



The Basingstoke
Canal Society

Basingstoke Canal News

No. 272 Winter 2022





Editorial

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, there is a lot going on in the way of events and activity within the Society.

One significant legal issue is that we are proposing at last to change the Society's name legally to the The Basingstoke Canal Society and to adopt a new set of Articles of Association to make sure that we comply with the Charity Commission's requirements. These proposals will need to be adopted at the AGM and members will also have the opportunity to register proxy votes. The objects of the new Articles can be found on page 14, and these are the essence of what needs to be approved.

You may feel that this is legal mumbo-jumbo, but we need to do it and, when you come down to it, it isn't a bad idea occasionally to set down in broad terms what it is that we are doing!

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Our new Events Organiser, Heather Sloane has been putting a great deal of effort into this year's events schedule. The main item is our postponed celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Canal's re-opening. This will be held on 14th May at Frimley Lodge Park, the same site used in 1991, in conjunction with the Surrey Heath Show. There should be a good number of boats present, with the Byfleet Boat Club and the Cotswold Canal Cruising Club planning to attend.

The Society's AGM will follow on at the Canal Centre with a barbecue and social to follow.

Details can be found elsewhere in this issue, so why not come along and make a day of it?

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This always seems to be a bad time of year for losing old friends. I never met Flo Fleming, but I felt that I knew her quite well because she wrote me a couple of lovely letters about the early days of the Society and the people that she knew then, like Dick Snell and Dieter Jebens.

I think we owe people like her a great deal because organisations like the Canal Society can be quite fragile, particularly when they start. You need strong personalities to get things going, but it is all too easy for them to clash, leading to in-fighting between groups with conflicting views. That is when you need a calming voice to remind people of what it is that they are all hoping to achieve. I suspect that a lot of that came from people like Flo.

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You may have noticed that my plans to relinquish the Editor's job when I reached 80 have yet to succeed, but I am still working on the succession project, so if you would like to lend a hand as, say, a local reporter for part of the canal, a photographer, or a compiler of the magazine, please let me know.

Roger Cansdale

Cover Photo. Te Canal drained down and dammed at Chequers Bridge, Crookham. Photo by Roger Cansdale

Vice-Chairman's report

Currently sitting in the frozen wastes of Scotland a long way from the Canal. However, even here after a mild winter the snowdrops are poking through the snow as are the other bulbs, spring is starting to shake off the mantle of winter. Shake seems an appropriate phrase as the current storms of Dudley, Eunice and further storms will no doubt bring down even more trees and branches along the canal corridor. Hopefully these storms do not damage the infrastructure too badly, nor cause any other injury.

As the 'Canal' season unfolds there are some fantastic events going to take place this year, kicking off with an art exhibition and associated auction at the Lightbox in Woking to help fund our new Kitty electric trip boat. So many thanks to the team behind the event and the volunteer stewards from the Society hosting visitors, and to the local MP Jonathan Lord for opening the event.

The bigger canal boat event will be the delayed (from last year) 30th anniversary, more details about this will be disseminated when appropriate, again a number of volunteer roles will be required so look out for the invitations.

Over the years the Society has evolved and adapted to a new operating environment, and Health & Safety, Sustainability and Well Being are just some of the issues that become much more important in recent years.

We do work in a much more collaborative environment than perhaps we did in the past, for example, the outstanding support being given by the BCA to ourselves in planning the

power point locations along the canal, and the supporting discussions with UK Power Networks for cable routing. Or working with the BCA and DEFRA on reducing the impact of invasive alien species along the canal corridor are two collaborative areas that spring to mind.

There obviously remain other ongoing challenges including the need for dredging, weed management and the protection of the banks along the canal (as the editor will mention elsewhere in the newsletter). However, with everyone's support we are making great progress

But there is more to do and our resources are limited. Please encourage others to be members - and we welcome new volunteers (currently we get around 10 new volunteers every month) where there is the opportunity to learn new skills, work as part of a team, and frankly feel good by helping future generations to cherish this wonderful asset – The Basingstoke Canal.

Ian Moore
Vice-Chairman

***Don't forget our
Annual General meeting -
your chance to meet your
Committee, find out what is
going on and ask questions!
See pages 8 and 16***

Work Party



Any Old Iron?

On our only work party in December we had an unwanted Christmas present. When bringing Alan Flight from our Barn mooring to the wharf to load up we saw something in the water at the edge of the bridge hole. Having found we could

not recover it with keb or grappling irons, we stopped Kevin with the JCB and got him to lift the stuff out. There were four cut up pieces of a very recent Land Rover chassis pulled out. It was not a surprise to find that the chassis numbers had all been ground off.



Work at Colt Hill has continued with the fallen trees that were half down and leaning against those on the bypass bank. These have been carefully cut up into useable lengths and stored on site. All the brush, this being branches less than 120mm diameter & less than 2.5m, have been piled up out of the way to allow us to fell the other trees. The fencing has been finished which meant we had to go back to the start as we

Work Party



had taken the wrong initial line, so five panels were re-sited and a small extension fitted, as well as the line across the end of our land to the water's edge, now the fallen trees have been removed.

Having got the fallen trees out of the way we also moved the compound right into the corner to be more obscure from the locals and give ourselves more space. We have then felled a few more trees and stored with the other material.



Our dumb barge which has been stored for a long time unused at Lodge Farm Bridge was earlier moved down and has now been pumped out and all the accumulated leaf etc removed. We now need to identify and repair the leak between the hold & the floatation chamber before we start using it.

We had planned to use it to transport the brush and later the larger diameter timber up to the wharf and then get a grab lorries in to take it all away. However, the BCA have lowered the water levels by 300mm so that we will not be able to move a loaded barge. The reason for the low water level is, as listed in last quarter's BCN, for relining the canal bed at Crookham Deeps. Dams have been installed at Chequers Bridge and Poulter's Bridge. The BCA say they require the low water levels in case there is a significant amount of rain on the top pound because they only have a small sluice and no weirs above Chequers, so don't want the canal to overtop.

There were suggestions that stop planks could have been put in at one of the bridges such as Barley Mow, or Baseley's Bridge to act as a weir and to hold the water level in the canal above there, at say 150mm down. This would save a significant amount of water and still give the BCA a significant insurance against overtopping as this would have needed some 3-4 inches of rain to bring the section up to the nominal canal level, let alone overtop.

The last weekend in January we were able to unstick both Alan Flight & Beth from the mud as the water levels were already down to minus 300mm. Alan Flight as usual collected equipment from the van on the wharf and was pulled by man power down and across the canal to collect Beth. This then in turn, collected the small JCB by the bypass bridge to take across to the work site.

With safety people on the towpath and notices displayed warnings, tree felling started. A dozen or so trees were felled and suitably stripped of branches and the trunks cut into lengths then

Work Party



stored for later disposal. While this was proceeding others were removing all the temporary Heras fencing that had been erected after an area of land had previously been cleared of protecting blackthorn and brambles hence allowing access to the boats and Galleon Marine's yard.



More volunteers

Good to welcome a team from Frimhurst Enterprises who have started a regular activity of litter collection along the Canal. They are a Community Interest Company based at Frimhurst Family House situated on the Canal at Frimley Green which offers vocational day activities for adults with learning disabilities.



Contractors at work

The major project this winter is the repair to the leaking embankment at Crookham between Poulter's and Chequers Bridges. This includes the site of the culvert carrying the River Hart under the canal, which collapsed in the early 1960s.

Preparatory work started in January with dams installed at the two bridges. Stop planks were also fitted at Chequers Bridge but the grooves at Poulter's are apparently unsuited to working in the necessary direction.

It was not until February that any serious draining down of the section was achieved. Just syphoning the water into the River Hart is not allowed it seems. Problems with pumps, leaking dams and unwanted rainfall combined to delay things, but as the cover photos show, they got there in the end.

The local pair of kingfishers were enjoying some easy fishing as a consequence.

About a hundred yard long section of the canal

is due to be relined, hopefully by sometime in March. As Easter is in the middle of April, we will have to pray for a very rainy Lent to fill up the canal to allow boating to start at Odiham.



Above: Contractors working on the leaking dam at Poulter's Bridge

Below: Dam and stop planks at Chequers Bridge



Events

30th Anniversary Celebrations

As many of you know, 2021 would have been the 30th Anniversary of the canal restoration and official re-opening of the Basingstoke Canal, by HRH the Duke of Kent at Frimley Lodge Park on 10th May 1991. A date of such importance could not pass without the opportunity to celebrate. On 14th of May we are joining forces with the Surrey Heath Show, to provide a tribute to the 30th Anniversary with a Boat Rally along the towpath as well as colourful stalls and attractions at Frimley Lodge Park. With the support of Byfleet Boat Club, the visiting Cotswold Canal Cruising Club and our local Wilderness boat owners and clubs; it should be quite a boating spectacle. The Steam Boat Association, Trail Boats and local canal users; including Sea Cadets, Scouts, canoeists and paddle boarders are invited to join in.

At this event we aim to promote public awareness of the benefits of the canal for enjoyment and well-being of all, as well as promoting the continued work of the Basingstoke Canal Society in keeping the canal healthy.

Date	Event	Location
14th May, 10am – 4pm	Surrey Heath Show	Frimley Lodge Park.
30th Anniversary Boat Rally and boating displays along the towpath.	Stall at the SH Show with colourful displays and attractions.	
14th May, 4:30 – 9pm	30th Anniversary Social Event	Mytchett Canal centre
Early evening Social Event for BCS members, volunteers & visiting boaters at the Canal Centre, Mytchett.	The AGM will be held at 5pm followed by a barbeque at 6pm	

The Basingstoke Canal Society AGM will be held in the evening of 14th May at the Canal Centre, Mytchett, at 5pm and will be followed by a social evening with barbeque at 6pm and light entertainment.

In order to plan for the barbeque we will require advance payment at a cost of £5 per head. If you require a vegetarian option or have any dietary needs please email me at heather.sloane@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

To buy a ticket for the BBQ online from our shop members need to be logged into their membership account on our website at www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Once logged in select the **Shop** menu at the top of the page. Then select **Members AGM/BBQ** which is listed as a shop product and you can proceed to buy your tickets.

If you would prefer to bring your own picnic instead of partaking in the barbeque, please do, as all are welcome to join in the social evening. The Canal Centre Café will also be open and are now serving Thai food until 8pm. We cannot sell alcohol at the Canal Centre, but you may bring your own beer or wine. Soft drinks and beverages will be available.

***Please note:** the 30th Anniversary Social Evening is for BCS members, volunteers and invited visiting boaters. This is not open to the public.*

Events

The Queen's Jubilee and other plans

At my first event as coordinator I was asked by a volunteer, what the aim of the Canal Society attending events is. This was a good question and important to know. I see the events role has three aims:

1. Increase public awareness of the delightful asset we have on our doorsteps; which we are all free to use for our enjoyment and wellbeing.
2. Ensure that the canal gets the respect of our community in order to keep it a healthy environment for all users, including its flora and fauna.
3. Encourage membership of the BCS to help us maintain, improve and keep the canal in good order.

We aim to do all of the above by making our stall bright and attractive to all ages and interests. We have some new attractions to encourage passers-by to stop and talk to us.

As Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her Platinum Jubilee with national holidays at the beginning of June, many of the local councils are preparing events with some of them adjoining the canal. Everyone wants to see boats of all shapes and sizes on the canal; safely displaying what a great asset we all share in Surrey and Hampshire.

Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June – Queen's Platinum Jubilee (QPJ)

2nd June 12, noon – 5pm **Mayor's Family Fun Day – Frimley Lodge Park**
Stall from 12-5pm, + arena events. Boat Rally & displays along the towpath.

3rd June 12 noon – 4pm **Fleet Town Jubilee Cycle ride at Calthorpe Park**
Boat Rally at The Fox & Hounds, Crookham Road. The pub will arrange a BBQ & Band.

2-5th June 10am – 4pm **Woking Queen's Jubilee Town Wharf, Woking**
A variety of attractions are planned in the town. Pop-up recruitment stall, family attractions & craft stall

2022 is proving to be a very busy year for the Basingstoke Canal Society Events Team. Please note **Other Event Dates for your diary:**

22nd Feb - 6th March **Replacing Kitty - An Exhibition of Canal Artwork, The Lightbox, Woking.** This can also be viewed online and you can bid for the items which are all for sale. Entrance to the exhibition is free but a £3 donation would be appreciated.

Events

16-17th April Treasure Hunt, Town Wharf, Woking

We are assisting “Kiwi & Scot” – café boat with a children’s Treasure Hunt in support of the Kitty II – electric boat fund.

8th May, 11am – 5pm Basingstoke Transport Festival War Memorial Park, Basingstoke, RG21 4AG. A spectacular day out for all transport enthusiasts. BCS will display proposals for the “Last 5 miles” project.

2nd July 10am – 4pm Fleet Carnival Calthorpe Park, Fleet Stall at the Fleet carnival show ground with canal displays, family attraction. BCS recruitment & sale of publications.

16th July 2 – 5pm Dogmersfield Annual Flower Show & Fete Pilcot Farm
A lovely event country fair at Pilcot Farm. We shall be there with the Buzzer Box and colorful canal artifacts.

24th August 7-10pm The Mikron Theatre The Waterwitch, Odiham
We will support the Mikron Theatre’s production of either Raising Agents, or Red Sky at Night in the pub garden.

4th Sept. 1 – 5pm Odiham Raft Race at Colt Hill
Fun for all on water and the bank– we will have our recruitment stall, Buzzer Box and fun attractions for visitors of all ages.

17th Sept. 11am – 5pm Wey River Festival Dapdune Wharf, Guildford
Stall with canal displays & family attractions. BCS recruitment & sale of publications.

If you are interested in helping with our membership stand, joining a boat rally or would like more information about any of the events listed here, please contact me on heather.sloane@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Heather Sloane
BCS Events Coordinator

Chobham meetings

We hope that the monthly meetings in Chobham, that were a very popular feature of pre-COVID winters, will resume in the autumn. More information later in the year. Sad to report though that Alan Norris, one of the organisers of the meetings, is not well. We wish him all the best.

Boat Company

Season 2022

The booking calendar on the web shows all pre-booked charter trips, and days on which charters are available.

The 2022 season for Kitty will start with public trips in Woking on 8th April, and continue until 30th October.

For John Pinkerton, cruises will depend on water level being restored following the re-lining of Crookham deep. During April the level will depend on rainfall to replenish the lower level (down by 300mm or 12", or more) in the canal between Greywell and Chequers Bridge.

Firstly, aquifer water feed from Greywell will depend on the rainfall we had during a dryer than normal January, - there is approximately a 3 month lag before the water flows into the canal. Secondly, from actual rainfall during April, with an average rainfall of about 33mm for the month. We will need heavy rainfall over a short time.

The result is that boat movement during April is likely to be restricted, so no trips are currently shown on the Booking schedule. To celebrate Easter, we hope to hold a static frolic event – if we can get to the towpath side! The booking system is populated from May; earlier trips will be added, if and when, water levels recover sufficiently to allow navigation.

There are new Themed trips for this year, as well as the ever popular Cream Teas and Grand Cafe afternoon cruises. Musical evening cruises include a Jazz Shuffle with Dom Hall quartet,

Darling Divas (songs from 1940s to present day), and an Abba Nostalgia. Other themes include a Taste of Italy dinner, Sea Shanty from Gale Force 8, and a Midsummer's Day Dawn cruise to watch the sunrise on the canal (includes continental breakfast). The Ramble and Cruise trip returns this year in September, with an Images of Autumn cruise in October especially for the photographers and sketchers. August will provide a Kings & Queens afternoon of fun for the children.

JP Committee Changes.

After a 10 year term of serving as Chairman of the Boat Company, Dick King will be handing over to Chris Hunter at the AGM. Chris is also a boat owner and JP skipper so is well qualified.

Steve James is retiring as Treasurer, being replaced by Sheelagh Lyons.

Other recent appointments include David Leitch who has taken over the Maintenance responsibility (from Dick), and Simon Smith (with help from David) to whom Graham Nicholson passed the baton for Crew Rostering.

Derek Taylor continues as Training Manager, with help from Cheryl Richards, and refresher training takes place during March for all crew. If you haven't booked your session, please contact Derek or Cheryl. Steering practice for those that who would like to hone skills will be available when water level has been restored.

AGM date 14th March at Canal Centre, Mytchett 7.30pm.



A walk with a difference!

If you're looking for something fun and a little bit different that all the family can enjoy, then how about looking at one of several Story Trail walks which are at sites of interest in Hampshire. You can find the details about them on the Hampshire County Council website:

[Search | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

There is a fictional story pdf file that can be downloaded, along with a map of the route to walk. Along the walk you will need to look out for the numbered snail signs, at which point you can tell a part of the story. This includes descriptions of what there is to see around that point.



One of them takes you on an adventure with Henry the Forgetful along a part of the Basingstoke canal that is no longer navigable. It begins in the village of Greywell, across the road from the Fox and Goose pub.

Find the story and the map at the link below.
[The story of Henry the Forgetful | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)



HENRY THE FORGETFUL

It is June in the Year of Our Lord 1216. A local farmer stops you and asks if you are looking for work. He needs farm labourers and will pay a good wage and supply lodgings.

"Or are you one of these Pilgrims? I just met a tired fellow along the way and he refused my offer, saying that he had to get to Canterbury. That's a long way to go...especially without shoes!"

The farmer ambles off.

A haggard and tired figure passes this way. His name is Henry the Forgetful and he's a pilgrim walking from Winchester to Canterbury, where he hopes to find a cure for his dreadful forgetfulness.



The walk is perfect for families who have young children as it is only 1.29 miles along the level canal path from Greywell to King John's castle ruins. The Greywell tunnel is home to many types of bat and there is an information board at the side of the path. This can be muddy in places, so come prepared!



Directions

Start where the path goes over the entrance to the tunnel. Follow the route along the towpath. Carry on along the towpath. Go along the path until you come to the bench where the canal widens. Go along and stop outside the castle. Stop here and explore the castle. Go out and turn right and go back the way you came.

The Fox and Goose pub also has outdoor seating and a play area for children. A perfect place to take refreshment before or after your walk.



The Basingstoke Canal Authority Needs Boat Fleet Volunteers!

Open Day

**Saturday 5th March, 11:00 – 15:00
at the Canal Centre in Mytchett**

All are welcome to come and explore

Free boat trips

Skills tests and games

Photographic exhibition

Meet & Greet

Q & A

Free tea, coffee, cake & biscuits!

Vacancies for Skippers, Crew and maintenance roles

Support Your Canal Make New Friends Learn New Skills

Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, GU16 6DD

Further info from 01252 370073 // info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk

*If this edition of the BCN arrives too late to tell you about this event
and you are interested in getting involved, please contact the Canal
Authority anyway.*

Articles of

When the Canal Society converted from being a members' club to a limited company in 1977, it adopted a Memorandum and a set of Articles of Association which have remained almost unchanged since that time.

Revisions to company law and to the way in which the Society governs its affairs has led to a review being undertaken of the Society's constitution by the Governance working group comprising Celia Griffiths, David Wall, Martin Leech, Debbie Broughall and Philip Riley. The working group has now prepared a new draft set of Articles which will require the approval both of the membership and the Charity Commission.

The Articles include a re-definition of the Objects of the Society reflecting our current activities and focus and, in order to obtain Charity Commission approval, these will need to comply with certain CC guidelines. The revised Objects are set out below.

Proposed Draft Updated Objects of the Society (subject to approval by the Charity Commission)

2. Objects

2.1 The Charity's objects are restricted specifically, in each case only for the public benefit to:

- (a) advance the heritage of the counties of Surrey and Hampshire by the protection, maintenance, restoration and improvement of the Canal as a navigable waterway to enable it to contribute to the industrial heritage of those counties and the wider region;
- (b) advance the education of the public on the role of the canal system in general and of the Canal in particular on the promotion of social and economic development and as a historically important heritage and environmentally diverse asset;
- (c) promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of communities in the area surrounding the Canal and of the public at large recreation or other leisure time occupations through the provision of access to the Canal and its environs to improve the condition of life of those inhabitants; and
- (d) promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of communities in the area surrounding the Canal social inclusion by providing opportunities for volunteering and community engagement in activities that further the above objects.

Nothing in these Articles shall authorise an application of the property of the Charity for purposes which are not charitable in accordance with any statutory provision regarding the meaning of the word "charitable" or the words "charitable purposes" in force in any part of the United Kingdom.

Association

The full Articles document will be put forward for approval at a members General Meeting (either the AGM or at another meeting convened for the purpose) later in the year. It will be shortly made available on the Society's website for review.

If any member has any questions or comments on the revised Objects or Articles, please contact Martin Leech (martin.leech@basingstoke-canal.org.uk) by the end of March.

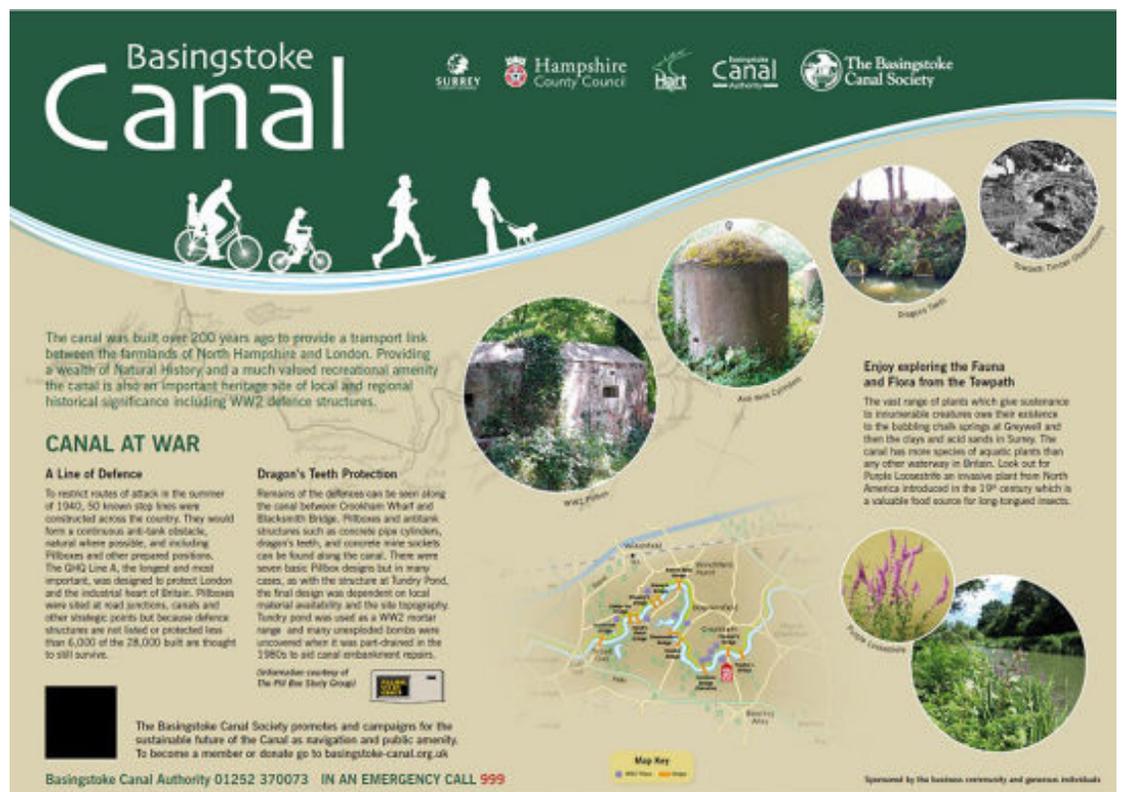
Information Boards

The Society has funded and created 15 new Information Boards for the Basingstoke Canal Authority in accordance with the Authority's design guidance.

All the text and artwork has been signed off by the Canal Authority, the oak frames have been made and the final artwork is being produced.

A programme for installation is to be agreed with the installation being undertaken by Society volunteers.

Neil Taylor, leading the project for the Society,



The design for the Canal at War board explaining the WWII defences against a possible invasion.

has worked extremely hard for many months to achieve the Authority's sign off and we thank him and all members of the Society who have contributed to this project to date.

Canal Society AGM

NOTICE is hereby given that the Forty Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society will be held on Saturday 14th May 2022 at the Mytchett Canal Centre, starting at 5.00pm.

The formal Agenda for the meeting is as follows:-

1. To hear apologies for absence.
2. To confirm the minutes of the 44th AGM held on 2nd September 2021.
3. To approve the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021.
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 2022/23.

The Directors of the Society propose the following special resolutions for adoption at the meeting:

6. THAT the registered name of the Company be changed to “The Basingstoke Canal Society”.
7. THAT with effect from the conclusion of the meeting the draft Articles of Association (a copy of which will be produced to the meeting and, for the purposes of identification, initialled by the Chairman) be adopted as the Articles of Association of the Company in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the Company's existing Articles of Association (which include the relevant provisions of the Company's original Memorandum of Association pursuant to Section 28 Companies Act 2006).
8. To transact any other business relative to the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

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

Following the formal business of the AGM there will be presentations of the Robin Higgs Award and the Dieter Jebens Trophy.

AGM Notes:

- a) *This Notice is issued from 138 Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 6RN..*
- 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) *The revised Objects of the Society are on page 14 of this issue. It is intended to publish more information about the Articles of Association on the Society's website. Members without the Internet should contact the Secretary at the address above if they want information. In accordance with normal practice the Accounts, when approved, will be published in summary in the Basingstoke Canal News.*
- e) *Any changes to the details given in this notice will be published on the Society's website at www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk.*

Following on from the AGM at about 6pm there will be a barbeque and social for members and volunteers to celebrate the re-opening of the Canal in May 1991.

Gifts to the Society

Leaving a Legacy to the Society.

When making a Will many people want to include charitable donations as part of their estate. Under certain criteria making a charitable gift (legacy) in your Will can reduce Inheritance Tax (IHT) liability. Guidance on leaving charitable gifts in your Will can be found on the HMRC website, <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/leaving-gifts-to-charity-in-your-will>

When making the Will or codicil (amendment) please remember to include the full legal name of the Society 'The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society Limited, No.1296593' (Registered Charity number 273085).

David Squires

The Society has recently received a donation cheque in memory of David Squires, for which we are very grateful. According to David's partner Sarah,

“He was a lifelong friend of Deiter Jebens, who spent so much time and energy bringing the Basingstoke Canal back to life. They met aged 16 at Hyelms, a hostel in Hampstead, London, for young men of very limited means.

This was in 1956, when London was just starting to emerge from post war austerity and American jazz musicians were finally starting to come to the UK. Together with two others at the hostel, who also remained lifelong friends, the four lads went to jazz concerts and shared their passions.

In David's case, he was interested in railways and industrial archeology and Deiter was obviously into canals, so the two interests were closely related. Their other interest of course

was girls and two of the four would go on to marry girls at the nearby secretarial college, David being one of them. Sadly Deiter and David are no longer with us and one of the others has dementia. The last one of the four is still hale and hearty, living and working in Chicago, USA.

When it came to choosing a charity in memory of David, we eliminated any large charities to which he regularly donated and decided to choose The Basingstoke Canal Society from the smaller charities. He was a member for many years and I have happy memories of him and Deiter chatting away about the canal, jazz and the good old days at Hyelm.

I hope that this explains the donation and wish you well looking after the canal.

Best wishes

Sarah”

Farewell Flo

Florence “Flo” Fleming

‘Flo’ was the leading organisational ‘spirit’ at the very inception of the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society, with their fraught early years of existence, when the ‘Basingstoke’ was firmly in a private land-developer’s ownership. At that time she was the wife of Jim Woolgar.

Her dynamic enthusiasm with an innate dedication, undoubtedly contributed to establishing the small group into becoming a recognised heritage association, at a period when such volunteer endeavours were still a rarity. Flo arranged the many important public support meetings, dealt with membership matters and produced the first ‘newsletters’, while still in full-time work and being a devoted mother of two young, lively daughters.

With an established and expanding group, Flo was the liaison coordinator with the SHCS when the IWA sponsored their 1970m National Rally at Millmead in Guildford on the River Wey Navigation. It was dedicated on behalf of the Basingstoke Canal restoration initiative.

Unfortunately her marriage came to an end, but Flo was ‘grabbed’ by another canal ‘addict’, Jim Fleming. They began what was to become a very happy and eclectic ‘Grand Union’, living with the children on a vintage wooden narrowboat at Aylesbury. Over the years they progressed to owning a pair of GUC Co ex-working boats, Rufford and Regulus, and travelled many miles on our inland waterways. Eventually their home mooring was at Great Heywood on the Trent & Mersey Canal, with a floating shop to sell their



multifarious painted ware. Finally being established with an outlet in the old Toll House building (refurbished by Jim), they became a firm favourite with passing holiday boaters from all countries for their professionally produced artefacts.

On retirement, Jim and Flo moved to the land with a nearby bungalow. They were able to indulge more in their various interests – visiting numerous canals and steam railways, along with spotting rare fauna and flora, especially butterflies and orchids.

Memories of Flo are overwhelmed with her amazing zest for an active life, inspirational to many, like myself, who were fortunate to have known her for many years.

Our sincere condolences are extended to her loyal husband Jim, family and numerous friends.

Howard Diamond

and Tony Davis

Very sad to report the passing of Tony Davis at the age of 83, following a couple of years of various illnesses.

He had a very long association with the Basingstoke Canal, going right back to the early days of the Society as this photo of him working down by Scotland Bridge in 1969 shows. *(Photo courtesy of Liz Dodwell who is tending the bonfire)*



In more recent years he was heavily involved in the plan to set up a formal twinning between the Basingstoke Canal and the Canal d'Orléans. Thanks to the Counties' budget cuts this came to nothing but he kept his boat *Jeramus Piscator* in France

for many years and was kind enough to put my wife and me up for a couple of nights when we went over to Montargis on the Canal de Briare for a celebration called the Caravan de Loire.



Left: Tony and Jeramus Piscator moored at Montargis

Tony's greatest waterway involvement however was with the IWA and he was trade show secretary for the IWA's 1970 rally in Guildford that campaigned for the restoration

of the Basingstoke Canal. He was their Regional Chairman for many years and perhaps his most lasting legacy is the moorings at the Wey/Thames junction, for which he campaigned tirelessly.

Tony will be greatly missed. Our sincere commiserations go to his wife Doreen and their family. If anyone would like to get in touch with them, his daughter Helen Davey has offered her email address: helenathebden@hotmail.co

Farewell

Peter Harman

Peter became involved with restoring the Basingstoke Canal in the late 1970s when he joined Pablo Harworth's group helping to restore the Canal at Woodham. As we, as a team, became more confident we moved along and helped restore lock five and then lock four, each taking roughly five years each, the working-parties being held once a month. Peter was a regular helper through this period and much work was of a hard physical nature.

Peter was a keen helper at Radio Wey (St. Peter's Hospital) and built their studio. For many years the Canal Society had an Easter festival at the Bridge Barn, and Peter was the showground announcer, bringing along the PA equipment as well.

Eventually he was in charge of organising the entertainments at many events, seeking excellent groups such as the 'Zimmer Boys', 'Acoustic Astronauts' and the Mayflower Morris Clog



Left: Peter at the Canal event at Frimley Lodge Park in 2012.

Dancers. His greatest contribution was helping organise the Canal Society's Golden Jubilee in 2016 at Brook House, Woking. This also saw the naming of the Canal Society's recently purchased community trip boat, *Kitty*, to run on the Woking Pound, and Peter was in the pool of original crew members, where he brought his helming experience to a boat that can be tricky to master.

His long experience as the 'go to guy' for events and helming will be sorely missed by the members of the Canal Society

Maureen Coxhead

Very sad to report the passing of Maureen Coxhead. In the restoration years she often helped on the Society's stand at events, but probably her main contribution was the support that she gave to her husband Peter, one-time Vice-Chairman of the Society, and her son Mark, who is still a very active member of our Work Party. Crippled by diabetes, she had moved into a home and had to endure being cut off by COVID for a year, but her family had been able to visit regularly since last July.



Membership report

Subscription Renewals

By the time you read this you will probably have received a reminder that your subscription is due. We have seen a fantastic uptake in payments by debit/credit card and this has reduced our subscription admin considerably. Thank you. If you pay this way our payment system (Stripe) will, by default, automatically take out your subscription every year.

Many people use a Standing Order on their bank account. Please note that we cannot tell if you have such an arrangement set up – we just see the monies arrive in our account. Please ensure you are paying the correct amount with the correct reference as shown in your reminder email/letter.

Society Emails

You may have noticed over the last year or so an increase in the number of emails we send out. These will derive from two main sources:

i. Membership Admin

These emails are sent out automatically by our Membership database about two weeks before your subscription is due. If you pay by credit/debit card you will also receive a reminder that your subscription will be paid under a recurrent payment – or that your card details need updating. If you know you pay by Standing Order then you can ignore these emails.

ii. MailChimp

We use this system to send out all other information about the society to both members and other supporters. We recognise that not everyone wishes to receive all type of information so we have recently categorised these into three areas:

- The BCS Bulletin
- Fundraising
- Society Information.

In addition paid up members of the society will receive an email copy of the quarterly Basingstoke Canal News. If you wish to manage the type of information you receive then you can use the “Update Profile” link at the bottom of one of these mails which will allow you to select from the options above. Please note that if you ‘Unsubscribe’ we will not be able to send you any information.

No email address?

If you do not have an email address then you will continue to receive the BCN and a subscription reminder by post. **If you do have one, please make sure that we have it.**

New Members

As ever we welcome the support of the following new members:

Mark Osborne of Hook
Tommy Ayling of Basingstoke
Gillian Riding of Camberley
Alex Cadle of Fleet
Sheelagh Lyons of Farnborough

Membership

New members continued:

Gill Phipps of Basingstoke
David Dean of Basingstoke
Robert Schulz of Bracknell
Lynda Wicks of Farnborough
Sophie Bartlett of Reigate
Steve Parish of St John's
Kathryn Graham of Fleet
Philip Blackmore of Fleet
Santiago Javier Rato Almeida of Woking
Stephen Collyer of Woking
Glyn Williams of Hook

Karen McCaffrey of Odiham
Melvyn Dolman of Fleet
Charlotte Knox-Wright of Hartley Wintney
Clive Spinks of Woking
Suzi Hunt of Basingstoke
Tom Akerman of Woking
David Morris of Fareham
Alison Jones

Andy Beale
Membership Secretary

Help!

The Events group has a very active season ahead of it and fortunately has a reasonable number of volunteers (always room for more though - contact heather.sloane@basingstoke-canal.org.uk if you are interested). These events are our main interface with the public.

However, what the group is still lacking is somewhere accessible to store their equipment. This consists mainly of two gazebos, a couple of small tables, three boxes of display panels (15, each about 2ft x 3ft), three pop-up banners and some storage boxes for sales stock. It all used to fit happily in half of Denise Smith's garage, so that is basically what we are seeking. Our present storage is above a car showroom in Hook which is not particularly easy to get at and involves lugging some quite heavy bits of kit up and down several flights of stairs. The Society's barn at Colt Hill is pretty full already and also involves a long walk with heavy bits of kit.

We could hire commercial storage but this would cost over £1000 a year, so if you think you might be able to help us out, please contact Heather Sloane or Roger Cansdale (editor@basingstoke-canal.org.uk)



Above: Heather manning the Sales Stand in the Hart Shopping Centre on a pre-Christmas Saturday last year. We made lots of sales and lots of contacts.

BCS information



The Bulletin is now up to Issue 56.

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, at membership@basingstoke-canal.org.uk.

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Work Site Manager: Kevin Redway*

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

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

Crookham repairs



Contractors try once again to drain the canal down in Crookham