



The Basingstoke
Canal Society

Basingstoke Canal News

No. 258 Summer 2018





Editorial

The AGM's very low attendance figure of only 45 members (which included about 15 who were either on the Committee or helping to run the meeting) was perhaps unsurprising due to the counter-attractions of a sunny day, Royal wedding and Cup Final. Nevertheless, it was disappointing and not very encouraging for those trying to run the Canal Society.

Cover Picture : An evening paddle from Mytchett to Crookham; Hannah Gallagher seen here at Eelmoor with ASBO the swan.

Photo: © Sharon Gallagher.

It got me wondering afterwards whether we actually needed the Society any more. Why not just have our Friends of the Basingstoke Canal?

It soon dawned on me however that if you actually want to achieve anything, you need an organisation, which needs a management structure. Unless you have this, you can't raise money, organise meetings or work parties or really do anything useful.

The Canal Society has the power to achieve things that an amorphous group of Friends, however well-meaning and enthusiastic, will never be able to do.

Having said that, it is great to have their backing, but it would be even greater if we could make it a bit more physical and not just a comment on Facebook. There is a suggestion that we should have some sort of mid-summer social event at the Canal Centre and it would be interesting to know what sort of response that might get.

This is not one of the more sparkling issues of the BCN, being late, with a lot of writing and 4 pages devoted to the General Data Protection Regulations (which are almost enough to make me a Brexiteer). However, we took the decision to ask members for their permission to send them not only stuff about the Canal Society and its activities, which could have been covered by "legitimate interest", but also from time to time things about BCA events and activities and perhaps other general canal stuff, which apparently would not be.

If you have given us your email address, you will have been invited to give this consent by email and, hopefully, will have already done so. If we can't contact you by email, you should receive a form and pre-stamped envelope with this issue of the BCN. Please take time to fill it in and pop it in the post.

If we do not receive this consent from you, you will continue to receive the Basingstoke Canal News, but not much else apart from subscription fee demands.

* * * * *

It was a shame Mike Gordon was not at the AGM to receive the Robin Higgs Award (he was doing something more useful on the Patrol Boat!), but it was a very well deserved recognition.

The Lengthsmen and the volunteer crews of the BCA's boats are one of the great success stories on the canal in recent years, making a massive contribution to its operation and it wouldn't have happened without Mike's coordination and drive. The award is really for all of them.

Chairman's AGM report

In my report last year I expressed disappointment that the County Councils had terminated their discussions with the Canal & River Trust over the proposed take over of the Basingstoke Canal. Thankfully this proved to be a temporary suspension and, as soon as the County elections were out of the way, negotiations resumed. This was evidenced by a very positive and upbeat presentation given to the Joint Management Committee at its November meeting where Peter Taylor of the C&RT confirmed that the Trust would welcome the opportunity to include the Basingstoke as an important component of its national network. It was particularly interesting to note that the Trust currently has no waterways under its management in the south east of England and the Basingstoke would offer an excellent opportunity to rectify that deficiency.

In our view this would take us a long way towards our long held belief that the future security of the waterways in our region

(including the Thames, R Wey, Basingstoke and Wey & Arun) can best be achieved by bringing them together under the national charity responsible for the inland waterways in England and Wales.

Clearly much work remains to be done if the transfer is to be achieved within a reasonable timescale. In that regard we must bear in mind that the C&RT will become increasingly involved with its Government grant renewal from 2022 onwards, the transfer of the EA waterways to the Trust must be accomplished and the County Councils will continue to face huge pressures on their finances. County elections are also due again in 2021 so this will also begin to influence the pace and timing of the negotiations.

All of these factors combine to make it evident that if the transfer of the Basingstoke is to take place, it should happen in the next three or four years. Indeed, Peter Taylor expressed the view



QAVS

Measures to comply with the new GDP Regulations may have delayed publication of this issue of the BCN, but the delay means that we are able to announce, with great pride, that the Society has been honoured with a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of over half a century of work on the Basingstoke Canal.

This is the group equivalent of an MBE and was announced in the London Gazette on 2nd June 2018. Our Chairman and Vice-Chairman attended this garden party for award winners at Buckingham Palace on 31st May.

Chairman's AGM report

that the Trust would be happy with a shorter timeframe.

So what can the Society do to assist the Trust and the Counties in achieving their overall objective? In our opinion the priority is to make the canal as self-sustaining as possible to ensure that the inevitable cost to the Counties (the so-called dowry) is kept to a minimum.

We are intending to contribute in a variety of ways. Firstly we would like to see more facilities provided for canal users and visitors. These should include new moorings and boat basins (our weekend volunteer team is currently constructing new permanent moorings at Farnborough Road, Aldershot and our recent acquisition of land at Colt Hill should enable us to build a new boat basin on that site).

Better facilities are needed for the canoe clubs (including the provision of a proper base at Mytchett for the Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club) and consideration should be given to provide one or two visitor centres along the lines of the successful visitor centre at Loxwood on the Wey & Arun.

We are also encouraging the 6 riparian district authorities to do more to support the canal. This not only means paying in their full revenue contributions during the critical phase up to the transfer but also becoming more pro-active in obtaining benefits for the canal from new developments (the possibility of a canal-side development on the large housing development at Wellesley comes to mind and we would like to see some funding coming from the Community Infrastructure Levy).

We would also like to see a more pragmatic approach by Natural England who exercise considerable control over the way in which the canal is managed. We have repeatedly made the point that unworkable policies (such as restricting boat movements on sections of the canal that have been dredged) will only contribute to the long term decline of the canal and the eventual loss of its ecological value.

More could be done to promote the canal as a key local amenity. Again the local authorities could play a much more energetic role. For our part we have made very significant strides in widening our support base, for example by starting our Friends of the Canal scheme and by strengthening our links with the riparian districts through the appointment of local liaison officers. We have a good story to tell.

Our trip boat operations go from strength to strength (thanks to the sterling efforts of Dick King, Ian Moore and their teams), our Lengthsmens Scheme, under the able direction of Mike Gordon, continues to provide an essential source of eyes and ears for the BCA and due, I believe, partly to our efforts we are beginning to get firm action taken on long standing issues such as the repairs that are needed to Swan Cutting.

I have been very encouraged by the progress of the Society over the last 12 months and I think we can look forward, with confidence, to a bright future for the canal. As always, our success is dependent on the energy and commitment of our members and I would like to thank you all (and all the members who can't be here today) for your generous support.

Philip Riley

AGM report

Our 2018 Annual General Meeting found itself not only in competition with Harry and Megan's Royal Wedding and the Cup Final but also with a very nice sunny afternoon, so it was perhaps not surprising that attendance was low - 46 people including the speaker. Thanks to the old faithfuls who did turn out.

After the usual apologies for absence and acceptance of the minutes of the previous AGM, the main business began with Guy Faller's financial report (*summary on page 6*).

Income overall at £99,000 was a net £34,000 higher than in 2016:

Subscriptions - Membership levels had been stable at around 950 registered memberships.

Bequests - We had no significant bequests in 2016, but in 2017 we were the beneficiary of a £48,000 bequest from the estate of Peter and Margaret Holland.

Grants received - These comprise discretionary grants from councillors in both Surrey and Hampshire county councils. In 2015 we received some promises, but the receipts only materialised in 2016, increasing the run rate for that year. The level in 2017 was more normal.

Income from subsidiaries - This comprised the net profits of our trading subsidiaries paid to us under covenant, and arose from fares from operating the trip boat as well proceeds from sales of food and drink and memorabilia on the trip boat. This was down on 2016 for a variety of reasons - boat trips were down from an excellent 2016, and it is a non Farnborough year (£7,700); there were some one-off costs incurred to get Kitty ready for operations (£2,800); SHCC bore the full cost of its

merchandise whereas in the past some was paid for by the society (£1,600); and higher insurance costs for the boating operations (£900).

Other fundraising income - The main items of income here were from the 200 Club, Woking group meetings, speaking and talks, book sales and sales of logs.

Expenditure overall in 2017 was some £6,000 less than in 2016:

Projects and Work Parties - Expenditure in 2017 was similar to that in 2016. Specific projects undertaken in 2017 will be discussed later at the meeting. We did a lot of planning work on a new project at Farnborough Road but this wasn't able to start until 2018.

Postage, stationery and printing - Expenditure in 2017 was higher than in 2016 due to the fact that we reprinted a brochure in 2017 whereas there was no such costs in 2016.

Equipment and maintenance - Expenditure in 2017 was higher than in 2016. This expenditure can be a little unpredictable due to its nature.

Rallies and events - Expenditure in 2016 was almost entirely due to the cost of putting on the Woking Canal Festival in August 2016, and there was no equivalent event in 2017.

Balance Sheet

Fixed assets - There were no major items of capital expenditure in 2016, but in 2017 our

Society accounts for 2017

Summary of accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017

Income and expenditure account

	2017 £	2016 £
Income		
Subscriptions	7,250	8,677
Donations - general	4,734	2,981
Bequests	48,428	0
Grants received	3,200	5,600
Gift Aid Recoveries	2,135	2,133
Income from subsidiaries	30,245	43,762
Fundraising income	2,875	1,693
Interest received	255	445
	<u>99,122</u>	<u>65,291</u>
Less expenditure		
Projects and working parties	(17,857)	(17,299)
Newsletter	(3,891)	(4,140)
Postage, stationery and printing	(3,590)	(2,448)
Insurance	(5,451)	(3,966)
Depreciation less profit on sale of assets	(1,407)	(1,407)
Equipment maintenance	(2,478)	(1,796)
Rallies and events	(1,012)	(10,114)
Accountants' fee	(1,800)	(1,975)
Donations / sponsorships	(90)	(126)
Travel and subsistence	(75)	(168)
Other expenditure	(2,214)	(2,316)
	<u>(39,866)</u>	<u>(45,755)</u>
Net income	<u>59,256</u>	<u>19,536</u>

Balance Sheet

Fixed assets		
Investment in subsidiary companies	101	101
Freehold land & buildings	50,412	50,412
Plant & equipment	7,684	3,091
Amounts due from subsidiary company		
Loans - JPCC	122,710	126,111
SHCC	2,142	3,479
Profit for year donated	30,245	43,762
Other debtors	2,310	2,133
Cash at bank and in hand	230,322	155,518
Accrued expenses	(5,980)	(3,918)
Net assets	<u>439,945</u>	<u>380,689</u>
 General fund	 436,216	 376,960
Restricted fund	3,729	3,729
Total funds	<u>439,945</u>	<u>380,689</u>

AGM report

Fixed Assets increased by £6,000 due to the purchase of the work support boat *Jim Douglas*.

Cash - The increase in cash at bank and in hand from the end of 2016 reflected the surplus of income over expenditure for the period as well as our subsidiaries paying down elements of their debt to us. Our policy remains as it was, to spread our resources to ensure we benefit from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Funds - Just a reminder that our contributed and earned funds have to be shown in a way that reflects the terms on which we hold them.

General funds have no restriction on how they are utilised. Restricted funds are those where the use of the money was specified by the donor.

The change in the General Fund for the year reflects the surplus for the year.

Summary - In summary, Guy believed that the Society had the financial resources to continue in the furtherance of its objectives in the future. The Society had cash resources in excess of £230,000 remaining for future projects and operations, and had plans for some significant projects in 2018 which will utilise some of the balances.

Guy invited questions and the only one was a query about a possible rise in subscription rates in future. Guy said that there would probably be a modest increase but that the main change would be a simplification of the rates.

A motion to approve the accounts was proposed by David Millett, seconded by John Wall and carried unanimously.

The Barnbrook Sinclair Partnership LLP were re-appointed as the examining accountants.

The meeting then moved on to the appointment of Directors. Only 11 names had been put forward for the 12 posts, so these were duly approved: Philip Riley, Martin Leech, Terry Inskip, Guy Faller, Janet Buckley, Roger Cansdale, Jeff Hill, Dick King, Kevin Redway, Ken Sankey and John Wall. Philip Riley expressed disappointment at the lack of interest in the Committee and said that anyone could put their name forward at any time.

This concluded the formal business of the AGM and we then moved on to the presentation of the Robin Higgs Award. This went to Mike Gordon for his work in the last 5 years organising the Lengthsmen scheme and the volunteer crewing of the BCA's patrol boat. Mike was in fact crewing the patrol boat on the afternoon of the AGM, so the trophy was accepted on his behalf by one of the Lengthsmen, Ted Stedman.



We have subsequently received the following letter from Mike:

Thank you all so very much for the Robin Higgs Award which I accept on behalf of all the Lengthsman. Rarely am I lost for words but this stunned me speechless! It has taken a few days to compose myself.

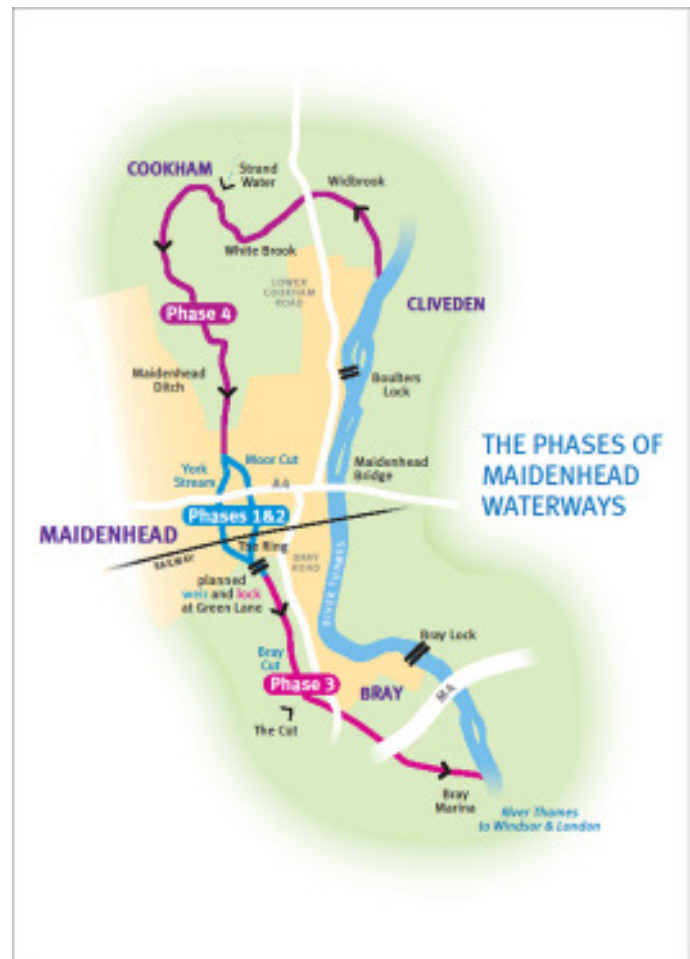
It is a lovely feeling to have developed the Lengthsman Scheme to its dizzy heights of 64 ambassadors, promoting the canal and Society at every opportunity. The sheer quantity of people out and about means that we can be very effective with the mundane little jobs and when called to go out and inspect after a storm, we can check the entire length of the canal in less than 24 hours. This takes a huge burden away from the BCA Rangers, who are then free to respond more effectively. However the downside is that I now struggle to remember and recognise everyone so I have resorted to calling everyone There, as in "Hello there!" I am also now unable to meet each Lengthsman at least once a year but I try my best and benefit physically from the constant walking and cycling along the towpath. With my other job as Rota Manager for the BCA Boats, in particular, Rosebud and the Patrol Boat, I am kept rather busy. The two jobs dovetail together so very nicely and the net result is rather gratifying.

While you do not see me at committee meetings and AGM's, I am always very willing to answer any questions you have and file any reports you may need, at any time and of course I'll carry on promoting the canal and the society for as long as my knees allow.

Mike Gordon

Visiting speaker

After a refreshment break, Richard Davelnport gave a very interesting talk about the work that has been going on to turn Maidenhead, which he said did not really look like a Thameside town at the moment, into a much more interesting place.



The first stage was to re-establish the waterway ring in the town centre. A great deal of work had already been done and the western York Stream half of the ring was nearing completion. The target date for re-opening the ring for small boats was 2020 or sooner and over the following decade it was hoped to open it up to increasingly large boats. The next step would be to upgrade the Bray Cut, the more southern link to the Thames, at which point a lock would be needed to link it to the town ring. The final step would be the northern link.

AGM

The project was clearly well-supported and so far well funded, with about £10 million already spent; it probably helps to have the Prime Minister as the local MP. However, a lot more will be needed.

The sad thing is that the waterways were all there, just neglected and derelict, so it is great that Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group has had the drive to get this potentially wonderful asset to the town under way again. We shall watch the progress with interest.

Richard took questions:

Q. How much of the ring is currently visible to walkers?

A. About half but increasing.

Q. Who will own it all?

A. There are about 200 riparian landowners. The Council owns about 80% of the town centre ring.

Q. The River Kennet runs through the Shopping Centre in Reading, but it is impossible to moor a boat there. Will there be boat moorings in Maidenhead?

A. Yes, for a couple of narrow boats.

Q. Any bat problems?

A. Surveys have been done but no problems so far.

Q. Tubular piling was being used. What was the advantage?

A. It looks nicer and is 30% cheaper than sheet.

Boat Company report

Following Richard's talk, Dick King reported on the Boat Company's progress in 2017. He began by remarking that it didn't seem possible that it was 5 years since the launching of the *JPII*.

As noted by Guy, 2017 had been a less

profitable year; trips were down and there had been no airshow to boost takings. Nevertheless, over £30,000 had been passed to the Society. Kitty had had a good first year of operation, drawing amazing comments about the canal from visitors from all over the world.

Dick paid tribute to everyone involved with the operation of the two boats and, in particular to Penny and Tim Cadle who were standing down from their publicity and training posts. Happily Roger Stanwell had joined the committee and was now helping with publicity.

This year particular thanks were due to Community Volunteers from Enterprise Car Rentals, who had done much of the dry dock work on the hull.



Another novelty was a real live man-overboard exercise courtesy of a retired RNLI trainer who volunteered to be the victim. Dick invited volunteers for next year! (*Photo on page 10*)

Work Party report

The final report of the AGM came from Jeff Hill, who reviewed the various projects that the Work Party had been involved with in 2017.



Above: Man overboard exercise

These had included the repair of the towpath at Colt Hill, the start of the installation of new moorings near Farnborough Road, vast amounts of offside bank clearance work between Odiham and Winchfield, repair and modification of the work boat *Fly* and a start to the lowering of the wharf at Crookham to enable passengers, particularly the disabled, to get on and off boats more easily (*see back cover*).

Following Jeff's report, Philip Riley reminded the meeting that there was to be a raft race at Odiham on Sunday 2nd September and appealed for help on the day. He then opened a forum for questions.

Q. If the boat basin at Odiham goes ahead, what about the water supply problem?

A. Water abstraction by SE Water at Greywell is due to stop, which should help. This was to be in 2020 but the company now wants to delay it until 2025. We will object to this.

Q. Given that this is the second year of Kitty's operation, why are there no signs to attract passing trade?

A. We tried waiting for passing trade with the previous boat that we had in Woking and it proved very unpopular with crews. Crews do put signs out when they are there and hand out leaflets, but most customers now come via social media and the website.

Q. Why are there not more leaflets out?

A. We could do with more people to organise local distribution of leaflets and other publications.

Q. A recent litter clearance session in Woking drew praise from Kitty's passengers. Should the Society join in?

A. An invitation to join a similar event in Fleet has been received, but again we need someone to organise this.

Q. If the intended transfer of the canal to the C&RT does not take place, what then?

A. There is no Plan B!

The meeting ended on this slightly sombre note. Let's hope Plan A works!

Thanks to Tim and especially Liz Dodwell for again chairing the AGM in her usual lively way.

Work on the canal

It's been a busy year so far, as this BCA report to the JMC shows:

BCA Maintenance & Inspection Works

Planned

The BCA carried out the following planned maintenance and inspection tasks:

- *Upper and lower Lock gates replaced at Lock 22 and pot reset*
- *Winter flail cutting of towpath.*
- *Drain down for full inspection of St Johns Lock flight by SCC Engineer (All of the locks inspected so far have been in better than expected condition).*
- *Offside cutting at Ash Vale, Lousey Moor (Nr Dogmersfield Park) and Malthouse Cutting.*
- *Replanking of gates at Lock 8 and repairs to Lock 25 gates.*
- *Greywell Tunnel engineer's inspection and bat hibernation survey.*
- *Agreement holder removed 10 tonnes of signal crayfish from canal during year.*
- *Preparation works for Farnborough Road mooring including offside cutting and car park refurbishment.*
- *Length Inspections, Supplemental Inspections, Reservoir Surveillance Inspections / Reservoir Inspection by the Supervising Engineer, and the Lock General Inspections were all conducted on target.*
- *Additionally a complete inspection of all Embankments identified as have a significant consequence on failure was conducted – the BCA has not been regularly meeting this target to this point.*

Reactive

- *Visiting boats lifted lock gates at both lock 2 and Lock 15, both required repairs and reinstating as a result. Boats recharged for costs incurred in repairs.*
- *Repairs to minor leaks at Woking, St Johns and Crookham silt dump embankments.*
- *Repairs to stem leaks to high risk embankments below Lock 1 and Pyestock following cyclical inspections – showing the value of regular inspection*
- *Badger “eviction” from Dinorben embankment to prevent damage to integrity of embankment.*
- *Work with Canal Society preparing plans for works at Crookham Wharf car park to lower wharf height and general refurbishment of car park and new map sign.*
- *Tree clearance works for 2 weeks following bad weather late 2017.*
- *Large Ash tree self felled and hung up next to Poulter's bridge. Required extensive works by rangers to bring down safely and clear from canal.*



Rob Locatelli is starting work to extend the quay in Woking (Photo by Nigel Searle)

The perils of

Having written enthusiastically in the last issue about our success in getting followers for the Society's Facebook page (over 1900 now), I suppose that it was inevitable that someone would appear to try to spoil the party.



It was all about the large willow tree that stands at the bottom of the garden of the Water Witch at Odiham. Out of the blue, messages started to appear on Facebook accusing the Society of criminal damage and vandalism by a "senior member" and threatening police action and saying that "he will do his best to make sure the canal society loses hundreds of members if it is cut down". An email was also sent by this gentleman to our Chairman which said

"I am very concerned that the willow tree at the end of The Waterwitch Pub garden in Odiham could be cut down.

One of your senior members has been vandalising this tree in order to prove that it is

dead. I am totally furious with what this stupid, nasty and ignorant man is doing.

Could you please intervene urgently before I inform the police."

This was then taken up by another man who claimed on Facebook that it was all down to the Society and nothing to do with the pub.

In actual fact, the action had nothing to do with the Society. The tree surgeons were called in by the pub's owners because the base of the tree had gone rotten after a large branch came off some years ago.



The photo clearly shows decay, not vandalism. There was concern (that may have been voiced quite forcefully to the pub by someone - we don't know who) that the tree could fall into the

Facebook

canal. It is certainly leaning that way and given that this part of the canal probably has more rowing boats and canoes operating on it than anywhere else on the Hampshire pound, it presented a very real threat to public safety. A similar willow fell across the canal not far away about 4 years ago.

The pub, with whom the Canal Society is on very good terms, was absolutely right to take action.

It is always sad to see the end of a beautiful tree, but willows are fast growing, do not live very long and are called “crack willows” for a good reason.

There was certainly no call to make slanderous and ill-informed remarks about the Canal Society without even bothering to establish the facts.



*Above: BCA dredger *Unity* just visible behind fallen willow tree in 2014*

The messages were taken down, but the real message is “Engage brain before you start posting on social media!”

Spring

This year, spring went from the Beast from the East ice and snow in mid-March to 28°C heat in mid-April.

No wonder the plants on the towpath were late appearing.

Right: Lock 15



Events

Mikron Theatre

The previously annual visit from the Mikron Theatre company did not take place last year, because the Fox & Hounds' management was not interested and the Fleet Football Club had decided to stop hiring out their hall, which had previously used in bad weather.

This year, David Millett has arranged for the performance to take place in the garden of the Water Witch at Colt Hill, Odiham on Friday 6th July, starting at 7.30pm.

This year's show will be 'REVOLTING WOMEN', which tells the Suffrage story through the eyes of a less well known Pankhurst, Sylvia, who fought for the vote alongside working women in the East End. Sylvia meets Lettie and they push together to Parliament, to bend the ear of the Cabinet.



According to the Mikron website, the show is full of political satire, song and more suffrage societies than you can shake a stick at, and unravels a contentious and momentous movement in history!

HELP!

Malcolm Brickwood has stepped down as Chobham talks organiser, but he has already booked the speakers for the 2018/19 season.

We are still looking for a replacement for him. As Malcolm has done at least half the job for next year, all that will be necessary then will be to liaise with the speakers to make sure they turn up and that we provide any necessary equipment for them.

The next year a bit more effort will be needed, to find speakers. However, there is no shortage of advice within the Society and Malcolm has a list of past speakers to avoid repetition.

The Chobham talks are very well supported (about 50 people at the last one), so this is an important role that needs to be taken up. If you would like to do something for the Canal Society, this is an ideal way of sticking your toe in the water. It is not a terribly time-consuming job, but it is a rewarding one and, within reason, would allow you to pursue your particular interests in the selection of speakers.

Please give it some thought and contact one of the Committee if you are interested.

Don't let apathy prevail!

Environment Agency

There is both good and bad news in the Canal Management Report for the next Joint Management Committee meeting. Good news is that things are at last progressing with the improvements to the camp site at the Canal centre, which should produce a useful boost to the canal's income.

The bad news is that it looks as if this could be swallowed up by an intention by the Environment Agency to demand an Abstraction License for every lock on the canal. In fact this is probably an Impoundment Licence.

The EA defines an impoundment as a structure within inland waters that can permanently or temporarily change the water level or flow and includes lock gates. Interestingly, exemptions where an impoundment licence is not needed include "where structures and works are authorised by legislation (for example an act of Parliament)". As far as I know, the 1778 Basingstoke Canal Act of Parliament has never been repealed, so perhaps the Counties' lawyers may have grounds for appeal.

This proposal by the EA will contribute nothing to the environment or the canal and it looks rather like a money grabbing move by some Civil Servant to improve the EA's balance sheet. It must be resisted.

Part of the trouble is the EA's refusal to recognise the BCA as a bona fide navigation authority, which stems from the original sale of the canal in 1871 when the Statutory Undertaking was not transferred from the original Basingstoke Canal Company to the new owner. However, apart from this legal nicety caused by a dodgy 19th century solicitor, in every other respect the

County Council owners and the BCA operate as a navigation authority, maintaining the canal, controlling its operation and being responsible for its safety. William Aubyn's desire to make a quick profit buying and selling the canal in the 1870s is not a good reason for penalising the canal today.

The Minister responsible for the EA is Michael Gove, who used to be one of the Society's Vice-presidents until he resigned for fear of a clash of interests. Maybe he knew what was coming, but he did wish the canal well in his resignation letter, so perhaps we should be writing to him, and our other MP V-Ps, asking for some common sense to prevail.

When and if the proposed transfer of ownership to the C&RT occurs, it might be a good opportunity to regularise the canal's strange legal situation by means of a new Act of Parliament. I'm sure one of our MP V-Ps would be willing to sponsor it.



A regular task for the rangers is the removal of trees that fall into the canal. This one was at Crookham and currently they have just dealt with one in Sheerwater.



Above: Our old trip boat at Hungerford Common

It was very nice to get this message from Josh Kerry updating his progress with our old trip boat. It is to be a live-aboard now as the original idea of a cycle shop was scuppered by lack of support from the local council and the C&RT.

Dear Roger,

Sorry it has taken me so long to send an update. It is slow progress on the boat fitting it in around full time work, but still very much enjoying it!

Attached are a few pics of the latest. We blacked it again last autumn and repainted it. However the photos you see are of the undercoat as it still hasn't got final colours yet!

As you can see the new bulkhead is in place with doors (next job is to sand and paint them!). It is a lovely space at the front and keeps the feel of the old boat. I have kept aside all the old interior doors, galley, woodwork, furniture and fittings as I hope to reuse as much as possible to keep the history of the boat alive.



new progress

Portholes are fitted and I have welded two new 'dog boxes' - oversized pigeon boxes - on the roof. It lets a lot of light inside which is nice. Sprayfoam insulated. Next job is the interior fit out, starting with the plumbing...



The layout is to be bedroom at stern (next to the engine room), then shower and toilet either side of a corridor, keeping the steps in situ, and then galley and open plan lounge.



I still haven't settled on a new name yet! Currently unnamed... I have until end of summer as that's when I plan to do the final painting.

If you are ever in the area, you are more than welcome to drop by and see the progress.

All the best,
Josh

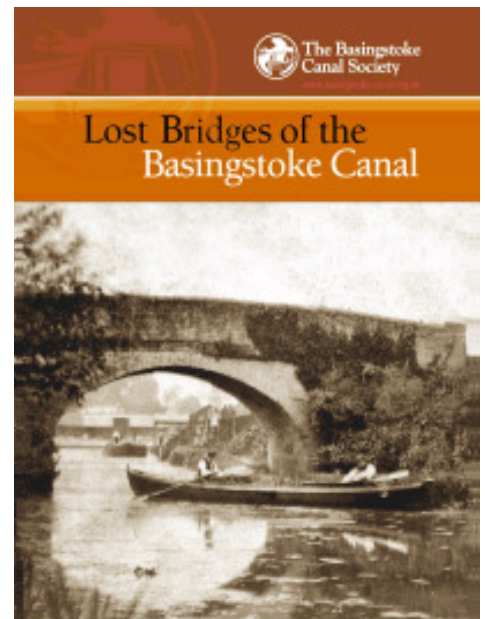
It's really nice to see the old Pinkerton beginning to look good again. It looked really sad last year when I saw it at Aldermaston where the steel work was being done. I hope the "dog boxes" are low enough to get under Reading Road Bridge.

I'll try to get down to see further progress later in the year. Perhaps I might even get to steer it again some time.

New publication

The latest addition to the books published by the Society is "Lost Bridges of the Basingstoke Canal". This has old photos of the bridges that have gone, together with some history.

Price for all the booklets published by the Society is £3.75 inc p&p. Order from Denise Smith via sales@basingstoke-canal.org.uk



Roger Cansdale

General Data Protection

Privacy Notice

May 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

The Basingstoke Canal Society and its trading subsidiaries are committed to protecting your privacy and security. This Notice explains how and why we use your personal data, and to ensure you remain informed and in control of your information.

2. DEFINITIONS

“We” and “Us” - *The Basingstoke Canal Society* (formal title *The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society Ltd.*) and our two trading subsidiaries *John Pinkerton Canal Cruises Ltd.* and *Surrey and Hampshire Canal Cruises Ltd.*, hereafter all collectively referred to as “*The Society*”.

“*Personal data*” - any data which identifies you, or which can be identified as relating to you personally.

For the purposes of data protection law, *The Society* will be the *data controller* and *data processor*.

3. WHAT INFORMATION WE COLLECT

3.1. Personal data you provide

We collect personally identifiable data you provide to us. This includes information you give when:

- joining as a Society member (whether online or via paper-based form)
- registering online as a Canal Friend
- signing up as a volunteer
- making a donation or bequest or making a GiftAid declaration
- joining the “200 Club”
- communicating with us
- you place an order for goods or services (for example, booking a boat trip)
- *The Society* places an order with you for goods or services
- you require reimbursement for expenditure made on behalf of *The Society*
- browsing our websites

The data can include:

- Personal details, including your name, email address, postal address, telephone numbers (mobile and landline), date and place of birth (where required) and next of kin (where required).
- Financial information under particular circumstances, as follows: When *The Society* itself needs to make payments to other organisations for goods and services, or to reimburse expenditure made on behalf of *The Society*. In these cases, bank account information will be stored by our banking providers, currently CAF Bank, NatWest and HSBC.

Note: Although financial details are collected temporarily for the purposes of receiving membership and 200 Club subscriptions, donations, bequests and payments for goods and services that we provide, these details are **not retained** by *The Society*.

- Details of your interests and preferences in how you would like to support us.
- Skills and training data, in relation to your capability to use potentially hazardous tools and plant, or to undertake potentially hazardous operations, eg chain saw operation, tree felling, or crewing trip boats carrying fare-paying passengers.
- Automatically collected tracking cookies that indicate Society web sites usage.

3.2. Special Category (Sensitive) Data

We do not collect, store or process special category data (such as information relating to health).

4. HOW WE USE INFORMATION AND YOUR CONSENT

We only ever use your personal data with your consent, or where it is necessary:

- To enter into, or perform, a contract with you;
- for our own lawful, legitimate interests, provided your rights don’t override these.

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In any event, we'll only use your information for the purposes for which it was collected (or else for closely related purposes):

4.1. Administration

We use personal data for administrative purposes (that is, in order to run and administer *The Society*). This includes:

- receiving subscriptions and donations (including standing orders, direct debits or gift-aid instructions)
- maintaining databases of our members, friends, 200 Club subscribers and volunteers
- meeting our obligations to members, friends, 200 Club subscribers and volunteers, including distribution of the *Basingstoke Canal News* magazine and online *Basingstoke Canal Bulletin* (unless you specifically ask us not to)
- our fulfilling orders for goods and services
- our placing orders for goods and services
- helping us respect your choices and preferences (for example, if you ask not to receive online promotional material, we'll keep a record of this).

4.2. Promotional Materials and Consent

We will make extensive use of social media to promote *The Society*. Those wishing to receive these promotional updates need to “follow” *The Society's* social media channels, and to “unfollow” if you wish to opt out of this.

Occasionally, we will use personal data to:

- communicate with people
- send out online newsletters (to members) and bulletins
- promote *The Society*, its activities, achievements and commercial operations, and canal-related events
- request for volunteer help with various canal-related activities
- elicit help with fundraising.

This includes keeping you up to date with Society news, and other canal-related information.

We will provide members, volunteers and other supporters the option to “opt in” to receiving such promotional information distributed by email, however please note that the *Basingstoke Canal News* pack distributed in the post may contain promotional inserts.

You can opt out of receiving online promotional information at any time. If you wish to do so, please use the consent form at basingstoke-canal.org.uk/consent/ or make contact using the details below.

5. DISCLOSING AND SHARING DATA

We will never sell your personal data, nor share it with another company or charity for marketing purposes.

Your personal data will be shared amongst the trustees/committee members of *The Society*, and designated volunteers who undertake specific tasks on our behalf, in order that we can fulfil our legitimate interests, including meeting our obligations to *The Society* membership and supporters.

We share personal data with suppliers who provide us with services:

- The electronic newsletter the *Basingstoke Canal Bulletin* is distributed via email by a third-party (*YourMessageListProvider*), to which Canal Friends subscribe
- A third-party (*Fasthosts*) hosts our web sites service
- A third-party facility (*WebTicketManager*) is used to take on-line bookings and payments for cruises on our two trip boats
- *Mailchimp* is used to distribute emails to trip boat operation volunteers
- Secured *Google Drive* and *Dropbox* are used for cloud storage of some data shared amongst

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trustee/committee members and designated volunteers.

Each of these organisations has their own privacy policies.

We will also share personal data *at their request* to the following regulatory and other organisations:

- The Basingstoke Canal Authority, in connection with navigation and volunteering
- The Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in connection with trip boat skipper training and licensing
- Our insurers (administered by the Inland Waterways Association), in connection with providing cover for volunteers who use potentially hazardous equipment (for example, chain saws).

We will only ever share your data when absolutely necessary and if the privacy and security of your data are guaranteed.

6. HOW WE PROTECT DATA

To protect your personal information, we will take whatever precautions we can and follow industry best practices to make sure it is not inappropriately lost, misused, accessed, disclosed, altered or destroyed.

Personal data collected and used by *The Society* will be stored on, or accessed via passworded computers always kept in the homes or offices of trustees/committee members or designated volunteers, and these may be backed up securely to a local device or to the cloud. Any memory sticks or paper-based records containing personal data, including historical archive materials, will be kept in locked cabinets or drawers.

7 STORAGE

7.1 Where we store information

The Society's operations are based in the UK and generally we and our service providers store our data within the UK. However, the *YourMessageListProvider* service operates in the EEA, and the cloud providers and *Mailchimp* operate in the US.

7.2 How long we store information

We will only use and store information for so long as it is required for the purposes it was collected for. How long information will be stored for depends on the information in question and what it is being used for. We may also be required to store data for financial audit purposes or to satisfy insurance requirements.

That said, in general terms, we will retain personal data for up to 3 years following its last use, after which it will be deleted – an example of this is the personal data associated with a lapsed membership. Note that GiftAid information will be held for at least 6 years. However, if you request that we erase all your personal data, then that will be actioned as soon as possible.

If you ask us not to send you promotional information, we will retain your email address to ensure that we don't send material to that email address again, with a record of your preference not to be emailed.

At the start of each financial year, we will review what personal data we hold and delete what is no longer required.

Note that our historical archives will be retained in perpetuity.

8 CONTROL OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

8.1 Your rights

You may exercise the following legal rights regarding your personal data which *The Society* collects and uses:

- the right to confirmation as to whether or not we have your personal data and, if we do, to obtain

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a copy of the personal information we hold about you;

- the right to have your data erased;
- the right to have inaccurate data corrected;
- the right to object to your data being used for any purpose.

Please keep in mind that there are exceptions to the rights above and, though we will always try to respond to your satisfaction, there may be situations where we are unable to do so.

For further information on your rights or if wish to exercise them, please make contact using the details below.

8.2 Complaints

Complaints to *The Society* should be directed via email to the contact address below. If you are not happy with our response, or you believe that your data protection or privacy rights have been infringed, you can complain to the UK Information Commissioner's Office which regulates and enforces data protection law in the UK. Details of how to do this can be found at www.ico.org.uk.

9 COOKIES

Cookies are small text files that are placed on your computer hard drive by a website. They contain anonymous data that is unique to your web browser and are used to track your use of the website.

The Society occasionally makes use of the Google Analytics web service, which evaluates your use of *The Society's* websites and compiles website activity and internet usage reports. No personal data is collected from your computer, and it does not associate your IP address with any other data held by Google.

All major browsers allow you not to accept cookies - you can delete cookies that are already on your device and prevent them from being placed. However, if you do this, you may have to manually adjust some

preferences every time you visit *The Society's* websites, and some features may not work.

By using our websites, you consent to the processing of data about you by Google in the manner and for the purposes set out above.

10 LINKS TO OTHER WEB SITES

Our web sites contain hyperlinks to other web sites. We are not responsible for the content or functionality of any of those external web sites. If an external web site requests personal information from you (e.g. in connection with an order for goods or services), the information you provide will not be covered by this Notice. We suggest you read the privacy policy of any web site before providing any personal information.

11 CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE

We'll amend this Notice from time to time to ensure it remains up-to-date and accurately reflects how and why we use your personal data. The current version of our Privacy Notice will always be posted on our website.

12 QUESTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

If you would like further information on your rights regarding your personal data we hold and process, or wish to exercise them, or to raise a complaint, please contact us by email at dataprotection@basingstoke-canal.org.uk or call us on 01276-452754.

Editor: My apologies for the small type face used for this notice, but I felt that 4 pages was enough space for the Society's response to this legislation.

If anyone would like to see a larger copy, please contact us and we will email it to you. Please send a stamped addressed DL sized envelope if you would like a hard copy.

BCS Membership

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT

Dear Members,

Many thanks to all members who paid their subs due in March promptly and to many of you who very kindly included a donation with your payment. It is much appreciated. If you have not paid your subs, please do so as soon as possible so that we can continue your membership and send you our quarterly newsletter. As a reminder, the subs are as follows:

Adult: £10, Family £12, OAP £5, 2OAP £7, Group £15.

A warm welcome to the following members who have joined us in the last few months:

A G Terrell of Hook
Phillip Summersell of Fleet
Ian Banwell Johnson of Woking
Pat Llanwarne of Farnborough
Richard & Elizabeth Martin of Epsom
Gillian Horrell of Woking
Martin Palmer of Hook
Roger Whiffin of Alresford
Roger Deason of Aldershot
Rodney & Clarendon Gritten of Woodham
Peter West of Woking
Derek Spruce of Odiham

Kind regards

Doreen Hornsey
Membership Secretary

Dear Roger,

This is just a short note to thank everyone for the kind notes of sympathy on Peter. We were particularly touched by Robin's eulogy that he so elegantly presented at the funeral on 7th February.

Something that has emerged recently is a poem Peter apparently wrote and was published whilst he was away on National Service in May 1949.

Yours sincerely,

Maureen M Coxhead

(Sadly we only have room for 2 of the 4 verses)

The Apprentice Welder

Attributed to Peter Coxhead, RE

Tell me, tell me learned elder
How can I become a welder.
Like some Greek in ancient story
Let me bear the flame of glory.

My imagination boggles
At the beauty of the googles.
I would slice the steely billet
I would run the left-hand fillet.

BCS information



The Bulletin is now up to Issue 34.

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, Mrs Doreen Hornsey, whose contact details are below.

The annual subscription is Adults £10, Junior £3, OAP £5, Family £12, 2 OAP £7, and Group £15, payable on March 1st each year.

Date for next copy 31st July 2018

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www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/directory.htm
or by telephone on 0796-4357442

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Basingstoke Canal Authority

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01252-370073

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

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

Crookham wharf



Work starting on the lowering of Crookham wharf to make it easier to get on and off boats. The wharf was originally intended for use by load-carrying boats and the height was set accordingly. A considerable amount of landscaping will be done once the towpath is finished to ensure that there are no dangerous changes of level.