



The Basingstoke  
Canal Society

# Basingstoke Canal News

No. 261 Winter 2019





## Editorial

We had a very pleasant and educational morning with the Wey & Arun people earlier this month. Particularly interesting to compare the similarities and differences between our two canals and organisations.

Writing this in the middle of February, May seems a long way away. However, this is the last newsletter before the Society's Annual General Meeting, so my last opportunity to urge members to attend it.

Cover Picture : New anodes for Galleon Marine's dayboat "Juniper"

Photo: Roger Cansdale.

The biggest difference and perhaps the biggest problem that the W&A will face is that of ownership. The Basingstoke remained intact, apart from the end bit that Alec Harmsworth sold off, but the W&A runs through land which is now owned by many people. Although these are mostly well disposed to the canal's restoration, it does make me wonder how it will all be run once it re-opens. Will they need a new Act of Parliament and how does that work if the Trust doesn't actually own all the canal?

Last year, the numbers were disappointingly small, but it clashed with the Cup Final and somebody's wedding, so hopefully we will do better this year. The Society is in a process of change, so this is your opportunity to learn about this and to ask questions about plans for the future.

We haven't booked a speaker this year, so there will be more time for interaction between members and their Committee.

We also have in mind to show Tony Harmsworth's film of a barge trip from the Wey Navigation to the London Docks in 1963.

Please put the date in your diary (18 May) and come along to Deepcut and lend your support to the Society and the canal.

However, the Trust does seem to have a great talent for recruiting people with the right skills, so I'm sure they will have some good lawyers.

The other big difference is that the Trust is far more in control of things than the Society was, given the County Council's ownership of the Basingstoke. While this may be an advantage in some respects, it also means that they are the ones having to cope with all the planning issues, new surveys, etc.

Good luck to them!

### Notes for your diary:

**Canal Society AGM, Saturday 18 May**  
2pm. Full details on page 21

**Boat Company AGM, Friday 15 March**  
7.30pm, Canal Centre, Mytchett

# Chairman's report

The waterways restoration movement has been established for over 55 years. The early restorations including, for example, the Staffs & Worcester and the Stratford were soon followed by the start of several other major restorations including the Kennet & Avon and our own canal which led to the formation of the Surrey & Hants Canal Society in 1966.

Since then the restoration movement has gained pace and there are now a number of other major restorations in progress spanning the whole of England and Wales from the Lancaster in the north to the Wey & Arun in the far south. Over that period the restoration movement has steadily increased its capabilities and restorations in progress today typically involve extensive use of plant and machinery, very detailed project planning and huge fundraising campaigns.

In one sense the Basingstoke Canal was fortunate in that most of the work was completed before the numerous government agencies really got stuck into extensive regulation. Given the fact that the canal is owned by Surrey and Hampshire County Councils, funding was also less of an issue than it would be today bearing in mind the increasing squeeze on local authority budgets.

It is true to say that it would not have been possible to restore the Basingstoke today under the current regulatory regime. The cost of restoration would also have been larger by several orders of magnitude.

Whilst the major challenge of restoring the canal was achieved in 1991, the Society is still passionately committed to keeping the navigation fully open and to improve it for the

benefit of all its many users. It is therefore important for us to keep abreast of developments in the canal restoration movement. We must also adapt the way we operate to take full advantage of modern techniques and thinking.

In this regard I have increasingly felt that we should take a much closer look in what is happening on the national waterways scene. I have therefore initiated working level contacts with other canal societies in order to exchange experiences and seek new ideas.

This month we visited the Wey & Arun canal Trust at Shalford where we were hosted by Sally Shupke WACT Chairman, Alan Johnson and John Reynolds. We found it very useful to compare notes with our friends on the Surrey/Sussex border. We share many of their challenges – how to recruit and retain sufficient volunteers, how to strengthen leadership of the various groups, how to find routes through the increasingly labyrinthine planning system etc.

We also picked up some very useful ideas including more efficient ways of managing the organization, use of paid employees and better use of IT and the media. To give us a break from our discussions, we were shown the Trust's newest acquisition which is a further section of canal at Birtley; this should not prove too expensive to restore as it is already in water albeit at a low level.

All in all it was a very useful day enjoyed in beautiful late winter sunshine. We intend to arrange further visits to other canals as it is clear to us that a lot can be learned from the experience of others.

Philip Riley  
Chairman

# Appeal to members

Dear Member,

I am asking for your help in protecting our wonderful canal.

You will be aware that the Canal faces a major challenge in that the councils have severe budgetary constraints, and discussions are underway as to how to fund and manage the Canal going forward. However in the meantime it becomes all the more important for members to help us support the canal :

- by raising the profile of the canal and getting the Community and local businesses fully involved
- by helping to promote and raise funds for our improvement projects for the benefit of walkers, canoeists, cyclists and other boat owners.

So how can you help? Quite simply we need particularly need support on:

- 1) Local Events: we need help to organise and/or man the stand at local events (see table opposite). In particular we urgently need help in organising our annual Raft Race in Odiham on 1st September.
- 2) Marketing and Promotional ideas: we need ideas and initiatives to involve the local community. Lots of you have experience in this area so please give us a call and tell us what you may be able to do.
- 3) Fundraising: we are looking for support in attracting donations and legacies and finding fresh ways of raising funds.
- 4) Planning and Projects: work as part of a team to help put in place some of our exciting projects.
- 5) Boat Bookings: help on bookings and handling enquiries.

We have lots of other volunteer roles available but the above are critical to help us protect and develop the canal. All of the roles are extremely flexible, and working as part of a team it is great fun and very rewarding.

I cannot overstate that it is vital that we get the support – we had fantastic volunteer input during the 20 years that it took to restore the canal and we need that support now. Without it our beautiful Canal will be at risk.

To find out more about helping with the above please email [volunteer@basingstoke-canal.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@basingstoke-canal.org.uk) or ring 07850 652769.

We look forward to hearing from you

Philip Riley  
Chairman

# Help wanted - Events

## BCS Events 2019 - support needed on manning stands

May			
	Sat 18th	Surrey Heath Show	Frimley Lodge Park
	Sat 18th	BCS AGM	Deepcut?
June			
	2nd	Fleet Pond Wildlife day	Fleet Pond
	Sat 15th	St Johns	Woking
	Sun 23rd	Cove Brook Fun Day	Blunden Hall, Cove
	Sun 30th	Zebon Copse	Church Crookham
July			
	Sat 6th	Party in the Park	Woking
	Sun 7th	Fleet Carnival	Fleet
	Sat 13th	Odiham Fete	
	Sat 13th	Dogmersfield Show	Pilcot Farm, Dogmersfield
August			
Sept			
	Sun 1st	Raft Race	Colt Hill, Odiham
	Sat 21st	River Wey Festival	Dapdune Wharf, Guildford
	tba	Hart Recruitment Fair	tba

*Many hands make light work!*

*A couple of hours is a big help and these events are a great opportunity to spread the word about the canal to the general public, many of whom are completely ignorant about who owns it, where it goes, the facilities it offers and the problems it faces.*

*Right: Society Sales Stand at the Wey Festival at Dapdune Wharf.*



# Winter work



Contractors have been hard at work on the Deepcut flight to rectify some of the problems revealed by the drain-down inspection. As well as relatively minor brickwork in the lock chambers, the major job has again proved to be the wing walls. The sandy soil allows water to percolate round the locks and wash away the earth behind the wing walls, so Lock 23's are being completely rebuilt and will be back-filled with clay to prevent this.

The major project for the winter, to reline a length of canal in Crookham, has had to be postponed to next winter. This is going to involve some dredging and silt dumping on the offside next to Poulter's Bridge. Although this site was used for this purpose in the past, it has been deemed necessary to have planning permission with all its attendant delays.

Installation of the turn-over bridge next to Chobham Road Bridge in Woking will also take place next winter.

The BCA is hopeful that this winter's work will be completed in time for the planned re-opening at Easter, but the major works next winter could easily over-run if there is bad weather, and this could put a suggested Easter visit by the Byfleet Boat Club at risk.

Elsewhere, Lock 7's gates have been replaced and in Hampshire Rob Locatelli's Canal & River Services have been filling in wash-outs in the towpath and reinforcing the edge. Offside bank clearance of rhododendrons in Dogmersfield is also being done by the Rangers, who have also cut back a long length of shrubbery behind the towpath in Ash.

# Winter work

New gates  
for Lock 7



Before and  
after at Ash



# Volunteers



The last work parties of 2018 successfully managed to complete the work on Chequers Wharf. This included the repair of the eroded towpath for the next 36m on the end of the wharf. A lot of the infill for the extra 75cm of towpath came from reducing the height to match the new wharf height. After laying road stone for the new path we had enough left over to put a top layer on the next 60m of towpath as well.

A large effort was made to tidy the whole car park area, even removing all the leaves and accumulated deposits over the years. The old tree trunks that had been round the edge of the carpark, which we have replaced with earth bunds were then sawn and chopped up and bagged for logs. After Christmas we sold these from the wharf and covered a very small amount of the expenses for the wharf. While selling

them, it was satisfying to receive a large number of unsolicited and very complimentary comments on the state of the wharf. The mooring rings in particular are proving a popular aid to getting in and out of canoes.

The new year has started with the party split into two groups. A small group are engaged at Farnborough Road installing the main posts for the new permanent mooring that its being produced by the Society at our own expense. It is hoped this will be a long term mooring with possibly a resident boater as well, to earn the Canal Authority a regular income.

The immediate job is to drive in the wooden piles that will support the walk-way. This calls for some precision and the team are using a floating steel jig made by Revin Redway.

# Volunteers



The job has not been made any easier by the various obstacles that have been dumped in the canal over the years. As well as lumps of brickwork and a large lorry tyre, the latest find is a steel safe, still locked but minus its back!



*Below: Fishing for obstacles*



The rest of the party are doing off-bank clearance work. This started with the removal of a tree that had come down on the exit to the Barley Mow winding hole before moving further down to the off bank at Tundry Pond.



*Above: Work boat for KESCRG use in Fleet thwarted by snow.*

# Volunteers

On the first weekend in February a waterways work group KESCRG (Kent and East Sussex Canal Restoration Group) were due to visit us and attack the off bank in the region of the Fox & Hounds in Fleet. However this was cancelled at the last minute due to the excessive amount of snow that arrived on Thursday night and Friday. Our work boat, *Alan Flight* had already been moved from Barley Mow to Fleet in preparation for them.

Meanwhile the BCA Tuesday group has been clearing the vegetation along the Deepcut section of the canal from Deepcut Bridge down to Lock 28, the top of the Deepcut flight.

After the towpath bank was reinforced for the whole of this length, scrub, trees and other plants have grown. The plan is to clear the towpath side as much as they can before the start of the bird nesting season when all bank clearance work has to stop. The group varies between 20 and 30 plus at times.

Keeping the banks of cuttings clear of trees is structurally important work given the proven tendency of John Pinkerton's over-steep banks to slip. The BCA plan to remove trees in other cuttings such as the one near Malthouse Bridge in Crookham.

The Tuesday group really is one of the major success stories of the canal in recent times.



A conversation between Kathryn Dodington and Chris Healy over a morning cup of coffee, which led to half a dozen ladies of the Brookwood WI doing some sapling cutting along the water's edge, has now grown into a powerful work force that makes a very big impact on the wellbeing of the canal.

It has also by a happy piece of serendipity proved to be a great source of new talent for running the Canal Society.

*Thanks to Duncan Paine and Nigel Searle for story and photos.*

# QAVS trophy

From the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey

Dear Mr Riley,

A very big thank you to you and your team for organising such an excellent visit for HRH The Duke of Kent. It was obvious that he thoroughly enjoyed his time with you and found the visit fascinating.

Congratulations on receiving the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. I do hope that all of the society are thrilled and delighted at their outstanding achievement. Thank you also for arranging stunning weather.

I am fully aware how much time it takes to organise a Royal visit. The more detail you manage to think of and include, invariably the more successful the visit. So, my renewed thanks for making such excellent arrangements and I do hope you all enjoyed The Duke's visit.

Yours ever,

Michael Moore-Molyneux

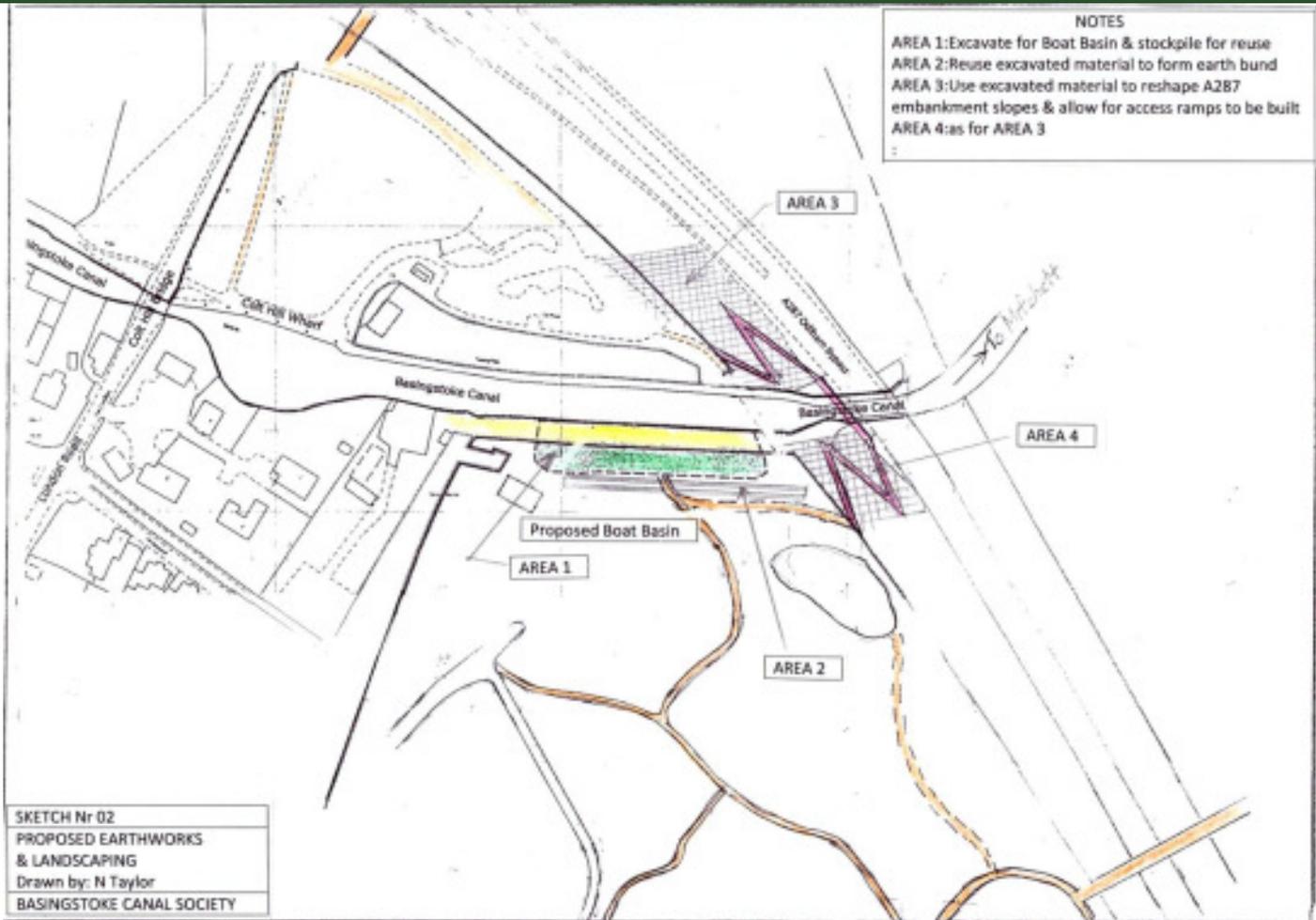


*Our QAVS citation and trophy are now on display at the Canal Centre. A big thank-you to the BCA for letting us have it there and particularly to Andy Loader for installing it so neatly and to Betty Hansell for the photo.*

## HELP!

David Horwood, the JP II Booking Manager is very ill in hospital at the moment and a replacement for him is urgently needed.

They are looking for people to join a team with computer, phone/email communications, or financial book-keeping skills to work flexibly at home handling the JP bookings. Details from Dick King (01730 264178)



Last year, the Canal Society acquired a 10m wide strip of land on the offside bank of the canal running from Galleon Marine to the Odiham Bypass Bridge. It backs onto the new Montfort Place housing development.

The proposal is to excavate this length and install angled pontoons to provide a “herring bone” mooring for up to 20 boats. There is a severe shortage of moorings, particularly in Hampshire .

Although these plans are at a very early stage, it was felt that the local residents should be kept as fully informed as possible, so a meeting was organised in the local church hall on the morning of Saturday 26th January. Over 50 people attended and were able to study plans

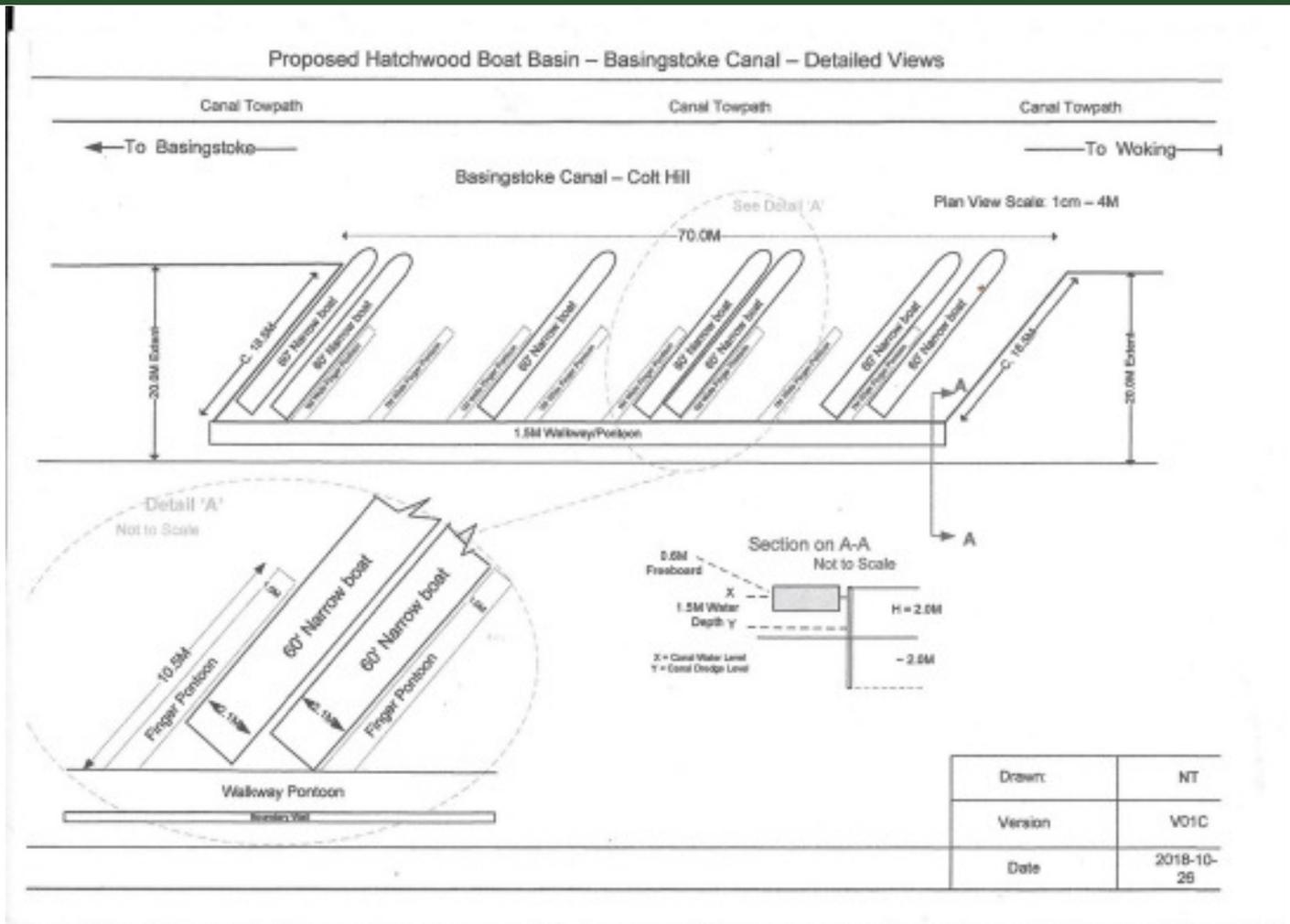
of what was being proposed and hear a short Powerpoint presentation by Philip Riley.

As expected, concerns were raised, mainly by the inhabitants of Montfort Place. Their chief worry was about people accessing the mooring through their estate, but it was explained that there would be no access this way because the mooring was to be fenced off. Users of the mooring will have to park in the Colt Hill car park and cross the canal via the Bypass Bridge using new paths to be built on the embankment.

Concerns were voiced about a number of other issues, including:

- People living aboard their boats (No services will be provided to the moorings)

# basin proposal



- Increased noise from the bypass when trees are felled along the bank. (More trees will be planted)
- Health and safety during construction, with many young children living in Montfort Place. (Site will be fenced off)
- Security of the Colt Hill car park. (CCTV suggested)

## Supportive

Yes	29	76%
No	4	11%
Undecided	3	8%
<u>No answer</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5%</u>
	<u>38</u>	

A question was asked about the length of time to build the mooring and 3 to 4 months was estimated.

Given the general tendency of people to oppose any new proposal (there was great opposition 40 years ago to the idea of a trip boat at Odiham), this is probably as good a result as could be hoped for at this stage.

At the end of the meeting attendees were asked to fill in a feedback form and 38 forms were received (some from couples). The majority were in favour of the proposals at least in principle.

Discussions will now move to Odiham Parish Council and Hart District Council and there will be further meetings with local residents when there is more to report..

# Murder on the Basingstoke Canal

The trip boat season starts in April and this year the *John Pinkerton II*, in Odiham, is running some new and intriguing themed trips to complement the old favourites.

**Murder On The Canal** (Friday 12th April at 7.00pm) You can help solve this interactive Murder Mystery set in the late 1930's on the Basingstoke Canal. Specially devised for this trip, the event will be performed by the *Hampshire Theatre Group*. Period dress is encouraged but not essential. A fish and chips supper is included.

**Caribbean Night Cruise** (Friday 17th May at 7.00pm) Cruise the Canal whilst enjoying Caribbean food and Reggae music from *Vintage Soul* disco. Outlandish attire recommended. A jerk chicken and rice meal plus a glass of rum punch is included.

**Family Treasure Hunt Cruise** (Sunday 26th May at 2.30pm) An afternoon trip with a Kings and Queens trail before boarding and at King John's Castle. Puzzle sheets to fill in en route. Cakes, soft drinks, etc., available and prizes for keen hunters. The treasure hunt is aimed at 5-12 year olds but open to all.

**Classic Songs Cruise** (Friday 7th June at 7.00pm) With **Karen Francis**, who will sing the songs you love, spanning four decades, and bring back memories. Fish and chips supper included.

**Tapas and Spanish Wine Cruise** (Friday 21st

June at 7.00pm) Celebrate midsummer's night on a cruise with Spanish wines and beers plus a selection of authentic Tapas dishes.

The musical favourites, **Acoustic Duo and Ale Cruise, Traditional Jazz and Ale Cruise (below)**, and **Sea Shanties and Ale Cruise** sail later in the season.



The first of the popular **Cream Tea Cruises** sails at 3.00pm on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May. Cream teas are served with china tea-sets and table cloths for a touch of elegance. Lovely piano accompaniment sets the mood. Others throughout the season are on Wednesday, 12th June, 10th July, and 11th September.

Public trips start in April around the Easter weekend and run throughout the season most Wednesdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays, and Fridays in August. This year, there will be three public cruises to the Old Thatch in Winchfield as part of the *National Garden*

# ... and other more sedate cruises

*Scheme Open Day*: 7 April, 16 June and 1 September.

The boat is also available to charter. If you're planning a family reunion, birthday celebration, wedding reception, club or business away day, *John Pinkerton II* offers a unique and attractive event venue for up to 50 people.

**In Woking**, our 12-seater trip boat *Kitty*, which is wheel-chair accessible, starts its third season on 3 April. There are three **1¼ hour** cruises a day, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays. Trips leave from the town wharf, opposite the Lightbox, and head east, skirting Horsell Common. You'll see a different side of Woking and enjoy a variety of flora and fauna. The boat is also available to charter for small groups up to twelve people and trips can be extended to up to 2.5 hours. Last year, we had family reunions, birthday parties, and anniversary celebrations on board.

More information about *John Pinkerton II* and *Kitty* trips can be found at [johnpinkerton.co.uk](http://johnpinkerton.co.uk) or by calling the booking number, 01256 765889.

**Over at the Canal Centre in Mytchett**, the Authority's 12-seater trip boat *Rosebud*, crewed by Society volunteers, is starting its season with three special Mothering Sunday cruises on 31 March. Public trips are run April through September, four times a day, on weekends and Bank Holidays and also on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays during the school holidays.



From the end of May, cream tea cruises go to Great Bottom Flash on Tuesday afternoons and the picnic area at Lock 28 on Thursday afternoons (*above*). The boat is also available to charter. More information is available from the Canal Centre on 01252 370073 or [info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk](mailto:info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk)

Trip boats are a major source of income for the canal. All trips are crewed by trained volunteers who are passionate about the canal and all proceeds go towards preserving the Canal for all to enjoy. Society members can help to raise awareness of the boats by putting an article in their local parish magazine, posting on local online groups or simply by word of mouth. And, of course, new volunteers are always welcomed.

And if you fancy a self-drive cruise, boats can be hired at Colt Hill: *Dawn* (from Accessible Boating; takes wheelchairs and is also available with a skipper) or *Juniper* (from Galleon Marine). Both boats can be hired through Galleon Marine - 01256 703691.

# Books for sale

Howard Diamond, who has been a member of the Society for longer than almost anyone, has a couple of collections of canal memorabilia that he wants to sell to raise money for the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway that he is also actively involved with.

The first is one of the biggest collections of post cards featuring the Basingstoke Canal that I have ever seen – over 380 of them! Howard wants to sell the whole collection, not individual cards and he reckons that anyone wanting to build up a similar collection today (if this was even possible) would need to pay about £3 a card on average, so he is looking for at least £1,000. He has kindly allowed me to scan them all for the Society's archives and there are some very interesting photos that I hadn't seen before. The majority date from the great postcard age in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Howard's second collection is a small library of canal books as listed. The star item is probably a first edition copy of Tom Rolt's "Narrow Boat", without which probably none of us would be involved with canals. Buy-it-now prices on eBay are £100 to £150, so it must be worth £50 to someone.

Another interesting item is Peter Bonthron's "My Holidays on Inland Waterways", recounting his trips by motor boat and skiff in the years prior to the First World War, including the Basingstoke Canal, Wey & Arun and Thames & Severn; some nice photos, but a slightly frustrating lack of actual dates.

I never knew that Robert Louis Stevenson, author of "Treasure Island", actually went in for boating, but "An Inland Voyage" describes

a canoe trip from Antwerp to Paris in 1876. "A Cruise across Europe" is a nicely illustrated description of a 1905 voyage from Holland to the Black Sea by Donald Maxwell.

If you are interested in any of the titles below, please contact the Editor and make an offer ([editor@basingstoke-canal.org.uk](mailto:editor@basingstoke-canal.org.uk)). The books are, I would say, in good condition for their age and the ones marked 'DJ' have dust jackets. I have a fair idea of what they are worth and I know what Howard is hoping to get for the collection, so anything over that will be split with the Canal Society.

- "Narrow Boat", T Rolt, 1944 (1<sup>st</sup> edition)
- "Narrow Boat", T Rolt, 1957 (2 copies, DJ)
- "Water Gypsies", A P Herbert, 1930
- "British Canals", E A Pratt, 1906 (2 copies)
- "Inland Waterways of GB", LA Edwards, 1950 (2 copies, 1 with map)
- "The Broads", Ward Lock guide, 1915
- "Holidays on Inland Waterways", P Bonthron, 1919 (2 copies)
- "Heart of England by Waterways", W Bliss, 1933 (2 copies, 1DJ)
- "British Canals", C Hadfield, 1952, DJ
- "By Waterways to Gotham", L R Freeman, 1926
- "Canal Town", S H Adams, 1944
- "An Inland Voyage", R L Stevenson, 1912 & 1937 (2 copies)
- "Quest by Canoe", A M Dunnett, 1950s
- "A Cruise across Europe", D Maxwell, 1923
- "Both Sides of the Severn", W Byford-Jones, 1933
- "The Cruise of the Maiden Castle", D Severn, 1948
- "James Brindley", L Meynell, 1956
- "Thomas Telford", L Meynell, 1957

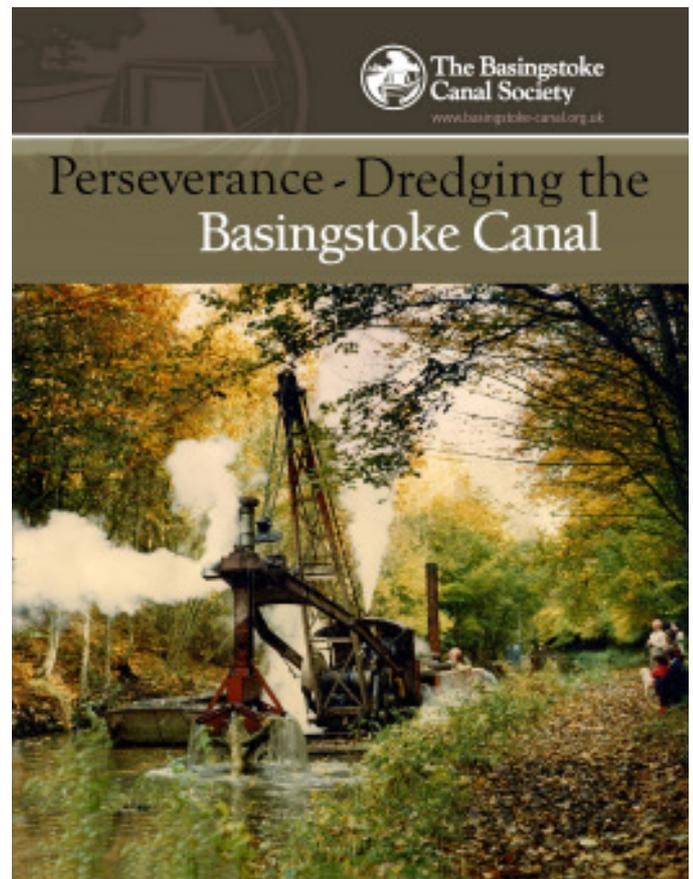
# BCS books for sale

Another book has been added to the Society's publications. "Perseverance - Dredging the Basingstoke Canal" describes the history of our old steam dredger, largely in the words of the people who were involved in the project, like Ron Jesse. It starts in 1934 with the building of Dredger No 14 for the Grand Union Canal Company and ends with its situation today and a vision for the future.

It's a great reminder of the attitude and spirit of the restoration years and a tribute to all those people who worked for nearly 20 years dredging the canal in Hampshire.

This is the seventh title in the "the Basingstoke Canal" series to have been published by the Society in recent years. The others are History, Boats, Guide, Wartime Defences, Rambles and Lost Bridges. They all cost £3.50 including postage from our Sales Manager (*see page 23*).

We hope to produce other titles and I have in mind to turn to the flora and fauna of the canal. In 1972, the Society published a very good "Natural History of the Basingstoke Canal", written by Dieter Jeben's sister Jutta, which would be worth reviving. I also have a plan to do a book on the flowers that grow along the banks and I have appealed via Mike Gordon to the lengthsmen to take photos of any that catch their eye and send them to me for



Edited by Roger Cansdale

possible inclusion in the book.

If that is of interest to anyone else, feel free to contribute. My email address is [roger.cansdale@ntlworld.com](mailto:roger.cansdale@ntlworld.com).

Following on from that, the local RSPB group has expressed an interest in helping with a book about birds and, again, photos would be very welcome.

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## *Howard Diamond books for sale, continued:*

"The Canals of Southern England", C Hadfield, 1955

"Victorian & Edwardian Canals", DD Gladwin, 1976, DJ

"Historic Waterway Scenes – London & SE England", M Denney, 1980

"Historic Waterway Scenes – Britain's Lost Waterways, 1", M E Ware, 1979

"Historic Waterway Scenes – Britain's Lost Waterways, 2", M E Ware, 1979

# Events

## Chobham meetings

Meetings will be held in the Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, Woking, Surrey GU24 8AJ (see map for exact location).

This meetings will start at 8pm on the third Wednesday of the month, October through April inclusive.

Coffee/tea and biscuits will available during the interval. Raffle and retiring collection.

Non-members and friends are very welcome.

### Wednesday 20 March 2019

#### *David Rouse: 200 Years of The Thames and Medway Canal*

The Thames and Medway Canal, originally built in the early 1800s, now running from Gravesend to Higham in North West Kent has an interesting military, engineering and social history. Unfortunately, the canal was never the commercial success hoped for.

This talk traces the timeline from initial fundraising, construction challenges, the impact of railway fever, and eventual demise of the canal. Looking forward, the canal could be developed into a green safe water corridor, supporting fishing, informal boating and other activities.

### Wednesday 17 April 2019

#### *William Sargent: Marine Policing Unit*

This talk will discuss how the Marine Policing Unit (MPU) is responsible for policing the 47 miles of River Thames within the Met area (Dartford to Hampton Court) as well as providing a specialist response to over 250



miles of canals and waterways, lakes and reservoirs and other bodies of water in London.

Further information at

<http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk> or contact

[chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk](mailto:chobham.talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk).

To receive free reminder emails sent about a week prior to each talk, contact Mark Coxhead at [mark@coxhead.org.uk](mailto:mark@coxhead.org.uk)

*Delighted to report that we have at last got some offers of help to organise these talks in future, so thanks to them the Chobham talks will continue next autumn. Graham Deavin and Alan Norris are sharing the job and have already booked a couple of speakers.*

I know that many of our members belong to other groups who also organise talks, so if anyone hears a particularly good one that might appeal to the Chobham audience, please let us know. Even better if you can get a business card or contact details from the speaker.

# Canal d'Orléans

For some 17 years from 1993 to 2010, the Basingstoke Canal had an informal twinning with the Canal d'Orléans in France, a canal with a lot of similarities to the Basingstoke, not least the wish to restore it to navigability following closure and dereliction. A number of exchange visits took place in those years, and friendships were formed, some of which still continue. The twinning, however, died for, I think, three reasons: some of the keen participants moved away to pursue other interests, and several have sadly died, but the main reason was probably that the Canal d'Orléans, though partly open, was not getting on with complete restoration, for political and financial reasons. Something that we on the Basingstoke know only too well!



*Above:* Possible rally site at Grignon on the Canal d'Orléans

There now appears to be a resurgence of enthusiasm for restoration in France. As of June last year the canal has been sold by the State to the Département (County) of Loirët, for €500,000, and they have set in hand dredging and other works to lead, hopefully, to a restored 26.5 km, 13 lock length, connected to the main navigation network by the autumn of 2021. At

which time they would welcome boats and boat-interested visitors from the UK for an event to celebrate. Thus we have been approached to see whether there is enthusiasm enough to revitalise an informal twinning – what they call an “Entente Fluvial”.

The twinning was never just for boat owners, but for enthusiasts in general. However, the new invitation could appeal to a) those who have their boats already in France, b) trail boats, which are easy to tow over, c) skiffs, dinghies, etc, which are even easier, d) those who might like to hire a boat for such an event, or longer, from one of several hire bases on the main system not far away, and e) caravanners or campervanners, who could be accommodated nearby. Before committing ourselves to anything, we would like to judge potential interest, without any obligation at all, and call a meeting to talk about it.

If interested, therefore, please drop a line to the editor, ([roger.cansdale@ntlworld.com](mailto:roger.cansdale@ntlworld.com)), with an email address and phone number in the first instance, and hopefully we will be organising a meeting in a month or two.

Tony Davis

*Below:* French and English boats at nearby Montargis in 2008.



## THE SURREY AND HAMPSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY LIMITED SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

**NOTICE is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in the Deepcut Village Centre, Swordsman's Road, Deepcut GU16 6TB Surrey commencing at 2.00pm for the following purposes:**

To discuss and, if thought fit, to pass the following Ordinary Resolution:

“That a Resolution of the Executive Committee passed on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019 pursuant to Article 12 of the Articles of Association of the Society to to increase the subscription rates for membership to the following:

£15.00	(£1.50/month)	Adult individual
£20.00	(£2.00/month)	Joint/Household
£30.00	(£3.00/month)	Corporate/Group
£0		Junior (under 18)
£200		Life membership

be approved”

This notice is issued from the registered office of the Company at Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 1WA

The note appearing in the Notice of the Annual General Meeting setting out the right of a member to appoint a proxy applies to this Ordinary Resolution.

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*The Society's subscription rates have remained constant since 2003, during which time the rate of inflation has been about 35%. Current subscriptions only just cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter and other admin services such as auditors' fees etc, which leaves the Society almost totally dependent on the Boat Company income.*

*The Society has significant plans to help secure the future and the fabric of the canal, and this increase in subscriptions is just a part of the funding that will be required for this.*

*A review of the subscription rates of other Canal Societies has been undertaken and our proposed new rates are very comparable with these. We hope that the membership will support the proposed increase. If approved, the new rates will come into effect in 2020.*

# General Meetings

**NOTICE is hereby given that the Forty Second Annual General Meeting of the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in the Deepcut Village Centre, Swordsman's Road, Deepcut GU16 6TB, commencing at 2.15 p.m.**

The formal Agenda for the meeting is as follows:-

1. To hear apologies for absence.
2. To confirm the minutes of the 41st AGM held on 19th May 2018.
3. To approve the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018.
4. To appoint the Independent Accountants.
5. To elect or confirm the appointment of the members of the Board of Directors (Executive Committee).
6. To transact any other business relative to the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

By order of the Board of Directors  
Terry Inskip, Honorary Secretary

28th February 2019

## Meeting Venue

**The Deepcut Village Centre** is again the venue for our AGM. It is not hard to find and there will be signs off the main Deepcut Bridge Road.

Turn off onto Newfoundland Road, follow this round, turn left when you come to Cyprus Road and then immediately left into Crimea Road. The hall and ample parking is on the right.

Following the formal business of the AGM there will be reports from the Chairmen of the Canal Society and Boat Company, presentation of the Robin Higgs Award and probably a showing of a historic waterway film.

### *AGM Notes:*

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



# BCS Membership

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT

Dear Members

The Membership subs for 2019 are due on 1<sup>st</sup> March. If you pay by cash/cheque you will be receiving a reminder shortly by email or post. I would be grateful if you could pay your subs promptly to avoid the Society having to send out reminders. The subs due are as follows:

Adult £10, Family £12, Single OAP £5, Two OAPs £7, Group £15

A warm welcome to the following members who have joined us in the last few months and many thanks to Graham Puddephatt who has very generously enrolled several of his friends and relatives.

Mr Graham Puddephatt of Reading  
Ms Alice Clark of Reading  
Mr Colin Puddephatt of Reading  
Ms Deborah Johnson of Reading  
Ms Jane Liming of Reading  
Mr Rhys Puddephatt of Reading  
Mr & Mrs Chreanne & Murray Montgomery-Smith of Tadley

Mr & Mrs Shaw of Reading  
Mr & Mrs Pauline & Anthony Girling of Aldermaston  
Mr Tom Hine of Reading  
Ms Rosemary Gold of West Glamorgan  
Mr & Mrs Tamsin & Simon Gold of Reading  
Mr & Mrs John & Alison Alderson of Reading  
Mr Dean Phillips of Reading  
Mr Henry Montgomery Smith of Reading  
Mr & Mrs M Costa of Birmingham  
Mr Iain Soars of Church Crookham  
Mr & Mrs Mike & Sonia Berry of Woking  
Mr Peter Richens of Aldershot  
Mr Jacob Griessel of Ash Vale  
Ms Ros Pennefather of Sandhurst  
Mr Keith Scott of Woking  
Mr David Howie of Windlesham  
Mr & Mrs Phillip & Patricia Davison of North Warnborough

Kind regards

Doreen Hornsey  
Membership Secretary

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## 200 Club winners

October

Mrs J C R Tyrrell	£40
Mr T Dodwell	£15
Mr R G Gunner	£10
Mr J Simpkins	£10

December

Mr R M Tinsley	£40
Mr A J Welsh	£15
Mr D J Wilkinson	£10
Mr J A Riley	£10

*Have you forgotten to complete your 200 Club membership? Only 45 members signed up so far, but it's not too late to participate in the 200 Club for 2019; many past members have not responded to date so your continued support would be appreciated. Please refer to the Society website to download the entry form and pass it to Don Barber. Thank you.*

# BCS information



The Bulletin is now up to Issue 38.

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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

**Date for next copy 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

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**Hon. Treasurer:** Guy Faller\* 180 Hermitage Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 8XQ 01483-474800  
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01252-370073

Canal Society Internet Website: [www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk](http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk)  
Canal Authority Internet Website: [www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk](http://www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk)

# Woodham volunteers



Volunteers have been busy clearing vegetation from lock walls and gates, painting on new cill markers and removing invasive floating pennywort and rubbish from the canal. *(BCA photo)*