



The Basingstoke
Canal Society

Basingstoke Canal News

No. 269 Spring 2021





Editorial

Since Phil Riley stepped down from the post, the Society has been without a formal Chairman. However, we have had two very active Vice-Chairmen in Ken Sankey and Neil Sutherland. Unfortunately, both of them have found themselves with serious medical problems and have been forced to be less active until these are sorted out.

In the previous issue of the BCN, Ken Sankey was talking of an event to mark the 30th anniversary of the re-opening of the canal in May 1991. A May date for this was soon recognised as impractical and it went back to August and then September. Now even these look shaky and even if everything is relaxed in September, so many events will have piled up that finding a venue may be impossible. The plan therefore is to organise an event in May 2022, possibly at Frimley Lodge Park.

Cover Picture :Charity paddleboard event (see story on page 10)

Photo:Roger Cansdale

In the past, this would have caused something of a crisis, as occurred when Peter Redway died, but I think it is a mark of how far the Society has changed that a second team has quickly stepped forward to carry things on. Details of who is doing what are on page 20.

The annual Odiham Raft Race is scheduled for Sunday 5th September, and six teams are already entered.

That this has happened pretty seamlessly is a complement to the efforts of Ken and Neil over the past few years in recruiting talented new people to help manage the Society.

The other event that should be taking place, on Monday 16th August, is the formal opening of the Holland Moorings near Farnborough Road, the A325. This will be an occasion for the Holland family and local councillors to see the immense amount of work that has been put in by the Society's Work Party and to launch what we hope will be a money-making facility for the Canal. If all goes as planned, they will then have a chance to see some of the canal aboard the *John Pinkerton*.

* * * *

Corporate Governance is a phrase that sends shivers down many people's spines, but when you realise that it really just means setting the organisation up to deal with the unexpected, it makes sense.

One thing that seems to be missing these days from the pages of the BCN is communication from our members. It would be really nice to get some letters or emails from them, particularly those who have joined more recently. The Society has seen huge changes in the past few years in terms of organisation and personnel so it would be good to get some feedback on how we are doing.

Well done Ken and Neil and may your problems soon be sorted. Well done too to all the others who are carrying on keeping the canal alive and vibrant.

* * * * *

Please drop us an email to editor@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Vice-Chairman's report

Things are happening on the canal – both as on the water and behind the scenes

Already we have seen lots of activity on the canal. On the Bank Holiday weekend we had a group of 10 boats come up, with several going all the way up to King John's Castle. And in mid May we had 30 celebrities paddleboarding the length of the canal. The celebrities included Damon Hill, adventurer Charley Boorman, and rugby star James Haskell, with the paddle being in aid of mental health charity Movember

Needless to say this is on top of the thousands of people who walk, cycles, canoe, etc along the canal every day enjoying and appreciating this wonderful local asset

I mention all this activity as this very much supports our strapline of 'Keeping the Canal Alive and Vibrant'

Indeed the Society is now also able to get back to planning external events along the canal. We already have our trip boat operations at Odiham and Woking starting this month (have you booked your trip yet?) and the very successful Raft Race will again be at Odiham in September - the last Raft Race was in back in 2019 when we had over a 1000 people attending

We have the Mikron Theatre coming to the Waterwitch pub at Odiham on 14th August and we will also be having an official opening of the new Holland Moorings at Farnborough in that month. Added to this, locally we are having stands at various local events at Fleet Pond, Basingstoke and Dogmersfield. Finally we unfortunately couldn't celebrate our 30th anniversary of the opening of the canal which

was in May so we are now thinking of having a major party celebratory bash in May next year at Frimley – any excuse to have a party!

The other important 'activity' is that we will be having membership stalls along the canal so that we can meet and talk to people using the canal and hopefully encourage them to join as members or help with volunteering to help support and protect the canal - and let's be honest, the canal needs the Society's support to help keep it 'Alive and Vibrant'. And the Society does make a real contribution- last year in terms of volunteer time and investments such as Holland Moorings, we contributed £400,000 towards the maintenance of the canal. Indeed I would like to thanks everyone involved for their contribution

Turning back to membership, this increased by 30% last year and we are keen to recruit another thousand members this year - so please can you do your bit to encourage friends and family to join. People can join on online on the society website

I also wanted tell you about the huge amount of work that is going on behind the scenes. We have a experienced team of directors and specialist volunteers where we are very clear in our wish to supporting the canal going forward. Indeed a crucial part of this team spirit of working together, we are actively working closely with the local councils along with very constructive work and as we work more closely with the BCA team base at Mytchett both on day-to-day work and longer term planning your projects. This is very important and constructive, the endgame is quite simply the health and vibrancy of our wonderful Canal

Vice-Chairman's report

for navigation and all users

Needless to say we have a series of projects (and the list seems to grow as we build the momentum!). I won't trouble you with a list of all the projects now but just as a taster, work is going on to provide a footpath for the 'last 5 miles to Basingstoke', we are planning a new electric trip boat at Woking to be part funded by the BCS and the reminder from donations and fundraising, and as part of this we will look to install electric charging points - all part addressing the future environmental needs. There is a team looking at different options for increasing the water supply to the canal, and a team has recently licked off a project to bring back and display the Perseverance Steam Dredger, this machine having played a major part in the restoration of the canal.

In the meantime the weekend work party has done a fantastic job in building the Holland Moorings at Farnborough, which will allow additional boats on the canal. The funds came from a £60,000 legacy to the Society and it should generate income of around £20,000 pa which will go to the BCA to help run the canal

So there is lots going, and as I mention, lots more to do and that we want to do. In this we are all always looking for extra help, be it physical work on the towpath or work behind-the-scenes. So if as a member you would like to find out more please contact us (enquiries@basingstoke-canal.org.uk). In the meantime thanks for being a member and supporting the canal.

Ken Sankey
Co Vice-Chairman

New gates for Deepcut



A set of new top gates for Lock 27 being loaded onto Canal & River Services' new crane pontoon at Lock 28.



Charity paddle



Photo by Ken Sankey

Swapping his Grand Prix car for a paddleboard, former World Champion Damon Hill (*Above right*) joined TV adventurers Charlie Boorman and Ben Bowers for a 2-day paddleboard expedition on the canal from Greywell to the River Wey. The first day was King John's Castle to the Canal Centre.

The trip was organised in support of Movember, the men's mental health charity. Other celebrities were James Phelps (actor - Fred Weasley in Harry Potter films), Dean Stockton (artist known as D*Face), James Haskell (former England rugby player), and his wife Chloe Madeley (presenter) (*Right*), Amy Voce (radio presenter), Nick & Giles English (founders of Bremont Watches), and paddle guide Paul Hyman.

A great effort in weather that was pretty unkind at times.



Work Party *from Duncan Paine*

In the last issue of the BCN we reported that the mooring itself was basically finished. Since then, we have been tidying up the site and attempting some landscaping. The path on the bank alongside the mooring was scrapped level and then given a coat of roadstone and then vibration rolled. With the bank edge cleared of a lot of the bramble and nettles we then sifted soil put down prior to sowing grass seed. The ramp down to the end access which goes down by the launching slip was widened and also given a coat of roadstone. (*Below*)



The car park is divided into two areas, the first is open access while the inner one needs the BW key. We gave the outer one a new coat of roadstone and rolled that. This also has a nice



wheelchair slope to the middle access ramp for the mooring. (*Below left*)

On the top of the bank this was all being leveled off ready to have a large seating / observation area overlooking the launching slip and winding hole. The excess soil from the site was collected ready to be properly spread out and our security compound and all its contents were moved away to the other side nearest the second car park. Then the next weekend we were out, we received a late email from the BCA that they had allocated the area, where we were laying out the viewing platform, to the Blackwater Canoe Club

So, this weekend then turned out to be a weekend of reversing what we had done the previous working weekend. We had to move a considerable volume of soil (when we had respread it out it covered an area 8m x 6m x 0.5m with some soil left over - see below).



We made a pile of it while we laid road stone down on the newly designated Canoe Club site. After rolling it we could then put our compound back where it had been before, then moved the soil back to where we had just taken away our compound. All this soil was full of bramble,

Holland moorings

nettles, scrub tree roots and lots of other weeds, & dozens of stones & bricks. Hence, before it could be considered for laying for grass seed, it had to be cleaned of most of this. As a result, for the last 3 weekends, we have had a continuous bonfire slowly burning its way through as fast as this and various old tree stumps were being scoured out.

There is a second BW key controlled gate that gives access down to the launching slip. The gate posts for this were rather rotten so we replaced these.

All the sloping banks had to be reprofiled to produce a slope that could be more easily trimmed. The main corner of the viewing area had some turfs laid as it was felt this sloping area would not take well to grass seed.



Above: The new Canoe club base & the now small viewing area

Work was then stopped as the BCA were agreeing with the Blackwater Canoe Club what space they would have and would need to turn and park their vehicles. As a result, everyone was diverted to other in-fill work for the weekend while final agreement on work and costing was

sorted out. The party split into two with the larger group working at Ash Lock to move our stored materials in the compound there so that the BCA can get a security fence erected round the area. The second group travelled up to the dumb barge at Lodge Farm to pump it out and empty the accumulated vegetation that had collected in it over the years.



Photo by Malcolm Kersely

Hopefully by the time this BCN is published we will have finished laying roadstone on the second car park area and the canoe vehicle turning area, and rolled it. While others will have spread grass seed on all the soil, we have moved again then smoothed-out and attempted to remove the brambles and nettle roots. Hopefully the BCA will keep the area cut so that should stop their growth. *(Continued on next page)*

Holland moorings



Laying roadstone on the second car park

There is no power on the site but there is on the other side of the canal and the bridge could provide a mounting for a CCTV installation. The BCA will be looking to receive money from the mooring so it is really down to them to sort something out. Having a resident boat there would help, but it would have to move at times to get water etc, leaving the site wide open.

It would be a terrible shame if all the effort that the Work Party has put in and all the money from the Holland family's legacy went to waste.



The moorings provided overnight accommodation for members of the Byfleet Boat Club recently (*above*). Somewhat alarmingly, they reported being disturbed during the night by youths shining lights into the boats. They disappeared when it was obvious that the boats were occupied.

This does not bode well for a mooring where boats are left unattended and unless something is done about security, the project could end up as a colossal White Elephant. Rumours of an insecure mooring would spread like wildfire and would be very difficult to shake off.

Mystery object



The mysterious metal object above, about 2 foot long, was found when clearing the site at Farnborough Road. It is a bit odd because it looks as if the two ends would be the same, but they aren't.

Does anyone have any idea what it is?

Up Nately



Anyone heading down to Up Nately to have a look at the last bit of the canal may be as surprised as I was to find that a very large house has appeared next to the entrance to the Brick Works Arm.

I believe that this area was known as Klondyke for some obscure reason and at one time housed a pig farm. For many years there have been attempts to get planning permission to build here, including a rather ill-advised design for an underground house, which, to put it mildly, could have had serious damp problems.

There were a lot of objections to development here and at one point they resulted in a threat to re-establish the pig farm, but clearly they were overcome.

It looks like a very nice house in a very attractive setting, but it isn't really in keeping with William Carter's concept in 1905 of selling off 83 plots of land at £35 an acre to people seeking 'a home in a *sylvan* setting where every man could be his own landlord'. It was to be known as the Heatherwood Estate and the site of the new house above was to be occupied by a massive sports pavillion.

In the event, the only plots sold were down in Heather Lane and Carter's other plans, which included an express motor boat service between Basingstoke and Aldershot and even establishing a light railway on the line of the canal, came to nothing. He then became involved in the fraudulent schemes of Ernest Hooley and Horation Bottonley. He eventually died in 1921.

John Pinkerton II

Each year the John Pinkerton trip boat has to undergo a survey by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) to confirm that it is safe to operate with passengers. Last year was odd as Covid brought complete closure of all MCA operations, and when it came to the time that we could operate under the restrictions, we were asked to complete our own survey and submit the result.

This year MCA had resolved their logistics and we were back to the usual routine. Twice in every five years an out-of-water hull examination is required, and this was planned for April. A crew brought JP to Mytchett, from where it was taken to lock 28. Fortunately canal winter works had been completed, so winding was accomplished below lock 27, before entering the dry dock.

Survey day brought us surprises, as the design specification for our 'class' of boat requires an ultra-sonic hull thickness test every 5 years. In 10 years experience with MCA, this has never been mentioned as a requirement, so another visit had to be arranged with both MCA and a professional ultra-sound surveyor in attendance. *(Below right)* It pays to read every line of MSN 1893 with legal-eagle eyes; another test was also found to be required by the paragraph: 'the electrical equipment ... shall be maintained ...', ie requiring a Megger insulation test.

The new batch of MCA surveyors seem to be concentrating even more on date-ticking boxes, so our summary records will now reflect this change.

A big thank you to all the many volunteers who helped with several days of major maintenance work.

The final result is that JP is back on her mooring, and we are able to run passenger trips once all 'deficiencies' have been cleared. Training trips will run from 17th May (restrictions permitting) to the end of May. From then to 20th June we can run restrictive trips at approximately 50% capacity; from 21st June we hope to have restrictions removed. Most crew will have had their second dose of vaccine by then, so will be eligible to crew with passengers.

Several themed trips have been arranged, with more being planned. Most popular weekend charter slots have been filled, but the Booking team will always try to fit in any charter enquiries. If you are interested in a charter, please check out the Boat Bookings on the Society website.

All Society members are entitled to an evening cruise, which is combined with an invitation to new volunteers, to meet other members. If you want to learn more about the Society or volunteering, then try the special cruises on Mondays 5th July, 9th August, or 6th September departing from Colt Hill, Odiham at 7pm. Booking is required on the web, at no charge; tickets available for Members or Volunteers.



Replacing Kitty

The Canal Society has for many years run two trip boats, Kitty and John Pinkerton. John Pinkerton is based in Odiham and serves the Hampshire section of the canal with Kitty in Woking, serving the Surrey section. Kitty is now 45 years old and reaching the end of her life and we plan to replace her with an all-electric boat. Kitty is named after the last horse to tow boats along the canal, so it's fitting that she's being replaced by a boat with an equally environmentally sound power unit!



Above: Canal foreman Dave Gregory with Kitty about to do a trip in the 1950s.

To make this viable we plan to install two charging points on the canal in Woking which will also represent the first step towards making the canal fully electric. This is in line with both Woking and Surrey's environmental objectives and a step towards further protecting the canal's rich environment from pollutants.

Kitty is very much a community resource which in addition to introducing thousands of visitors each year to the beauty of one of the finest canal environments in the UK also provides trips for local schoolchildren, care homes, hospitals and people with disabilities. Kitty has also had a long association with the Children of Chernobyl taking children on trips each year (*Right*).

She has also proved to be a commercial asset to Woking, being used by many local businesses to entertain clients and in one case by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Committee who were meeting in London and wanted to provide something different for their members! The benefits to both physical and mental health from being out in nature for two hours on Kitty can't be overstated, particularly as the country recovers from the pandemic.

The new Kitty will be a little longer and wider than the current boat which will allow easier wheelchair access and provide enough space for an on-board toilet. It will also feature solar panels to help keep the batteries topped up.

We're going to need to raise around £200,000 to replace Kitty and to put the charging infrastructure in place. We're planning to raise this money from a number of sources including grants, crowd funding and individual and corporate donations. You'll be hearing a lot more about this on e-mail and social media very shortly. In the meantime, we'd love to hear from you if you'd like to discuss individual or corporate donations - please contact gren.gale@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

When we launch the new boat will be heavily dependent on the success of our fund raising. a clearer idea on that later this year.



Basingstoke Canal

The Society had hoped to hold an event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Canal's re-opening on 10th May 1991 in May this year, but for obvious reasons this was not possible. In fact it looks likely that we shall have to count 2021 as a non-year and hold the event (fingers tightly crossed) in May 2022.

In the mean time, to show what it was all about to those who weren't there and to bring back some memories to those who were, here are a few photos of the great day and its aftermath.



HRH The Duke of Kent declared the Canal open and was then introduced by "John Pinkerton" (aka Martin Bowers) to the various breeds of volunteer who had done the work. He then reviewed some of the hundred-odd boats present before boarding the *John Pinkerton* for a brief cruise. He is seen here with Robin Higgs, SHCS Chairman and Lord Onslow, SHCS President.



Others present on the day were Tim

Re-opening May, 1991



and Liz Dodwell, now our Co-Presidents and Liz's mother Joan Marshall, General Manager of the Canal from 1949 to 1964, and, below, Philip Riley (SHCS Secretary), Teddy Edwards (involved with the IWA attempt to buy the canal in 1949), Jim Woolgar (who wrote the letter that led to the Society), Paul Vine (author of London's Lost Route ...), Robin Higgs and David Millett (SHCS V-C).



On 11th May, two fleets of boats left Frimley Lodge Park, one going west to King John's Castle and the other east, headed by the *JP*, which set off at 4.30am and arrived at the Wey Junction at 4.30pm after a series of civic events.



JP, 5.15am, Deepcut
Pablo's gang at Woodham



Meeting Mayor of Woking
Journey's end, River Wey at last.



Mikron Theatre visit

The annual visit of the touring Mikron Theatre Company had to be cancelled last year due to the Pandemic but all being well they are coming this August.

DATE: Saturday 14th. August 2021

TIME : 7PM.

VENUE: The Waterwitch garden, Colt Hill, London Road, Odiham, Hampshire, RG291AL; Tel: 01256 702778

(Due to COVID, numbers may be restricted, so audience members are being asked to book in advance via the Mikron website: www.mikron.org.uk (not direct to the Waterwitch). If restrictions are lifted this may prove unnecessary.



SHOW: 'ATALANTA FOREVER'

In Mikron's 49th year of touring Britain they will be premiering Amanda Whittington's new play ATALANTA FOREVER which looks at the story of the pioneering women in football in 1920.

The story is based on the true story of one of three women's football teams in Huddersfield in post-war Britain. Told through the lives of two young women Atalanta Ladies Football Club was formed in 1920 'to provide games for the women of Huddersfield, to foster a sporting spirit, and a love of honour among its members.' During the Great War several women's football teams had sprung up round the country, usually based in factories or munitions works, and proved a great success in raising money for hospitals, war widows and so on.

A measure of the popularity of the women's game may be measured by the estimated 25,000 crowd that packed Hillsborough, Sheffield, for their next game with the Dick Kerrs Ladies of Preston on May 4 which they lost 4-0 to their much more experienced opponents.

In the wider football world the growing popularity of women's football was now causing concern. The FA even saw it as taking support away from the men's game and on December 5th 1921, they banned women's teams from using FA affiliated grounds.

The pioneering Atalanta Ladies FC raised more than £2,000 for various charities before they folded in 1924.

Playwright Amanda Whittington said about her new play:

"I was an 11 year old footballer in the 1980s, the only girl who played in the boy's village tournament and I vividly remember being 'advised' to stop because it wasn't appropriate.

Continued opposite

Stop Press

- Thanks to easing of COVID restrictions, the Tuesday work parties are back up to 30 people again, socially distancing out of doors.
- *Kitty's* crew have all had at least one vaccination jab. Preparation of the boat for the new season is nearly complete, with a first trip due out on 30th May.
- Surrey Heath short funding was made an election issue by Lib Dem Councillor, Sashi Mylvaganem – hopeful of being elected a rep on the JMC.
- Swan cutting project is still progressing slowly but investigative work has been done and it is aimed to have an engineering solution defined by the end of the year with a view to actual work starting in 2022.
- Ron Neale, a BCS member, has offered to sponsor plaques on Woodend and Langman's bridges, like those already in place on most of the bridges in Hampshire.
- A 500 piece jigsaw featuring the JP II is new addition to our range of sales item and will soon be available on the Shop page of our website.



I still feel the injustice and the sense of shame for wanting to do something I wasn't meant to. It brings joy to my heart to see football's now the biggest team sport for girls in Britain. I wanted to write about the battle the women's game has fought to survive and prosper – and tell the 11-year old me she was right."

Marianne McNamara, Mikron's Artistic Director and Director of the show, explains why they chose to tackle this subject:
"Women's football is making a comeback and not before time. We are thrilled to pay homage to the trail blazing Huddersfield women that paved the way against all odds. "

Just like the great game itself this will be an action packed play of two halves full of live music, fun and laughter with no plans for extra time!

Come along by car or boat and enjoy another Mikron masterpiece. Bar and food available. Bring garden chairs and/or blanket if dry. No tickets required.

A cash collection will be taken after the show.

For further information contact David Millett on 01252 617364

Email: d.millett7@ntlworld.com

Or visit: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk

1880 Canal map

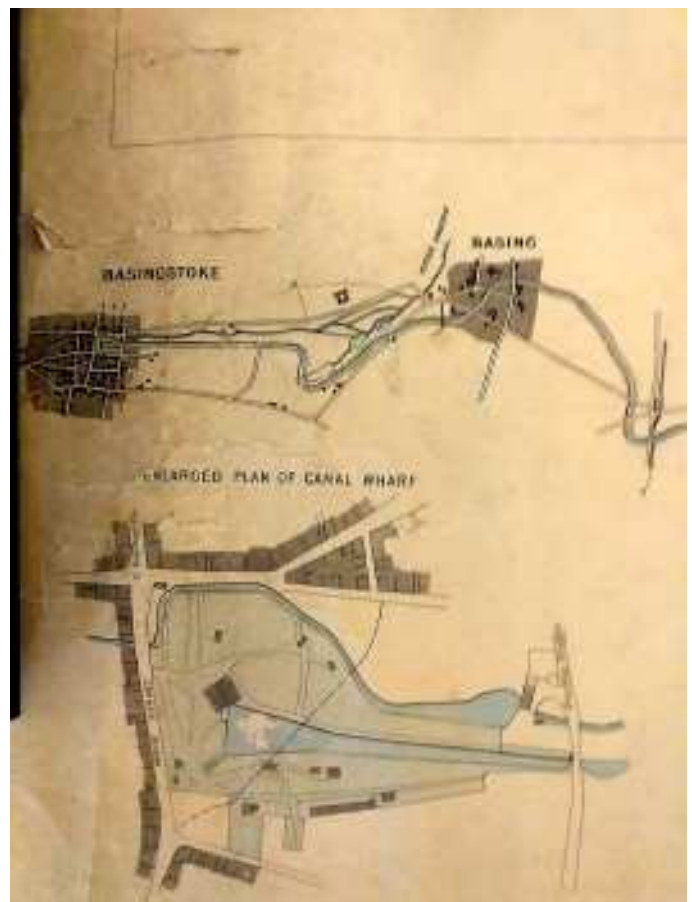


The Society was contacted recently by a gentleman who had been clearing out his parents' house and had discovered a map rolled up in the loft. It is about 1.4m long and dates from 1880. He is interested in selling it. An auction house that he approached guessed that it could be worth as much as £200, but this might be optimistic.

As can be seen, the map does not show much except the line of the canal, apart from the enlarged detail of the terminal basin in Basingstoke.

If anyone is interested, please let me know at roger.cansdale@basingstoke-canal.org.uk and I can put you in touch.

The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Corporation Ltd body acquired the canal in 1880 and had an authorised capital of £100,000 with the majority of the shareholders coming from Lancashire. This distance from the canal possibly explains how they were persuaded to invest in it but they soon discovered their mistake when the corporation was wound up a couple of years later after a couple of bank breaches, one of which caused the derailment of a train near Curzon Bridge.



Lunatic



Paddleboarders are no longer a rare sight on the canal, but this is a new one on me – wakeboarding!

Took this yesterday afternoon (1st April, but not an April fool) from the towpath above Lock 10 (Woodend bridge in the background & the stern of the BCA workboat just visible to the left.) Must admit that I was expecting the guy to stop before he got to the upper gates, and, to say the least, was amazed that he didn't, but carried on – intentionally it appears – to jump the gates! I didn't see what provided the tow – possibly a battery powered electric winch located alongside the lock chamber (the tow line running over the top of the gates) but, as can be seen from the wake generated, it was fast.

Clearly, this has the potential to be dangerous (at least to those involved), but to be fair to him and his mates, the boarder did have protective gear on, and with no other water users about, and minimal obstruction of the towpath, there was little or no danger to anyone else, although that's not necessarily a reason to condone or encourage the activity further. This was also being photographed or videoed by the guys by the lock, so possibly it will turn up on social media shortly, if it hasn't already done so. Wonder if they were in possession of the relevant licence for the board?

Happy Easter, regards

Nigel Searle

Dieter Jebens Trophy



As well as being a Founder Member of the Canal Society and producing the original “Basingstoke Canal Case for Restoration”, Dieter edited the Society’s newsletter throughout the two decades of restoration. In the process, he took thousands of pictures of the canal, mostly using a Canon SLR like the one above.

Sadly Dieter suffered a major stroke in his early 60s which left him in a wheel chair, and he died a couple of years ago.

As he was partly responsible for me taking on the BCN editorship, I thought it would be good to have something to remember him by, and what better than something that would encourage people to photograph the canal?

I am proposing therefore that the Dieter Jebens Trophy be awarded annually at our AGM for the best photograph of the Basingstoke Canal, taken during the preceding year by a member of the Basingstoke Canal Society.

Judging will be by the BCN editorial team and the winning entry and the photographer’s name will be recorded on the memory stick attached to the trophy.

Entries will also qualify for the annual open competition to find photos for our Canal calendar, provided that they are in landscape format. They should be emailed to me at roger.cansdale@basingstoke-canal.org.uk.

Happy snapping!

Letter - Perseverance

Dear Sir,

I recently ordered some books from your on-line shop, and Roger Cansdale was eagle-eyed enough to spot that my photo is in the 50th anniversary brochure, and kindly added a free copy. Would you please pass on my thanks, and point him towards my website, perseverancenb.com, where I have posted a blog about the picture.

Roma and I plan to bring our new boat down to King John's Castle on its first lengthy cruise this autumn, so nearer the time I will be seeking guidance about licenses, lock timings etc..

In the meantime, I would like to investigate the possibility of returning the dredger into operation. Can you tell me who I should approach about this, as I am not sure if the dredger is Basingstoke Canal property, or now the property of the Ellesmere Port museum?

Kind Regards
Dave Jesse

The least I could do considering that Dave helped to retube the old steam dredger's boiler at least once!

I think the possibility of returning Perseverance to operation is pretty low because it isn't really suitable for the sort of dredging that is now needed. Shallow spots dotted about the canal need to be dealt with rather than the end-to-end task that was faced in the restoration years. Compliance with modern health and safety rules could be tricky as well.

However, we would like to get Perseverance back from its current abode in the storage yard at the Ellesmere Port Waterway Museum (Below). They now own it but would like to get rid of it because it is beyond the capability of their resources to restore it. Clearly we would need somewhere to put it while it is being restored and then somewhere to display it to the public as star exhibit in a Basingstoke Canal Museum, complete with film of it in operation. We are working on both these things, but it is early days. Tony Balch is probably the man to contact at tony.balch@basingstoke-canal.org.uk.



Management

The Canal Society currently has a problem in that both the Vice-Chairmen, Ken Sankey and Neil Sutherland are largely out of action due to medical problems. We very much hope that these will be resolved as soon as possible and send both of them our best wishes, but in the mean time things have to continue.

It is fortunate that probably the biggest contribution made by Ken and Neil to the functioning of the Society has been their success in recruiting a lot of excellent people. Thanks to this, we have a second team stepping into place.

With the recent news of both Neil and Ken's health issues and their having to step back from BCS matters, Ian Moore, Philip Riley, John Turner and Tony Balch met to discuss possible changes to the Organisation in the interim to maintain the positive momentum that the current Co Vice Chairs have provided to the BCS to date.

The suggestions of this group, formally ratified at the May Committee meeting, are as follows:

1. That Ian Moore and Tony Balch take up the role of Acting Co Vice Chairs with immediate effect.
2. Ian is noted as the Person of Significant Control of the Society for the statutory return due 8 May.
3. The current Organisation Structure remains as is, with the exception of Projects and Fundraising to come under the supervision of Director John Turner, IT under Director Ian Moore and Marketing and Membership under Director Tony Balch. Ken has

indicated he will be able to provide ongoing assistance in the marketing area and to continue to liaise with Volunteers and Lengthsmen.

4. The recently produced Vision Statement remains as is, with the exception of the BCS Mission being amended to read "Keeping the Canal Alive and Vibrant" to reflect the BCS's desire to see the Canal used for boating as well as land based recreational activities.

The remainder of the work of the Society will continue as before, with the substitution of Ian and Tony as appointees of the BCS at the various upcoming meetings in May (BCA Operations due 5 May, BCA Strategy meeting 6 May and Canal Joint Advisory Group (JAG) 19 May.

I think the time is rapidly approaching for me to step back as sole editor of the BCN, which I have been doing for far too long. Once COVID restrictions allow face to face meetings again, I think the time will be right to formally set up an editorial team, with various people reporting on subjects of particular interest to them.

One of these could well be natural history, so if anybody would like to take that on, please let me know. I think a regular report on things of interest in the Canal's flora and fauna would be of interest to a lot of people. For example, someone recently posted on Facebook a photo of a White Egret that had found its way onto the canal.

Annual General Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that the Forty Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society will be held on Thursday 2nd September 2021 in the Peninsular Suite, Lakeside International Hotel and Country Club, Wharf Road, Frimley Green, GU16 6JR, 6.30 for 7pm.

The formal Agenda for the meeting is as follows:-

1. To hear apologies for absence.
2. To confirm the minutes of the 43rd AGM held on 3rd July 2020.
3. To approve the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020.
4. To reappoint Barnbrook Sinclair Partnership LLP as Independent Examining Accountants.
5. To elect or confirm the appointment of the members of the Board of Directors (Executive Committee) for the year 2021/22.
6. To transact any other business relative to the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

In addition we are likely to add two special resolutions:

1. To adopt new Articles of Association.
2. To change legally the name from The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society Limited to The Basingstoke Canal Society Limited.

By order of the Board of Directors
Celia Griffiths, Honorary Secretary

28th May 2021

Following the formal business of the AGM there will be reports from the Chairmen of the Canal Society and Boat Company, and presentation of the Robin Higgs Award and the Dieter Jebens Trophy.

Drinks will be available from the bar (at cost).

AGM Notes:

- a) *This Notice is issued from Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, HP5 1WA.*
- b) *Every member of the Society who is entitled to vote at a General Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member, to attend and vote in his/her stead. Forms of Proxy can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary.*
- c) *Only paid-up members are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.*
- d) *Copies of the Accounts can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary prior to the AGM upon receipt of an SAE. In accordance with normal practice the Accounts, when approved, will be published in summary in the Basingstoke Canal News.*
- e) *Nomination forms for the election of the Board of Directors can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary.*
- f) *Any changes to the details given in this notice will be published on the Society's website at www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk.*

Membership report

As ever at this time of year the focus is on renewing memberships for those that joined before the use of the on-line system. Thank you very much to those that have done so. Many have taken the opportunity to pay by Card but Bank Transfer and Cheque are still popular among our members. As we go to press we now have 1044 members.

This is a good opportunity to welcome Rosemary Farr to the membership team. She is assisting with our administration and ensuring our records pass muster.

Traditionally this section is used to welcome new members and thus the following have joined us since January:-

Jo Wood of Farnborough
Steven Davis of Woking
Stephen Davies of Woking
Sue Murdoch of Camberley
David Searle of Aldershot
Chris McShee of Woking
Alison Boukhobza of Fleet
Adrian Padfield of Cheltenham
Ian Harwood of Godalming
Mark Reeder of Addlestone
Suzanne Follett of Fleet
Richard Crumplin of Fleet
Rina Gioia of Woking
Mark Porter of Woodham
Dave Jesse of Fareham
Jane Palmer of Farnborough
Christopher Hodge of Surrey
John Marshall of Walton on Thames
Carol Whittaker of Yateley
Jo Burrage of Fleet
Heather Sloane of Camberley
Richard Fairless of Woking

Jason Falkner of Addlestone
Hilary Reynolds of London
Su Pike
Alethea Synan of Woking
Chris Howells
Penny Abbott of Fleet
Tim Read of Woking
Richard Barrington of Camberley
Malcolm Herbert of Woking
Barbara Horastead of Camberley
Alan Robertson of Leatherhead
Julie Cooper of Farnborough
Tracy Capindale of Camberley
Michael Ryan of Camberley
Alexis Price of Woking
Robbie Bremner of Frimley
Matt Taylor of Henley on Thames
Jane Van den Broeke of Brookwood
Ian Pattison of Hartley Wintney
Sean Byrne of Camberley
David Waltham-Hier of Alton
Annette Althen of Ewshot

Andrew Richardson of Hook
Harry Theaker of Fleet
Jo Webster of Brookwood
Heather Ransom of Hook
Martin Seville of Basingstoke
William Hoyle of Woking
Tom Willis of Woking
Fiona Lintingre of Camberley
Rosemary & Jeremy Farr of Fleet
Rod Parkinson of Woking
Matthew Evans of Farnham
Sue O'Neill of Hook
Andy Cornwell of Byfleet
Terri Speller of Addlestone
John Cole of Farnborough
Alan Edmunds of Woking
Dominic Cleal of Godalming
Marcel Attard of Fleet
Richard Bullock of Sandhurst

If you have any issues with your membership please contact me at Membership@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Regards

Andy Beale

BCS information



The Bulletin is now up to Issue 52.

If you want to keep up with the latest news about the canal, please click on the Friends button on the Society website at

www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk

To join the Society, please contact the Membership Secretary, Andy Beale, whose contact details are below.

The annual subscription is Adults £15, Junior £0, Family £20, and Group £30 payable on March 1st each year. Life membership is a one-off £200.

Date for next copy 31st July 2021

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Kitty Trip Boat Manager Ian Moore*

The Canal Society has introduced a new Email project under which anyone who needs one can have a personal and/or an organisational email address. If you need to contact someone, their addresses are likely to be in the form elvis.presley@basingstoke-canal.org.uk or singer@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

General Canal Society contact number: 07305 340547

Basingstoke Canal Authority

Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, Surrey GU16 6DD

01252-370073

Canal Society Internet Website: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Canal Authority Internet Website: www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk

Visiting boats



Great to see visiting boats on the canal again. Members of the Byfleet Boat Club at Colt Hill, finally doing a trip that was originally planned for May last year.