



The Basingstoke
Canal Society

Basingstoke Canal News

No. 282 Summer 2024



Editorial

A warm welcome to our new members. It is heartening to see that the last quarter has seen a record number of people joining the society, which in turn contributes to the maintenance of the canal. In addition, the more members we have, the stronger the Society's voice when we speak to our elected representatives, whether they be MPs, County or Local Councillors.

I'm sure the hard work put in by our amazing events team has played a large part in this. I visited them at Ash Fair earlier this summer and was impressed by their knowledge when dealing with a huge variety of questions from visitors. There is nothing like a friendly face and an ability to talk about all things canal to encourage potential members to join.

2025 Calendar

Thank you to all the members who submitted pictures for the 2025 Calendar. They were of very high quality this year, and the judging panel had many debates on which to include.

The calendar is now being printed and can be purchased at the forthcoming events (see page 21) or online through the website.

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

The cost is £8.50 per calendar, and they would make ideal Christmas Presents. All proceeds will go to support the work of the society.

You can read about their adventures at various fairs and fetes over the summer on pages 18 – 21.

The activities of our Marketing and Social Media team have also helped build our following. We now have over 7500 Facebook followers and some posts reach over 20,000 people. Social media is a much quicker way to get out news regarding fallen trees or activities on the canal than a quarterly newsletter!

So welcome aboard and thank you for helping to Keep the Canal Alive.

Elspeth Levi

Editor



Front cover image: Paddleboarders near Ash Vale, Elspeth Levi

Chairman's Report

It's the holiday season and finally we've had a few hot days, yet fortunately after a very soggy start to the year groundwater levels have held up so normally the canal would be open throughout its length for navigation. But due to damaged lock gates (at 27) and fallen trees breaching the canal near lock 1, it isn't.

Sadly this is also reflected on the Lancaster Canal where Kitty 2 is being built, the boatbuilder was able to do some tests with her in the water, but now the levels there are down by about 12cms, so some boats are sitting on the mud. Kitty 2 is back out of the water and in the workshop.

It goes to show that the efforts and vigilance of the lengthsmen acting as the eyes for the BCA is very important, they know their length and can report issues before they become a bigger problem.

The maintenance backlog on other canals is becoming an increasing challenge as the example referred to above alludes to. Yet with the growth of staycationing puts more pressure on doing 'simple' tasks such as towpath management, where more feet cause more wear and tear.

In the near future we will be taking advantage of the footfall by installing QR codes at selected locations in association with the BCA, to increase the donation channels to us as the Charity supporting the canal. It won't close the financial gap, but alluding to a large supermarket, every little helps. If we get something from the 1.5million visitors we will be delighted. From tiny acorns, mighty oaks grow.

I'm writing this from Edinburgh, during our biennial trip here, the Fringe Festival started in 1947, with 5 venues, now it is around 300, with around 2,400,000 tickets sold in 2023.

However, it was essentially kicked off by volunteers as an offshoot from the International Festival, and it has grown immensely and now delivers over £600m to the Scottish economy.

The Basingstoke Canal can't quite match those figures, but it does create employment, improves mental health, improves the environment, etc. Therefore, we must continue to look after it and keep it in the minds of our newly elected representatives.

Ian Moore, Chairman

Chobham Talks

Post Covid the number of attendees at our Chobham talks has not recovered to the previous levels when the hall was regularly full, almost to capacity. In the hope that more members will return we have decided to continue with a programme for the coming winter season except there will not be any event in December. It was fairly evident last year that most members were too involved with pre Christmas activities to join us and it is embarrassing to invite a speaker only for them to find a very small audience. As before the talks will start at 20:00.

Over the years that these Chobham Talks have been held we have heard about many canal related topics including presentations from all of our neighbouring canal societies.

This season we will widen the scope of topics covered but we will retain a watery theme whenever possible.

Please make an effort to support the talks programme so that we may continue with this long established BCS tradition.

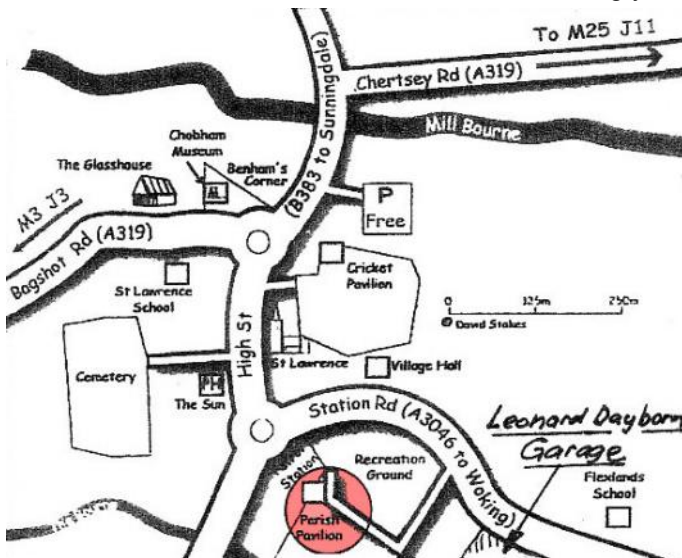
October 16th The speaker will be Chris Green who will present a talk entitled "Brunel's Kingdom". This will cover the famous engineer's most important achievements including his tunnels, bridges, railways and steamships.

November 20th Janette Widdows from The Woodland Trust will present "Stand Up for Trees".

December - No meeting due to poor attendance last year.

January 15th Steve Gibson will talk about, show and offer for sale some examples of "Canal Art".

Please add these dates to your calendar and we look forward to welcoming you.



All talks start at 8pm.

Location: Parish Pavilion on the A3046 Station Road, Chobham

Graham Deavin

Welcome Tarun Ingvorsen

Torun recently joined the Basingstoke Canal Authority as Manager Operations. We spoke to him at a recent event at the Canal Centre. "I have now been at the BCA for just over 2 months and it has been lovely getting to know some of you and meet others at the Basingstoke Canal Volunteer Celebration on the 7th August at the Canal Centre.

I come to the BCA from South West London, working on a DEFRA funded project on flood resilience, climate change preparedness, and river restoration and conservation. My background is in catchment and river restoration, ecology and conservation, and species reintroductions, working across England and in the mountains of the American North East.

Having frequented the canal as a kid, fishing and such with mates I am particularly looking forward to working on the Basingstoke Canal.

It is a very special and unique feature of the Hampshire and Surrey landscapes, not least for its nature and water make up and I eagerly await working on and conserving it with you all."

Ian Moore, Chair of the BCS, welcomed Tarun to the "Basingstoke Canal family" on behalf of the Society and says he looks forward to the new ideas that Tarun will bring to the table. "We've already had some productive sessions, and look forward to many more in the future."



From left: Tarun Ingvorsen and James Taylor, Strategic Manager, BCA

Work Party Report

At the start of this period we did not have any major projects. Before any project is started we need to ensure that all the paperwork is in order, all work details are approved and the source of funding is identified. We used this period of relative calm to undertake some general "housekeeping".

This included tidying Alan Flight and rebalancing the equipment between the boat, van and the barn. The fencing at the barn has all been recoated with preservative as has the front of the barn. The ground has been prepared for the hedge planting on our land at Colt Hill and the area scrub bashed to keep it tidy. A broken tree which was overhanging the canal was removed and the landings at the lift bridge were trimmed.

Our small, but very versatile, work boat "Tank" has been having a spruce up. She was taken out of the water then transported to Ash lock, where she was given a good clean and a bituminous coat on the outside and inside. In addition a new seat was fitted and the bollards repainted, while the decks were given a fresh coat of anti-slip paint. We are looking to get a bespoke cover made as a standard tarpaulin has proven unsuitable.

On the next weekend work party we were diverted to fit a new gate post for the access track to Colt Hill wharf. This had broken and also caused damage to the gate. This was all sorted and in addition, part of the access track was resurfaced.



Colt Hill Wharf access before BCS Volunteers got to work

Duncan Paine



Gate and post repaired thanks to the Work Party volunteers.

For the raft race at Colt Hill in September an adjacent field is used as overflow parking. However, in previous years, problems have arisen in wet weather when the entrance has sunk and created large puddles. We acquired some rubble and have put this in the field gateway and flattened it down. If we can get some more, we will add that as well.

When we arrived at Colt Hill for the next work party, we had a minor bit of excitement with a roe deer suddenly being disturbed. It panicked and jumped in the canal, but sadly could not get out on the towpath side as it is all piled. It then swam back onto our land and hid in the back corner. This meant it was cornered literally. Ian managed to catch it, and unsurprisingly, it struggled until we covered its eyes and it appeared to relax. We then carried it onto the work boat and took it across the canal and let it go in the common land downstream from the bypass bridge. This is in the hope it will not come back and continue to chew the new hedging we have planted. Fingers crossed!

We have started building a small shed for equipment storage at Colt Hill. The area is also being leveled and has been strimmed to keep the area tidy.

We received reports regarding a tree where the top had broken off and was hanging in the canal. The work boat was taken down the canal nearly to the Barley Mow and the tree cut back then twisted off high up and cleared.



Topless tree before clearing

Canoeing on the Canal

Canoe Clubs

There are three canoe clubs operating along the Canal:

The [Blackwater Valley Canoe Club](#) who have contributed the short article below.

Depending on your location you may prefer to contact

[Basingstoke & Deane Canoe Club](#) based at Odiham,

or the

[The Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club](#) at the Canal Centre, Mytchett.

For nearly 40 years Blackwater Valley Canoe Club has been providing the local community with a gateway into the expansive world of paddle sports. Our club's home is at Aldershot Lido, where you can find us paddling every Wednesday evening over the summer months. Throughout the rest of the year you can find us paddling at indoor pools; and of course on the Basingstoke Canal where we host relaxed social paddles on Wednesday evenings in the spring / autumn, as well as occasional weekend trips.

We support our members to participate in a wide variety of disciplines, ranging from recreational / touring paddling on local canals and rivers to whitewater, freestyle, and sea kayaking. The club also has a dedicated canoe polo section who participate in national

leagues and welcome both experienced polo players and beginners.

In addition to weekly paddling sessions we run regular trips. We like to offer something for everyone, so these can range from fun paddles on the Basingstoke Canal, all the way up to a week of whitewater kayaking in the Slovenian mountains!

We are a friendly community centred club, run by volunteers, who always welcome new members, and have a wide selection of club kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards available to use at our sessions. So, whether you're an experienced paddler, or fancy giving it a try for the first time, you can find out more on our website: www.bvcc.org.uk



Canoeing on the Canal



All photographs supplied by Blackwater Valley Canoe Club

From the Archives

This year is the 75th anniversary of the sale of the canal in 1949. In 1923 A J Harmsworth, known as Alec Harmsworth, purchased the canal, which he owned until his death in late 1947. His family decided to sell the canal and it was put up for sale by auction, on 1 March 1949.

In the archives we have many documents, news cuttings and other items relating to the auction and the subsequent events that occurred. A picture of the auction poster is shown overleaf. A picture of the front of the auction catalogue and the page for the canal, lot 1, was previously featured in BCN 280 Winter 2024 page 11. This article is a brief version of the events that occurred.

In 1949 the Inland Waterways Association (IWA) was in its infancy having been formed in 1946. They considered whether they were able to bid for the canal, however it was decided that they would not be able to do so for legal reasons. Nevertheless, a number of the IWA committee and other members decided with the approval of the IWA to form an independent purchasing committee to raise funds to bid for the canal.

The Hon. Sec. of The Basingstoke Canal Purchase Committee was Mrs Joan Marshall who is the mother of the BCS joint president Liz Dodwell and archivist team member James Gregory-Marshall. Mrs Marshall, acting on behalf of the Purchase Committee, attended the auction to bid. The auction was arranged in 36 lots, lot 1 comprising the canal itself with the other lots relating to properties and land. Two of the lots

were withdrawn prior to the auction, leaving the remaining 34 to be sold. The 34 lots all sold at winning bids totalling £16,712. The Purchase Committee prior to the auction had received money, or promises of money, just in excess of £10,000 and with this financial backing Mrs Marshall proceeded to bid for the canal.

The winning bid for the canal, lot 1, by Mrs Marshall was £6,000. She was also the winning bidder on 8 other lots including 3 cottages, 2 boathouses and areas of land for a total of £3,150, the overall total amounting to £9,150.

Thereafter the problems started however, as the purchase committee were unable to legally complete on the purchase. There have been various views expressed over the years as to why this was the case as it certainly appears that it was not due to lack of money. The largely accepted reason was because of the legal situation surrounding the funding that was partly from the general public. This would have been prohibited other than through a public limited company that would have in itself been very expensive and could not be afforded. Whatever the reason the purchase could not go ahead. However, the committee, through Mrs Marshall, found a buyer willing to step in and complete the purchase.

An agreement was made with the approval of all parties for the purchase to be completed by Sydney Cooke through a company formed for the purpose, The New Basingstoke Canal Company Ltd.

Peter Whitlock

This agreement was signed in December 1949 although not made public until later in January 1950. Mrs Marshall was then appointed as the General Manager of the canal a post that she held from 1949 to 1964. The New Basingstoke Canal Company Ltd owned the canal until the 1970's when it was purchased by the current owners, Hampshire and Surrey County Councils. They were encouraged to buy the canal by the Society, that was formed in 1966 with the objective of seeing the canal restored. However, how that came about is another story in itself, to be told at a later date.

If you want to know more about the events subsequent to the auction in 1949 there is an account by Mrs Marshall in BCN No. 196 Winter 2002 starting on page 18 that can be viewed on The Society website. This can be found at <https://basingstoke-canal.org.uk/bcn/bcnews196.htm>

There is also a book by our joint president, Liz Dodwell – My Mother Bought a Canal – expected to be available later this year priced at £20. This will be available from the BCS online shop when published or can be pre-ordered directly from Liz.

We hope that you will find the From the Archives articles interesting and we are happy to receive requests and suggestions regarding what you the members would like us to write about. These can be sent to us at archivist@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

By order of A. J. Barnworth Ltd. and the Westleigh, Woking and Aldershot Canal Co. Ltd.

SURREY & HAMPSHIRE

Byfleet, Woking, Pirbright, Frimley, Godalming, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Fleet, Crookham, Odiham, Gosport and Old Basing

Notice of the Sale by Public Auction of **F13 001**

The Old Inland Waterway

known as

THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL

starting from the Weir Navigation at Bifurc Point above the Hampshire Village of Goswell, a distance of

ABOUT 32 MILES

together with the whole of

THE VALUABLE STANDING TIMBER

and the benefit of certain overflows and runs amounting to about

PER £345-0-0 ANNUM

ALSO

VALUABLE RESIDENTIAL & INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES

adjoining the Canal and including

SPANTONS TIMBER WHARF – WOKING
Let on lease to produce PER £80-0-0 ANNUM Tenants paying rates

HOWFIELD COTTAGE – PIRBRIGHT
A detached country cottage let on a weekly tenancy to produce PER £28-12-0 ANNUM Landlord paying outgoings

THE BOAT HOUSE CAFE – ALDERSHOT
Let on lease and producing PER £65-0-0 ANNUM Tenants paying rates

WHARF HOUSE – ALDERSHOT
Let on a weekly tenancy to produce PER £39-0-0 ANNUM Landlord paying outgoings

LARGE BUILDERS WAREHOUSE AND STORE

situated above and near the locks of

VACANT POSSESSION

CANAL COTTAGE – CROOKHAM
A pleasing old world cottage, let on a service tenancy so that

VACANT POSSESSION

could be obtained

LOCK COTTAGE – ALDERSHOT
A detached house of which

VACANT POSSESSION

could be obtained

THE WHARF HOUSE – ODIHAM
A pleasing detached residence let to produce PER £50-0-0 ANNUM Tenants paying rates

SEVERAL ENCLOSURES OF ALLOTMENT & GARDEN LANDS

Above: The original advertisement for the canal

Right: Cartoon from Daily Mirror



Sketches from JP11

You may recall that in the previous edition we reported the assistance provided by the John Pinkerton II crew to the emergency services in locating vulnerable person and then supporting them in the rescue. Paul Nicholson was one of the passengers on the delayed trip that evening and contacted us with the following comment:

“Thank you for the excellent cruise my wife and I enjoyed on the John Pinkerton II on Wednesday afternoon, 29th May 2024.

Please convey our thanks to the skipper and his crew, who were at all times polite, competent and friendly.

I have thousands of miles and tens of night hours crewing sailing yachts on the briny avoiding things and edges, so it was quite a contrast for me to see a canal boat deliberately getting utility

from using the reeds and soft edges at times.

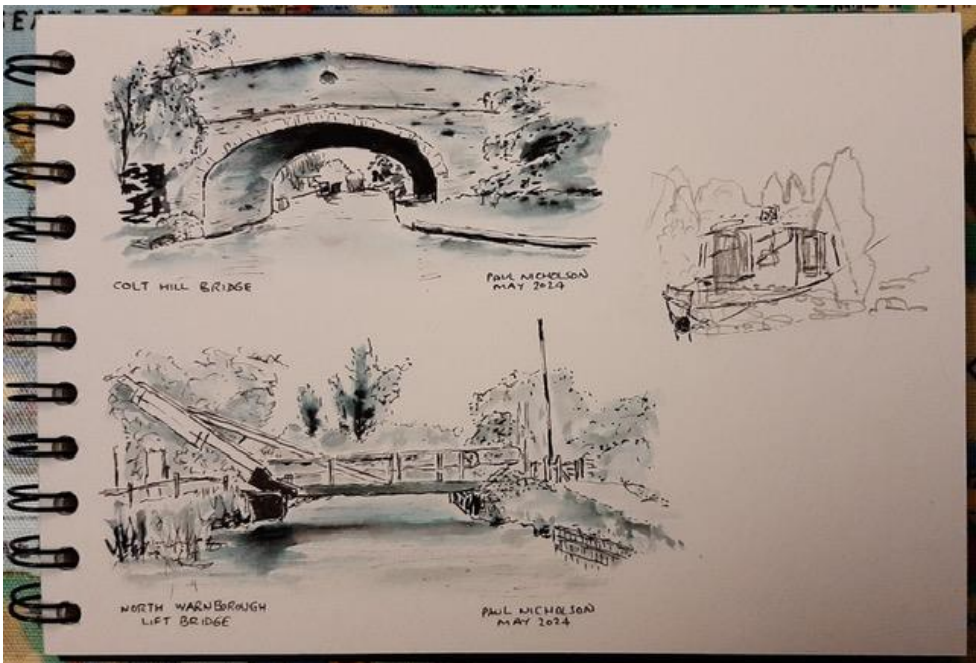
We do hope the gentleman we found on the bank recovered from his day?

We were proud of what the crew did for this chap. We were grateful for how they kept us updated from time to time, and how they acted as a (dry) conduit for the many emergency services mobilised for him.

I used the time afforded by the pause to start some sketches of bridges I'd seen that day, not that I often draw, especially not in public. These are unfinished sketches.

Thanks again for a great day out!”

Thank you Paul for sharing your experience on JP11 and also your sketches, one of which is shown below.



Thanks to Stihl

The Society wants to say a hearty thanks to professional toolmaker Stihl for donating an electric Brushcutter to the Society.

Stihl are good friends of the Canal as they have supported us before with power tools which our volunteers use all the time to help manage the towpath which with 32 miles of canal is a never ending job. Indeed of the 30,000 hours of work that the volunteers do on the canal, a good proportion is on

maintenance of the towpath and offside banks.

As can be seen from the photo of our tools, we are increasingly using electric tools as not only are they environmentally friendly but allow the volunteers the flexibility to transport them in our own vehicles without some of the restrictive petrol COSHH regulations. So thanks once again to Stihl for their support!



Trustee Ken Sankey with the brand new Brushcutter (don't tell him but he hasn't realised that it is not yet connected to a battery pack!)

Oak Processionary Moth

On 29th July we posted on Facebook regarding a tree on the Woking stretch that was down, but more importantly was covered with Oak Processionary Moth (OPM).

OPM is regulated as a quarantine pest and as such it is under official Government control measures and cannot be dealt with or moved without prior authorisation and then must be dealt with by specialist tree surgeons.

The BCA rangers have to abide by the regulated process to deal with OPM.

This is an incredibly dangerous pest which can cause itchy rashes, eye and

throat irritations and even breathing difficulties in both people and animals. In rare cases contact with OPM hairs may cause a life threatening allergic reaction.

Unfortunately following the discovery of that infestation, the BCA rangers and BCS volunteers came across another tree with OPM on the New Haw stretch.

If you see a tree you think may be infected with OPM on the Basingstoke Canal please advise the Canal Authority immediately with exact location, nearest length marker or use What3words, if it helps.

Further information about OPM can be found on this Government website page :-

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-oak-processionary-moth-in-england>

Images provided below are for assistance with identification. May to July is the greatest risk period when the caterpillars are most numerous and are active around the tree or on the ground.



Inglis Bridge Listed

The WW1 Inglis pipe bridge crossing the canal immediately upstream of Farnborough Road has recently been listed Grade II by Historic England (HE) joining many of the much older bridges on the canal which are already listed.

It is the first portable bridge by Charles Inglis (1875-1952), which was used effectively on the battlefield during the First World War and was hugely influential in the development of future military bridges. It is a rare example of a Mk1 Inglis bridge, and is only one of ten known to have been manufactured during the First World War. It was also listed due to architectural interest. The innovative lightweight and component based design allowed a team of 12 soldiers to erect the structure in around 15 minutes. This bridge type was effective in the field, being easily transported and requiring little specialist training to erect.

The bridge across the Canal at Aldershot, appears to be the only complete Mk1 Inglis Pyramid Bridge remaining in situ, in England. It was relocated here from France, to allow pedestrian and services to connect between the various barracks in the area. It is first shown on the 1963 edition of the Ordnance Survey map, however a canal crossing is shown on 1944 aerial images.

If you wish to find out more the following links may be of interest

Mk1 Inglis Portable Military Bridge (Light Type) over the Basingstoke Canal - List Entry

Number: 1489910 <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1489910>

The Think Defence article referenced in the listing (<https://thinkdefence.wordpress.com/2011/12/30/uk-military-bridging-equipment-pre-wwii-equipment-bridging/>) gives some background information on the Inglis bridge (also of the two WWI era Hopkins military bridges at Claycart and, that soon to be replaced, at Eelmoor)

A later Think Defence article (not included in the HE listing) gives more detailed information on Charles Edward Inglis's career and his bridge designs: <https://www.thinkdefence.co.uk/2023/08/the-inglis-bridges>

Nigel Searle



News in Brief

Have your say

Residents and visitors are being encouraged to have their say about what they value about the Basingstoke Canal Centre in Mytchett, and where there might be opportunities for improvement.

Surrey County Council took on direct responsibility for the Canal Centre site in April 2024 and is now considering how best to enhance the centre based on the needs of the community it serves, in a financially sustainable way. Activities available at the centre include camping, boat hire, a children's playground and a café.

Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment at Surrey County Council said, *"The Basingstoke Canal Centre at Mytchett is a much-loved community asset providing access to public green and blue space for local residents and visitors.*

"As with all community assets, the site carries a considerable annual operating cost and we want to ensure that any potential future investment is based on the needs of the community it serves

and spent wisely, to deliver a financially sustainable facility that the community can get great enjoyment from.

"We're keen to gain valuable input from current and potentially new users to help inform the future services provided at the Centre."

An online survey to capture feedback is available at canalcentre.commonplace.is from 20 August to 27 September 2024.

Hard copies will also be available from the Canal Centre, and Surrey County Council staff will also be on site speaking to users on selected dates throughout the survey period (full details will be available on the Council's [Basingstoke Canal webpages](#)).

Welcome to Canal visitors

One of the recent narrowboats to visit the Basingstoke Canal wrote a blog about their visit. It starts from the 8th of June and gives a great flavour of what it's like to take a narrowboat along the canal. You can read it on the following link:

<https://oleanna.co.uk/2024/06/>

News in Brief

Angling on the Canal from the BCA

We have become aware of a number of comments on both our own and related social media sites that are misleading or do not contain correct information about angling on the Canal. This post is to clarify the position to ensure that all canal users have the correct information.

The Basingstoke Canal Authority Ranger Team actively check user licences for a wide range of activities that require a licence (boating, kayaking, paddleboarding, etc). Since the Basingstoke Canal Angling Association (BCAA) relinquished their licence on 16 June 2024, at the start of the new fishing season; this includes fishing permits. The income generated by licences and permits goes straight into the maintenance of the canal and towpath.

For anyone being checked on bank who has not already purchased an annual permit, day tickets are also available on line and can be purchased for the Hantsweb shop (Angling permit – Hampshire County Council Shop (hants.gov.uk)) using any smartphone. The Ranger Team are happy to assist you with this.

The Ranger Team will continue to check anyone found fishing on the canal and will require proof of a valid permit to continue fishing. If a valid licence or permit cannot be produced for their activity, they will have the choice of purchasing a day ticket online from the canal bank, or leaving the canal.

Rangers are directly employed by the canal owners, Hampshire and Surrey County Councils, and have the legal authority to enforce the Canal bylaws, or any rule or restriction imposed by the landowners. Please can all anglers ensure they are familiar with the angling rules as there are a number of changes from those of the BCAA canal -angling-rules.pdf (hants.gov.uk).

The Canal Authority has a 24hr emergency response for canal related issues 07894 425588. We can also be contacted via email at info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk. If you believe illegal fishing and the theft of fish is taking place, we ask that you call the police on 999 and report the criminal offence. You can also call the Environment Agency Hotline on 0800 80 70 60 to report your suspicions.

The information above was provided by the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA).

A Summer of Events

As ever, weekends in June and July were incredibly busy for the events team. Some weekends we were out both days and on others we managed to share equipment and do two events on the same day.

Considering that the summer of 2024 will be memorable for some pretty awful weather – we have been lucky and not had to dry out wet equipment too much. We can sit back in August having some time off and feel quite satisfied that it was all well worth the effort. We have talked to many members of the public along most of the canal and were delighted to welcome many new members to the Society, helped by the “Win a boat trip” promotion.

Saturday 8th June - Victoria Day, Aldershot

We were offered a cancellation stall at the annual Victoria Day and hastily put together a team for the day and a display of photographs from recent BCS calendars to keep to the theme of *Carnival of Animals*. With the constant flow of people passing along Union Street, we spoke to many interested visitors to our stall, including Rushmoor councillors.

Monday 8th June - Volunteer Share & Care Event, Netley

The Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA) asked us to provide a display at an event hosted by Hampshire Countryside Service at the chapel

in the Royal Victoria Country Park. Two BCA Rangers were there as well as Ian Moore, BCS Chairman, who received a Long Service Award for ten years support.

Saturday 22nd June - St John's Village Fete

The annual fete at St John's is organised by the scouts and is well-attended. With the election looming it brought out councillors, wanting to be seen. We had a constant flow of visitors to our stall, with interest in recent local news about changes on the canal and social media posts.

Saturday 29th June - Ash Village Fete

It was a rather frantic set up at a new venue for us, where the canal is a central feature in the village. We had plenty of interest from visitors of all ages and many were keen to talk to us about their interest in the canal. Quite a few visitors signed up to become members.

Sunday 30th June - Zebon Copse Community Centre

This event is organised by the local Residents Association. After a damp start we enjoyed a glorious afternoon and many interested residents signed up as members. Several commented about the recent painting of the swing bridge access to the canal.

Heather Sloane



Above: BCS Events Team at Ash Village Fete, June 2024



Above: BCS Gazebo at Zebon Copse Community Centre

Events Team

Saturday 8th July - Pyrford & Wisley Villages Flower Show

Despite the M25 closure which provided some challenges, all went well. We had plenty of local interest and were invited to contribute to an interview for the local radio. We gave away a lot of information and boat trip leaflets to those interested in their local canal. Again we signed up a number of new members.

Saturday 8th July – Odiham Church Fete

At Hatchwood House our team of three pitched the lightweight gazebo and settled into a good afternoon. Unfortunately, at about 4pm 'the heavens opened', the event ended abruptly and team had to rescue the stall as the Chinook helicopter took off. Our volunteers did a great job of making a successful afternoon which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

Tuesday 16th July - The Mikron Theatre at The Mill House

The performance of 'Jennie Lee' was a well scripted play about the extraordinary life of the radical MP. The enlightening story was portrayed by the talented Mikron team of four, who entertained a good audience in the delightful pub garden.

Saturday 20th July - Dogmersfield Flower Show

We pitched both our gazebos and the Buzzer Box in our usual place by the fence as the vintage vehicles arrived. The clouds broke up and brought some sunshine as well as local visitors to this traditional country show. Our second gazebo was used to display a collection of green & white china and sales money was donated to the canal society.



View from the Gazebo at Pyrford & Wisley Villages Flower Show.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 29th July - Nature Discovery Day, Edenbrook Country Park

A new event arranged by Hart District Council following on as part of their "Greening Fleet" project. The site was delightful and many local organisations were there, but it was difficult to find, so not well attended. We felt that it hadn't been advertised much in the local community.

I write this as the representative of an amazing group of people who make up The Events Team. They are a great bunch, many of whom also volunteer on either work

groups, boat crews and other organisational roles. They all share different stories and experiences on the canal. I always come away with another 'little gem of information' about this wonderful waterway. It's a great team and we are always looking to welcome someone new to the team. Do come along and join us (if just for an hour or two) - we have a lot of fun.

If you have additional suggestions of events or are interested in joining our team, please contact me.

Heather Sloane

Events Coordinator

heather.sloane@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Autumn Events and Christmas Plans for 2024

Some regular favourites and some new Christmas events to try. Please drop by and say hello.

Sunday 1st September 1pm – 5pm	*Odiham Raft Race Colt Hill, Odiham RG29 1AL
Saturday 14 th September 11am – 5pm	*River Wey Festival - National Trust, Dapdune Wharf, Guildford, GU1 4RR
Thur. 9 th November 10am – 2 pm	Working Together for Woking, Woking leisure Centre, GU22 9BA
Wednesday 27 th November Afternoon & evening	Fleet Christmas Festivities, Fleet Town Centre. GU51 3LA
Saturday 30 th November 12 noon – 4:30pm	Ash Christmas Fantasia The Ash Centre, GU12 5DP

Membership

Membership Numbers

In the last BCN I reported membership at 1048. Since then we ran a competition in June with a prize of boat tickets. This was won by Brenda Corne. This obviously attracted a lot of support for the society as can be seen by the numbers joining in the last few months:

May	25
June	67
July	42
Aug	3

This brings our paid up membership to **1167**, the most it has ever been in my memory. However we still have some members who have not renewed, so we need to keep the momentum going. Please encourage friends, family and anyone you meet to join us!

Gift Aid

I have just submitted a claim to H.M.R.C for repayment of Gift Aid for just over £2000 so thank you for all those that have signed (or ticked) the declaration. We **can** 'back claim' so if you haven't done this yet please see the last BCN for details.

Andy Beale

Membership Secretary

Membership@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

BCS Information

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* indicates Director of the Society.

Presidents: Tim & Elizabeth Dodwell

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Honorary Secretary	Celia Griffiths *	Kitty Trip Boat Manager	Ian Moore *
Treasurer	David Wall *	Sales Manager	Roger Cansdale
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IT	Chris Bard *	External Talks	Roger Cansdale
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Work Site Manager	Kevin Redway	BCN Editor	Elsbeth Levi

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View from Kitty



Photograph by Chris Bard