend and show your support.

- [Woking Canal Festival](#) on **Sat/Sun August 6th/7th** at Brookhouse Common, Woking.

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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The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Society.

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