



The Basingstoke
Canal Society

Basingstoke Canal News

No. 281 Spring 2024



Editorial

This issue is slightly delayed, as I wanted to include a report on the AGM. Unfortunately I was unable to attend this year, as it was lovely at last year's meeting to put names to faces and meet fellow volunteers.

In this edition, I'm delighted to publish an article by James Taylor, Strategic Manager with the Basingstoke Canal Authority regarding the changes which have been made in the face of underfunding challenges by Hampshire and Surrey County Councils, the owners of the canal.

With the General Election approaching, this is a great opportunity to raise the topic of canal funding with prospective candidates in all the constituencies up and down the canal. Some may not even be aware of the great amenity which is greatly appreciated by many of their constituents.

We are always looking for ways to use funds wisely and make the most of members' contributions. Given the recent increase in postage rates, it would help us to reduce printing and postage costs if you could let us know if you are happy to receive the newsletter as a digital copy, rather than a physical posted copy. To indicate your preference, please log in to your account at www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/account. Scroll down to the bottom of the Home page tab. You should find the Gift Aid Declaration and the "Printed BCN" option.

If it is ticked then just untick it then click on the "Save Profile" button. While there please consider ticking the Gift Aid box if not already done so. Last year we were able to claim just over £3,300 from HMRC.

Every little helps!

Gift Aid Declaration

I want to Gift Aid my subscription (and donations) and any subscriptions/donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years to The Basingstoke Canal Society. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Gift Aid Name

For Household members - The name of the tax payer:

Where did you hear about us?

Printed BCN

Please send me a printed copy of the quarterly BCN.

SAVE PROFILE

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Calendar competition— Reminder

Thanks to everyone who has submitted entries to this year's competition—but there is no limit to the number of entries you can make.

We are looking for colour photos in LANDSCAPE format at 300dpi; this will equate to at least a 1mb jpg file. Email them to editor@basingstoke-canal.org.uk.

Entries close on **31 July 2024**.

Front cover image: Swan family near Mytchett Lake, Elspeth Levi

Chairman's Report

Time once again to put pen to paper (well fingers on keyboard).

The weather outside for once is sunny, yet more rain is forecast which augers well for a well topped up canal through the year. The weather is almost an indicator of the challenges faced by the BCA in running the canal on behalf of the owners (the County Councils). As the level of funding has dropped by nearly £250,000 there is a huge gap in delivering projects, putting the Canal at risk.

The good news is that the Canal Society is working together with the BCA to determine which projects we can deliver, taking into account the wishes of canal users. These could include towpath resurfacing, memorial bench installation at appropriate locations, or ongoing graffiti removal from bridges (usually in Woking).

Installing more litter and dog waste bins does mean they need to be emptied – indeed the Canals & River Trust have reported savings of nearly £40,000 by removing them from certain canals – not seen as a statutory duty.

We do have a fantastic fund-raising team with a successful track record – but raising £250,000 a year would be a huge challenge even for them – but reducing the project listing into manageable chunks helps make them attractive to potential donors.

How you can help

The canal is visited by 1.75 million people a year—many of whom will have a vote on 4th July. Are the candidates aware of the number of canal visitors? Are they supportive of a canal which is rated in the top 100 waterways in the world running through their constituency? What will they do to support the most biodiverse waterway in the UK?

So, when they turn up on your doorstep or buttonhole you in the street just ask them.

Encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Society. This will help provide a regular income for the Canal Society, and if you wish, join the active volunteers Keeping the Canal Alive.

Ian Moore, Chairman



STOP PRESS:

Kitty II has now been dropped into the water—and she floats! There is still a lot of work to be done on the interior and motor, but great to see this progress.

AGM Report

The AGM was introduced by Tim Dodwell and began with the Chairman's report from Ian Moore, which is summarised below:

Challenges

There were two minor HSE incidents resulting in Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) being updated.

Revenue funding for the BCA has been reduced by about £250,000 per annum.

The old Joint Management Committee model has been redefined. (see pages 8-10 for more information).

The new Memorandum of Understanding between the Counties has yet to be ratified.

What happens in 4 years time is unclear, yet the canal is used by 1.75 million people a year.

Achievements

The canal had a successful cruising season, with a good revenue stream from the boats, the shop, Corporates and legacies.

Volunteer hours worked, including the Corporates, increased to around 30,000 hours.

Membership is now up to about 1100.

Successful fundraising campaign and Kitty II contract signed.

Improved linkages via lobbying to all interested parties.

Potential Future projects

QR code signs to make donating easier.

A second Conver boat to tackle weed growth in the Hampshire pound.

Re-surfacing the towpath at the Western end.

Installing memorial benches in appropriate locations.

Improving the customer experience of buying things online from the Society's website.

Ian Moore concluded by saying that the Society was working hard to support the Counties in these uncharted waters and thanked all the teams involved with delivering another successful year. He then took questions:

What will happen in 4 years time?

We don't know what will happen when the reserves are depleted but we are engaging with the local authorities to emphasise the problem.

What will happen to Kitty II if there is no charging point?

There will be, but it is being delayed by legal issues. It is hoped that contractors will be onsite by the end of July.

The notice boards are looking very shabby; what is to be done?

They cost £3k each to replace. The design is poor but can only be changed with the owners' approval.

Visiting boats are very rare.

Numbers may have been reduced by the Thames and Wey being in flood for much of the early part of the year.

Robbie Cummings is due to be bringing his boat up the canal later in the year, which we hope will help publicise this stretch of water and encourage more visitors.

Roger Cansdale

The minutes of the 46th AGM were approved.

The Treasurer then summarised the accounts (see *Pages 6 & 7*). These showed a surplus for the year despite the payment of £78k for the Conver boat and £20k for dredging. A question was raised regarding an apparent disparity between the Society's accounts and those of its trading companies. In brief, this was due to the way that insurance was paid for. Full details will be included in the next edition.

The accounts and annual report were approved. Approval was given to the re-appointment of Barnbrook Sinclair LLP as Independent Examining Accountants.

Election of Committee Members (Directors) for 2024/5

Janet Buckley, Ken Sankey and Ian Moore were re-elected. Chris Bard and Paul Amphlett, who had been co-opted during the past year, were re-elected.

Presentation of Awards

The Robin Higgs Award was presented

jointly to Gren Gale and Diane Sanderson for their fund- raising efforts for the Kitty II project.

The Dieter Jebens Trophy for the best photo went to Mark Gaines (see image below).

There was then a brief intermission for tea and cakes then James Taylor , explained the new management arrangements (see Pages 8 to 10).

Liz Dodwell then took the floor and introduced her book "My Mother Bought a Canal" which she hopes to have published by the autumn. She introduced Alan Johnson from the Wey & Arun Canal Trust, who gave an excellent review of the canal's history and current developments and successes. He noted that he had found in the minutes of a meeting in 1815 a reference to borrowing a weed cutting machine from the Basingstoke Canal!

Thanks to all members who attended - it was certainly one of the best attended AGM's and thanks for your support in Keeping the Canal Alive.



"Rosebud" going into the dry dock for maintenance work by Mark Gaines

Accounts: Balance Sheet

The following accounts were presented by David Wall, Treasurer and subsequently approved at the AGM on 1 June 2024.

BALANCE SHEET

	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-22
FIXED ASSETS		
Land & buildings	86,054	86,054
Equipment	2,400	3,000
Tangible assets	88,454	89,054
Investments (shares of JPCC Ltd & S&HCC) Ltd)	101	101
	<u>88,555</u>	<u>89,155</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Loan JPCC Ltd - intercompany account	147,237	90,329
Loan S&HCC Ltd - intercompany account	4,244	4,242
	<u>151,481</u>	<u>94,571</u>
JPCC Ltd & S&HCC Ltd profits & Colt Hill	52,550	39,176
Debtors	204,031	133,747
Sundry debtors and prepayments	9,466	1,250
Cash at bank & in hand	190,559	241,318
	<u>404,056</u>	<u>376,315</u>
CREDITORS		
Suppliers	(2,697)	(1,852)
Accrued expenses	(2,532)	(1,980)
	<u>(5,229)</u>	<u>(3,832)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>398,827</u>	<u>372,483</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>487,382</u>	<u>461,638</u>
RESERVES		
GENERAL RESERVE		
Retained income brought forward from ear-	457,909	426,997
Net income/(expenditure) for the year - see	25,744	30,912
Retained income carried forward	483,653	457,909
RESTRICTED RESERVE	3,729	3,729
	<u>487,382</u>	<u>461,638</u>

Accounts: Income and Expenditure

	Change better/(worse)	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-22
INCOME			
Society income			
Subscriptions	1,286	19,352	18,066
Donations	(11,953)	22,467	34,420
Grants	35,625	35,625	-
Interest	3,925	5,335	1,410
Gift Aid recoveries	1,406	3,758	2,352
Speaking income	(123)	567	690
Total	30,166	87,104	56,938
Income from trading subsidiaries			
JPCC Ltd - donation of boats income	11,683	37,305	25,622
S&HCC Ltd - bar and shop sales	1,691	15,245	13,554
Total	13,374	52,550	39,176
Total income	43,540	139,654	96,114
EXPENDITURE			
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES			
Projects	(53,268)	78,113	24,845
Work parties capital equipment	(357)	1,095	738
Work party expenses	643	922	1,565
Maintenance and repairs	(2,773)	3,542	769
Fuel & vehicle expenses	(402)	2,933	2,531
Insurances	(781)	5,351	4,570
Training	6,990	6,000	12,990
Legal fees	1,003	-	1,003
Depreciation and loss on sale	-	600	600
Events	529	2,567	3,096
	(48,416)	101,123	52,707
SUPPORT COSTS			
Newsletter	(196)	4,450	4,254
Publicity, leaflets, brochures	(843)	843	-
Postage and stationery	910	153	1,063
Sponsorship and memberships	(15)	440	425
Bank charges	188	405	593
Telephone and internet	(8)	88	80
Web site and social media costs	(870)	3,897	3,027
Independent examiner's fees	(210)	2,220	2,010
AGM & other expenses	752	291	1,043
	(292)	12,787	12,495
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(48,708)	113,910	65,202
Excess of income over expenditure	(5,168)	25,744	30,912



Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA) update by James Taylor, Strategic Manager, BCA

You may have heard that there have been some changes in how the Canal is managed. I thought it would be useful to set out some facts and outline the key changes that *have* been agreed and came into effect on 1 April 2024.

Reflect and review

The two owning County Councils put in motion a review of the way the canal was operated more than 12 months ago, set against a very challenging financial outlook for local authorities, which resulted in declining contributions from some riparian partners. The initial investigation was led by the consultants, Mace.

The key findings from this study were that the County Councils had statutory responsibilities for that Canal in respect of:

Public safety – the canal is owned by the County Councils and therefore needs to be managed safely for residents, visitors, volunteers and staff alike.

Health and wellbeing – the canal is owned for public recreation, including navigation by “small boats”, serving the needs of residents for green space on their doorstep.

Nature conservation and biodiversity – 90% of the canal is one of the most biodiverse inland waters in the country.

Navigation by larger craft is not a statutory responsibility, and neither is providing a visitor centre and the type of paid-for attractions that go with that.

The study concluded that by far the most cost-effective way of managing the Canal is to do so in a partnership of at least the two owning County Councils, and have the daily operation of the Canal continue to be managed by the BCA.

The BCA will continue to manage the canal operations and support the County Councils in the major maintenance of the assets. They will manage public use of the towpath and navigation – including use as a navigation. Whilst navigation is not a statutory duty, revenues from boating cover its operational (but not capital) costs, so for the medium term at least it makes economic sense to safeguard navigation.

Visitor Centre

The Canal Visitor Centre was not providing the support to the BCA that it had been set up to provide. Rather than closing it to reduce losses, Surrey County Council (SCC) have taken it on themselves outside the Canal partnership - with the aspiration of continuing service. The Centre and the three staff running it transferred to SCC on 1 April. As the owner of the site there may be more options for SCC to find investment, which was always very complex as part of the partnership.



New governance arrangements

Part of the review also looked at governance, and views were sought from the Joint Management Committee.

A new partnership agreement has been drafted reflecting the importance of the role of the County Councils as the owners of the waterway. Under this arrangement the JMC ceased to exist, and the Canal will now be governed by an officer team known as the Basingstoke Canal Management Team (BCMT) – this will be made up of myself, the Head of Countryside from both County Councils, and the partnership's Treasurer (currently a senior Finance officer of HCC). This reflects that most decisions are operational or tactical and are most appropriately taken by officers. The BCMT's decisions will be scrutinised by

a new Basingstoke Canal Joint Board made up of two Councillors from each of the two owning County Councils. Strategic or other significant decisions will be made by very senior officers or the Executive / Cabinet Members of the owners as the need arises.

Any remaining or new funding partners will be invited to enter into a Service Level Agreement with the BCA, making clear what services will be delivered in exchange for their funding over a set period. Funders, key stakeholders and supporters will also have the opportunity to attend a summer site tour and an Annual Meeting.

Finally, the two County Councils will set out to agree a new Memo of Understanding with the Basingstoke Canal Society – setting out the way we need to work together to secure a future for the Canal.



Swing bridge next to Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett



Whilst the Canal is not really part of the Canals and Rivers Trust (CRT), *Save Our Waterways* campaign, which is aimed at the government settlement, we should be under no illusions that revenue funding is an issue for the Basingstoke Canal. It is important to recognise that much of what the BCA does is a statutory responsibility. I think it is also very important to reflect the contribution of the many volunteers who support the operation of the waterway that we all know and love – so thank you to those who trim the hedgerows, or paint, or walk their length, or skipper boats - your contribution is very important and greatly appreciated.

Operational changes

For the foreseeable future the BCA will be based at the Canal Centre at Mytchett, and our former colleagues will be working alongside us managing the Visitor Centre for Surrey County Council delivering a similar range of visitor experiences as before. The Visitor Centre will run separately from the BCA Canal Office, which will have under operating times. Phone lines are now open 09:00 – 16:30 Monday to Friday, closed on Bank Holidays and weekends. With fewer staff dealing with canal administration, if it is essential for you to visit the Canal Office, please make an appointment first. Staff at the Visitor Centre are now employed by SCC and will be able to take a message if there are no BCA staff in the Office – but won't be able to complete canal bookings for boating, dry dock, lockage or enquiries about canal maintenance.

With this in mind, the BCA are introducing on-line application forms for the most common canal activities: Boat Licensing (resident and visiting boats) plus moorings where applicable, Trail Boat Registration, and Dry Dock Booking. All permits and tickets will need to be purchased through the BCA section of the Hampshire County Council web shop. Canoe permits, trail boat day tickets (for registered craft), pay as you go lock use, and angling permits can be purchased directly from the shop. We hope to be able to provide a means of buying these permits online in the Visitor Centre soon.

In March the Basingstoke Canal Angling Association decided that it was intending to close and not renew its licence of the fishing rights on the Canal. To maintain a fishery over the coming 12 months the BCA will administer the fishery whilst also asking for expressions of interest from other fishing clubs or societies to run it. All fishing permits will now be sold from the BCA web shop, and to legally fish on the Canal you must be in possession of an Environment Agency rod licence and a BCA issued annual permit or day ticket.

Finally, I am very pleased to report that **Tarun Ingvorsen** will be joining us as Canal Operations Manager in early June. Tarun will be filling the post vacated by Fiona Shipp last year, and will be a key player in the management of the Canal - I am sure many of you will be keen meet him over the coming weeks and months. Please give him a warm welcome!

Working Parties Report

We reported last time that we expected to meet up with the work that the West End Work party had been doing. Well, we just succeeded to do this although we were distracted by a very large oak tree that had fallen down from the top of the towpath bank, closing the towpath and blocking most of the canal. The pictures show the tree before and after we had removed the massive amount of ivy which was obviously part of the reason it fell. Somebody estimated it was probably an acorn when the canal was built.



Fallen Oak about to be cleared

The off bank is now reasonably well cleared from the Castle downstream to Sandy Hill Bridge. There are a few dead trees which we have not been given permission to remove, a couple of which lean dangerously. We have instructions that we are not allowed to cut standing trees greater than 10cm diameter at 1m above ground.

It now appears that the BCA had these removed.

Planning and costing is being done for the replacement of the mooring at Brookwood, that was removed as 'unsafe' by the BCA a few years ago.

This will need approval by the Surrey County Council engineer as well as the funding being allocated. Initial plans have been drawn up for the replacement and extension of the mooring on our land at Colt Hill, however funding will obviously be a problem.

In the meantime, the following two work parties were general tidying up from the winter work. This included removing the tree roots and other material collected after the tree stumps were ground out at Colt Hill and tidying the area. Then having a massive bonfire of all the brash and roots accumulated at Lodge Farm Bridge.

A quick bit of bank support was added to the canoe launch platform at Canal Cottage which was suffering a gradual land slip. This also highlighted the fact that the adjacent bridge wing wall was nonexistent and was probably a significant part of the problem. Plans will now be drawn up for permanent bank support. The wing wall has been reported to the BCA who are onward reporting it to Hampshire Highways, so this may take some time.



Volunteering is fun!!

Duncan Paine

Archivist Action

The Archiving team have had an interesting couple of months, with some unexpected outcomes. We were aware the archives have been previously worked on to some extent, with associated references for documents, etc. However, there was no obvious master sheet to explain these references, therefore we were unable to decipher what had been previously reviewed. Thanks to Roger Cansdale and some detective work, it was established the master guide was retained within the Society's Google Drive. Hurray, we all said! But we then realised we would need to match what was stored physically and also matched the records – especially as we had already spent nearly 3 months creating our own database and were aware items had been moved around.

What to do now we asked? There was an urgent need to avoid repetition of the previous cataloguing and to ensure the master sheet was accurate and reflected any known changes or unwanted material. The archives had been stored at the Basingstoke Canal Authority Centre at Mytchett Centre in a small room with poor WiFi and weak mobile signal. Also, the room - which was the size of a small bedroom - was not suitable for cross checking the database and physical documents and pictures even for a single person, let alone all the archiving team. Time to ask the committee for help.

The committee agreed the current status quo was not tenable. Therefore, it was agreed to move the archives to a temporary suitable secure location where they could be stored, reviewed, and catalogued using suitable IT equipment.

The archiving team boxed up and labelled in detail boxes and filing cabinet drawers to be moved. A Saturday was dedicated to moving the archives to the new location.

The new location allows the archiving team to cross check items against the existing database whilst continuing to determine the validity of what should be retained for safekeeping or potentially digitised.

On a personal note, before starting the archiving journey I was unaware of the work previously undertaken by earlier members regarding the restoration of the canal. This was an enormous undertaking coupled with the barriers that had to be overcome. The hundreds of pictures I have come across speaks volumes for these people. Looking forward, the plan is to ensure their legacy is not forgotten – especially as “a picture paints a thousand words”.

Overleaf you can see some of the photos from the archive. Perhaps you recognise some of the volunteers who helped restore the canal? If so, do let us know.

We hope that you will find the articles interesting and we are happy to receive requests and suggestions regarding what you, the members would to read about. These can be sent to us at:

archive@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Kevin Pizzey

From the Archives



*Bank clearance work party with bonfire. Langman's Bridge, St John's, 1981.
Margurite Redway*



Dredger and team clearing the mud: 1980

Basingstoke Canal What?

The Society is delighted by the number of new members who have recently joined and are helping to Keep the Canal Alive. I thought may be useful for everyone to understand how the Society operates, what our priorities are and how you can help shape the future of the canal.

One of the areas that causes most confusion is the relationship between the Basingstoke Canal Society (BCS) and the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA). This newsletter is sent to you by the Basingstoke Canal Society, which is a registered charity. Originally called The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society and formed in 1966, our name changed to The Basingstoke Canal Society in 2022, to be more reflective of the beautiful waterway that we support and campaign for the sustainable future of today.

Sadly in 1966, most of the canal had fallen into disrepair, resulting in

breaches which caused flooding. You can read more about the history on our website [here](#).

Thousands of volunteers gave their time and energy to restoring the canal which was finally reopened in 1991. The work involved rebuilding 29 locks, construction of 110 lock gates, and dredging and clearance of an estimated quarter of a million tonnes of mud.

The Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA), was set up in 1992 to manage the Basingstoke Canal as a managing agent on behalf of Hampshire and Surrey County Councils. The current Canal Partnership comprises the two County Councils and six local Borough and District Councils (Hart, Rushmoor, Guildford, Surrey Heath, Woking and Runnymede). The County Councils are the major funders. Recently the local Borough and District Councils have severely reduced their funding.



Digging out the canal after it had fallen into disrepair

Elspeth Levi

How we operate

The Basingstoke Canal Society (BCS) is governed by a committee, currently with 12 members, that meet monthly, and holds an Annual General Meeting to be answerable to members. We, as a Society work closely with the BCA to agree a programme of works and specific projects which will maintain the canal. Recent requirements have included a weedcutter (purchased for the BCA last year) and towpath repair following the heavy rains. We cannot undertake any works without the approval of the BCA.

The BCS raises funds through membership subscriptions, legacies, our shop, donations and through boat trips run through our trading company, John Pinkerton Canal Cruises Ltd.

Priorities

The BCA compile a list of projects which are required to maintain the canal and the Society provides some of the resources to carry these out – whether it is in the form of work parties to clear bankside vegetation or capital investment in equipment or machinery.

We will often invest in major expenditure, for example the weed cutter which was purchased on behalf of the BCA to reduce the spread of Hydrocotyle through the canal. Our most recent “big ticket” purchase is Kitty II, an electric passenger boat with disabled access which will run from Woking, staffed by trained volunteers.

In recent years it has become clear that the funds available for maintenance are not enough to cover all that needs to be done and volunteers from the Society are

essential to Keeping the Canal Alive. The work parties and lengthsman are the eyes and ears on the canal.

The future

The major issue that now faces our Canal is the significant shortfall in finance of around £250,000 pa following the reduced commitment by most of the local councils. This puts the Canal at risk - quite simply unless some form of funding is forthcoming, we will lose the canal as we know it

Thus, much of the Society's focus recently has been on talking to councillors and local MPs to stress the importance of the canal to the wellbeing of all who use it, and the risks of lack of maintenance. This could result in the canal becoming an eyesore, or even worse, bank breaches which could flood local houses. Given the financial stresses on local councils, our recent campaign and focus on raising funds is because we are unsure how much we can rely on the councils to keep funding the canal.

While the councils are the owners, we all see this a community asset and we hope that all users of the canal, and local businesses, can help in Keeping the Canal Alive. Not only by lobbying local councils and prospective MPs, but through volunteering, donations, membership and support

We will continue to work collaboratively with the BCA to create a thriving natural environment for wildlife, public enjoyment and a vibrant recreation and heritage resource - but the Canal also needs everyone's support.

News in Brief



Thank you to Fleet Morris who have nominated the Basingstoke Canal Society as their Charity for this year.

Two of our lovely volunteers, Heather and Celia belong to Fleet Morris which has very kindly chosen to support the Basingstoke Canal Society as their local charity this year. They dance out at many local venues and festivals. You can find out where and when you can watch them on their website:

www.fleetmorris.org.uk
or follow their Facebook page

[https://www.facebook.com/
FleetMorris](https://www.facebook.com/FleetMorris)

We'd like to say a big thank you to the group for nominating our charity for this year and wish them every success in their outings!

In Memoriam Red Baylis

Mr Redmond Patrick George Baylis - 19th September 1941 - 30th March 2024

Red was a tug captain and dredger crew member for many years once his deep sea wanderings had diminished. He was a great companion full of sea tales and bonhomie. His presence was never unnoticed and he will live on in the memories of those who knew him.

Andrew Stumpf

News in Brief

JP11 to the Rescue

During a trip to King John's Castle on John Pinkerton II, a Police officer called us from the towpath asking that we look out for a missing vulnerable person and to call 999 if we spotted him.

On leaving the castle for the return journey George Rhoades set off to open the lift bridge. He returned to the boat reporting that a man was laying on the off-side bank and was unresponsive. He regained consciousness and was identified as the missing person. Following a 999 call a first responder from Odiham arrived shortly after, and was transported across the canal to the casualty by using JP as a floating bridge, pulling on the stern ropes in turn. A full complement of police and Ambulance personnel from the Water Rescue team in Eastleigh were soon assisting.

The casualty was loaded onto a scoop stretcher then onto the stern deck. More rope pulling got us back to the towpath where what looked like a giant wheelbarrow was waiting. They

transported him along the towpath to the lift bridge and onto an ambulance. We were delayed for 2 hours in total. Only four passengers opted to leave the boat to walk back to Odiham. Those remaining were offered free tea or coffee.

My Crew, Andy George and David were a credit to the Canal Society with many plaudits from both our passengers and the Emergency Services.

Crew: Derek Taylor (skipper), George Rhoades, Andy Blake, Peter Jacobs.

Derek Taylor



John Pinkerton II by the towpath



Workboat for sale

Jim Douglas, previously used as a workboat is now for sale. Further information can be found by following [this link](#), or on the narrow boat page on www.fps-marine.co.uk.

JP II Themed trips

The volunteers who run John Pinkerton II have come up with an amazing array of specially themed cruises which will run throughout the summer. Included in this year's schedule are Cream Tea trips, musical themed nights with a special excursion; the kings, queens and castles cruise with crafts and activities for children (aged 5-10) which will take place on 14th August.

Places are selling fast, so visit the dedicated page on the website [here](#) or search for themed trips on the BCS website:

<https://basingstoke-canal.org.uk>



All trips depart from and return to Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham, Hampshire, RG29 1DH.

Publications

When I took over as editor of the BCN about 30 years ago, I was passed a copy of a desktop publishing program called PageMaker that I rapidly became addicted to. So when I was sent some excellent articles about the pillboxes along the canal I decided to try to publish them as a stand-alone booklet.

The result was "Wartime Defences on the Basingstoke Canal", now in its second edition. I then turned my attention to some of the books that were published by the Society in the

early days and "A History" and "Boats of the Basingstoke Canal" followed.

We now have 8 titles published. Due to advancing years, I'm now appealing for a volunteer to take over this interesting job. The publications help to inform the public about the various aspects of the canal and its history and secondly to make a bit of money for the Society (over £11,000 worth of sales via our website so far).

All the original files are available for updates or reprints. As for ideas for more books, I have long felt that it would be good to cover the natural history of the canal and Flowers, Trees and Birds would make a good start.

I'm happy to have a gradual hand-over so if any of this appeals to you, please contact me for more information.

roger.cansdale@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Roger Cansdale



BCS Events

The BCS Events team summer season got off to a great start at the Basingstoke Festival of Transport on 19th May. The weather was kind (despite earlier forecasts to the contrary!) and Basingstoke's War Memorial Park was packed with enthusiastic crowds.

Basingstoke Deane Rotary have been running this event for the past few years, having taken over from the Thornycroft Society. It's one of the largest festivals of its type in the South of England, with around 800 vehicles from Pre-War cars, Classic cars, Special Interest cars, Motor Bikes, Commercial vehicles including Lorries, Tractors, Military vehicles, Buses and Service vehicles with a selection of Static Engines. There were about 80 stalls, both trade and charity, plus food stalls. Entry for the public is

free. This year the show was supporting Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

An early start ensured the BCS Events stall was set up and ready to welcome the many people who spent time with us throughout the day. Sales of BCS publications, tea-towels etc. were brisk and the buzzer box game drew the crowds. Our visitors were able to learn about the history of the canal, its restoration and ongoing preservation and our projects including "The Last 5 Miles." There was also a good level of interest in getting involved by joining the Society and helping fill our various volunteering roles. The Society Events Team had a very busy and productive day.

Mark Gaines



Events

This year the importance of promoting public awareness of the benefits of the canal for enjoyment and well-being is all the more important. At public events we encourage membership of the Basingstoke Canal Society and explain the roles of the different teams of volunteers who give their time to keeping the canal in good order

At our events stalls we inform people about the ownership of the canal, the management role of the BCA and how the Society works with them. We love to listen to people's stories and fond memories of the canal. We occasionally have to hear complaints and, on those occasions, we frequently suggest that the person gets involved to improve the situation.

We aim to encourage volunteering by all ages and cultures – anyone who enjoys the canal.

We can all experience the great pleasure of the canal by **joining in** and **having pride** to improve just a small area. It makes us feel good to know we have **helped to make a difference** for the future.

If you can assist or would like more information about any of these events please email : heather.sloane@basingstoke-canal.org.uk .

Heather Sloane, Events Co-ordinator



BCS Events Team volunteers at Fleet Carnival 2023

Forthcoming Events

Date	Event	Location
Sat. 8 th June 10am – 4pm	Victoria Day, Aldershot, Carnival of Animals	Princes Gardens & Aldershot Town, Parade & family event
Mon. 10 th June 11am - 4pm	Volunteer Share & Care Event (BCA invitation)	Royal Victoria Country Park Chapel, Netley SO31 5GA
Sat. 22 nd June 12.30 - 5pm	St John's Village Fete, St John's Lye, Woking	Scout Group Summer Fete.
Sat. 29 th June 12 noon - 4pm	Ash Village Fete	The Ash Centre, Ash Hill Rd, GU12 5DP
Sun. 30 th June 1 - 5pm	Zebon Copse Residents' Association Fete.	Community Centre, Danvers Drive, Church Crookham.
Sat. 13 th July Opens 1pm	Pyrford & Wisley Village Flower Show	Pyrford Cricket Club. GU22 8ST.
Sat 13 th July 1:30 – 5pm	Odiham Church Fete,	Hatchwood House, Odiham
Tues. 16 th July 7 - 9pm.	The Mikron Theatre, 'Jennie Lee' story of a radical MP. No tickets, 'pay what you feel' collection is taken after the show.	The Mill House, North Warnborough, Odiham RG29 1ET
Sat. 20 th July 2 - 5pm	Dogmersfield Flower Show,	Pilcot Farm, RG27 8ST
Sat. 27 th July *	Nature Discovery Day, Family Environment & Conservation event <i>*Confirmed interest</i>	Edenbrook Country Park, Pale Lane, nr Fleet
Sat. 27 th July *	Family Environment & Conservation event <i>*Confirmed interest</i>	Brookwood Country Park
Sun 1 st Sept. 1 - 5pm	Odiham Raft Race, Stall, (possibly car park) marshalling the race and assistance with clearing up.	Colt Hill Bridge, Odiham
Sat. 14 th Sept. 11am–8:30pm	Wey River Fest. (NT) Stall and game during the day, Evening parade if we have volunteers	Dapdune Wharf, Guildford

Membership

Membership Numbers

Since the last quarterly newsletter, we have welcomed 73 new members, mainly as a result of some great publicity in March. This brings our paid up membership to **1048** although another 50 have yet to renew.

Rather than list all the names of the new members this time I'll just show where that support comes from:

Fleet	20		Tadley	1	
Basingstoke	7		West Byfleet	1	
Farnborough	7		Brookwood	1	
Camberley	6		Enfield	1	
Aldershot	5		Shaftesbury	1	
Woking	5		Greywell	1	
Ash Vale	5		Hartley Wintney	1	
Ash	3		Highcliffe	1	
Odiham	2		Maidenhead	1	
Farnham	2		Sandhurst	1	

An apology

I feel the need to apologise to those members that received a somewhat garbled renewal notice by email this year. That was down to me making a mistake in the new membership software which resulted in what some succinctly described as 'gobbledegook' in the messages. I believe this has now been resolved and that the messages are now more pertinent to your membership.

If, as a result, you were unable to renew your membership please contact me a Membership@Basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Andy Beale
Membership Secretary
Membership@Basingstoke-canal.org.uk

BCS Information

Published by the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society Ltd., a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Society. Executive members of the committee are shown in bold.

* indicates Director of the Society.

Presidents: Tim & Elizabeth Dodwell

Chairman	Ian Moore *	JPII Trip Boat Manager	Chris Hunter *
Honorary Secretary	Celia Griffiths *	Kitty Trip Boat Manager	Ian Moore *
Treasurer	David Wall *	Sales Manager	Roger Cansdale
Volunteers	Ken Sankey *	Events Co-ordinator	Heather Sloane
IT	Chris Bard *	External Talks	Roger Cansdale
Membership	Andrew Beale	Chobham Talks	Graham Deavin
Projects & Fund Raising	John Turner *	Website Manager	Chris Bard */ Charlotte Greenaway
Lobbying	Paul Amphlett *	Planning	Graham Corser
Press Officer & Marketing	Charlotte Rodgers *	Lengthman Organiser	Barry Jones
Weekend Work Party	Janet Buckley *	Archivists	James Gregory-Marshall, Kevin Pizzey and Peter
Work Site Manager	Kevin Redway	BCN Editor	Elsbeth Levi

Useful Information

General Enquiries: 07305 340547

Membership: membership@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Newsletter: editor@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk

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AGM Awards



Above: Gren Dale and Diane Henderson received the Robin Higgs Trophy from Chairman, Ian Moore. They were selected from many nominees for their fantastic work in fundraising for Kitty II. The Cup is awarded annually to a member (or members) who have made a significant contribution to the society.



Left: Mark Gaines receives the Dieter Jebens award from Roger Cansdale for contribution to BCS photography. Many of Mark's photos are published on the Society's Facebook page.

Well done to all winners.