



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



The Basingstoke
Canal Society

Basingstoke Canal News

No. 264 Autumn 2019





Editorial

In my previous editorial I mentioned that a number of sub-groups had been set up with a view to streamlining the Society's activities and making it more efficient.

Some of these are covering activities that overlap to some extent and there may well be further changes. Marketing, PR and fundraising are all related and in fact some people are working on more than one group. Monthly meetings have been taking place and new leaflets are being produced to cover things such as joining the Society and leaving it a legacy.

A key factor in much of this work will be the re-hashed website. This has slipped a bit but will definitely be running next year, enabling people wishing to join the Society or buy things from it to do so online.

New ways of raising money for the canal are being devised, such as promoting Corporate days on the canal. The concept is that local companies wanting to enhance corporate spirit within their organisation would pay the BCA to allow their employees to spend time team-building and working on the canal. The money would cover the cost of tools, materials and supervision, plus a contribution to its general budget. The Society has agreed to pay the BCA £12,000 over two years to be used to provide training for volunteers who could lead such activities.

Another aspect that is receiving active attention is the whole question of governance. Nowadays it is vital for a body such as the Canal Society not only to comply with things like Health and Safety legislation and the rules of the Charity Commission, but also to be able to demonstrate that it has taken all reasonable steps to do so. Things go wrong in the best organised operations, but if they do, it is well to be able to show that it was a genuine accident and not negligence.

Fortunately we seem to be blessed with a number of people who have managed to conjure up specialists in some of these areas who are willing to tackle what for most of us looks to be a rather turgid subject, however necessary.

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At the JMC it was agreed that Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council would be invited to join the Canal Partnership as a non-voting member. This is excellent news for us as we are working with the Council on our long term project to create a footpath from Greywell to Basingstoke town centre following, as closely as possible, the line of the canal through Up Nateley, Mapledurwell and Old Basing.

It is also nice that the town is taking an interest in the canal that bears its name, even if there is not a lot left of it there. Maria Miller, the town's MP is already one of our Vice-Presidents and opened the display that we installed at the Milestones Museum a few years ago.

* * * * *

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Cover Picture : Autumn walk to Stacey's Bridge in Winchfield
Photo: J.Roger Cansdale

Chairman's AGM report

At the Joint Management Committee meeting in late November two themes emerged which will become increasingly important to us in the years to come.

Firstly, the impact of climate change will undoubtedly impact on various aspects of the canal's operation. In particular it is becoming evident that the use of diesel engines to power craft on the inland waterways will be open to challenge in the future. As many of us have experienced, when using our own boats or chartering boats from hire companies, there are few more polluted places to be than on the aft deck of a boat in a deep lock with the engine running. Although powered craft on inland waterways contribute a tiny proportion of the total global carbon emissions (as opposed, for example, to sports utility vehicles which are now the second largest contributor to the increase in global emissions since 2010) it seems to me that we should expect to see increasing pressure being applied to the waterways to reduce the damaging effect of emissions.

However, there could be positive consequences. We are already considering the replacement of Kitty, our trip boat based in Woking, with either an all-electric or a hybrid boat. We have also seen the successful trip boat operation run by the Wey & Arun Canal Trust where an electrically powered 50 seater boat has been operating at Loxwood for several years. One of the key elements in this equation will be the provision of suitable charging points at strategic locations along the canal and I believe that we should begin to plan for the time when the use of electric motors (or motors using other alternative fuels) will become an essential requirement for access to the waterways.

Climate change is also likely to have a detrimental effect on water supplies to the canal. As we all know so well, a shortage of water in dry summer months has always been a problem for the Basingstoke so we need to maintain our efforts to conserve the water that we have and to secure additional supplies. It is for this reason that the work being led by John How is so important to us.

The second subject that came up at the JMC meeting was the issue of access to the canal by people with disabilities. I outlined to the Committee the excellent work that has been undertaken over the years by the Accessible Boating Association (ABA) using their two specially adapted boats based at Colt Hill, Odiham. I have always felt that ABA deserve much more credit than they receive for the service that they provide to the many disabled people whose only opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of the canal is by using one of their boats. It's very encouraging to hear that ABA have had an excellent year in 2019 and I'm sure that the ABA team will continue to develop their operation in the future. I also think that there is potential for other specialist operations of this kind – for example, there could be scope for disabled boats on the Mytchett pound and also in Woking where there is a large potential market. As always, dedicated teams would need to be recruited to set up and run these operations but I'm sure that local support would be forthcoming if someone was prepared to take the initiative to form a new group. Any offers?

My best wishes to all our members for 2020.

Philip Riley
Chairman

Visiting Groups

It was not supposed to happen this way. Ideally, they would have been months apart to allow for planning and logistics but it so happened that we had visiting groups working on the Basingstoke Canal two weeks running.

Originally KESCRG (Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group) were planned for the end of January earlier in the year. Those with good memories will recall the dreadful weather that weekend which seemed to be centred on Basingstoke. As the group were travelling from various parts of the country (don't take the Kent and East Sussex bit too literally), it was agreed to postpone at the last minute. In fact the weather abated quite quickly but that was not known at the time.

They finally came on 5th and 6th October to trim invasive rhododendron on the offside bank near the Fox & Hounds in Fleet. Some of it was very invasive and was nearly blocking the channel. Although the BCA, who suggested the work, have the right to cut back to the edge of the canal and in some places even further, it was deemed neighbourly to consult with the residents of the six properties involved. All of them were very helpful and positive although some had concerns about reduced privacy especially those closer to the Fox & Hounds. It is hoped that they were pleased with the results.

The volunteers used the Society's work boat, *Alan Flight* to access the site and to transport the cuttings back to Coal Pens (between

Coxheath and Malthouse Bridges) where they were chipped. The weather was kind and most of the work was done although they could have used some more manpower and a second boat.

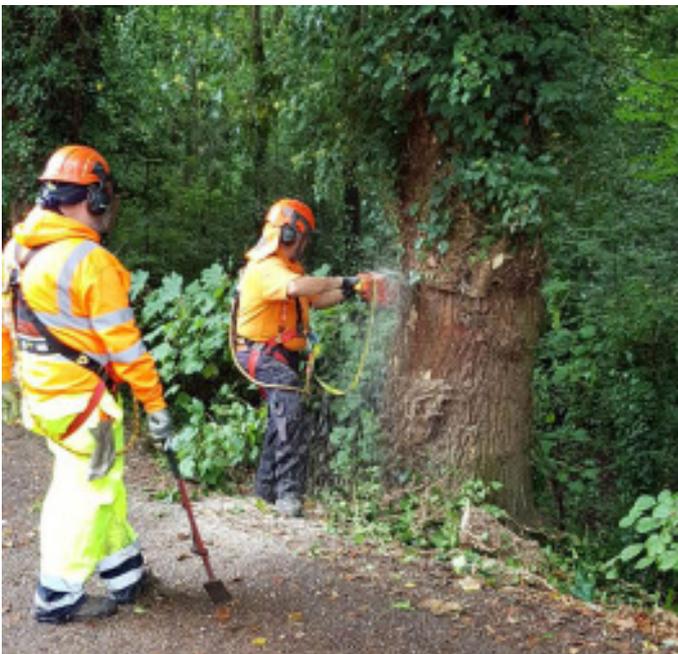
Accommodation was at Baker Hall in Odiham. Many thanks to the Scout Association for the use of the hall. Thanks also to Kit Heasman



whose mooring we used close to Coxheath Bridge to store Alan Flight. He warned us of a rotten plank at the mooring saying it was a stage he did not want us to go through.

The other visiting group was WRG Forestry. This is a specialist team for doing tree work, part of the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG) which is a division of IWA. They came to work at Sheerwater Woods, a small woodland owned by the Society adjacent to the canal between locks 3 & 6 close to West Byfleet Station. The Society commissioned a survey in June 2018 which identified 51 trees which needed attention, all of which were next to the towpath. These had last been looked at in 2010 and worked on in 2011 as part of the work weekend in memory of Peter Redway.

They came for three days at the end of September and stayed at All Saints Church Hall in Woodham Lane. Many thanks to Rev Ian Forbes



and his staff for their help and hospitality.

Some of the work involved removing ivy from tree trunks so that they could be inspected more closely. One tree showed signs of advanced decay and had to be felled. Others had to be delimbed or have crowns reduced for safety reasons. A lot of the work was done with a MEWP (Mobile Elevated Working Platform) also known as a cherry picker (*Far left*). A tracked chipper was also used (*Above*).

As the photos show, there is not a great difference to be seen and this was to retain the bosky nature of the canal in that area.

The Society is very grateful to both volunteer groups for their hard work over the two weekends. Several of the visitors mentioned previous visits to the Basingstoke quite fondly. Again we thank them for their efforts.

Society Work Party

New Ash Lock water point nearing completion.



The finished job.



WRG

The Society's work boat *Alan Flight* has had a busy autumn. Here it is again, being used by visiting members of the Waterway Recovery Group to cut back the invasive rhododendrons on the offside bank in Fleet.



Logs for sale

Duncan Paine says that we have a number of bags of very fresh oak logs for sale. We are selling these, as before, at £45 for a standard aggregate bag. Can you let him know if you are interested, When he has some responses he will try to arrange a convenient date. Collection will be from Ash Lock. Please reply to duncanpaine@talktalk.net

the canal



The Woking pound has been drained down from Monument Bridge to Skew Bridge (the nearest points where stop planks can be fitted), fish have been rescued, and the contractors have started work on the installation of the

new pedestrian and cycle turn-over bridge at Chobham Road. The artist's impression below shows what it should look like. The towpath is closed in this area while work goes on. Completion is promised by Easter.



Pinkerton report by Dick King

2019

JP season completed with no accidents recorded.

Maintenance: 5 sessions completed with up to 10 volunteers available to attend. Work progressing well. Exterior paintwork to be completed as weather permits. Have identified a local sign writer, John Thurgar, who has made tracings of existing boat vinyls. These to be replaced by sign written painting, and have been removed.

Interior modifications in progress. Sample larger table constructed suitable for theme trips with food, and further recommendations being investigated before placing bulk order. Re-siting of EPOS: carpentry completed.

Awaiting confirmation of dry dock availability, following completion of dock gates installation.

2020

The landline Booking Telephone number will be phased out, to be replaced by a mobile number: **0750 686 4411**. This will be shared by the volunteers covering telephone enquiries, with effect from 1st Dec 2019.

The email address continues unchanged: **jpbookings @ basingstoke-canal.org.uk**

Charters Booked:	12 + 5 Air Charter week	£1785 paid in advance
Proposed Theme trips:	20	
Public Trips :	Approx 50 (to be confirmed)	

Implementation of New Web facility:

Ian Sims has commenced work on JP booking pages, and is liaising with Dick King.

Volunteer vacancies.

Vice Chairman: Progress made to appoint a named Vice Chairman with the anticipation of taking Chair office in 2022 (health permitting!)

Maintenance: 1 new recruit available to attend. Still seeking suitable applicant to lead.

Booking Manager: New crew member Trisha Duckworth volunteered to help, and has taken on email enquiries role.

Other volunteers welcome to man the phone.

Crew: 8 trained during October in preparation for next season.

Skippers: Invitations for crew status upgrades completed, following meeting recommendations.

Kitty report by Ian Moore

International visitors on Kitty



What did we do with Kitty in 2019?

- We had no injuries.
- We safely carried 1,979 passengers (2018: 1,239 passengers) – including 32 WBC Councillors and Officers. An increase of 37%.
- We ran 232 trips with a 71% load factor (2018: 148 trips and 70% load factor). An increase of 36%.
- We ran training sessions for new crew members.
- Kitty has had her BSS exam, lift and fire extinguishers serviced, been repainted, stern deck re-caulked, air and oil filter replaced and oil changed out, and used 700 litres of fuel.
- In addition she is increasingly used by local schools to teach the students about caring for the environment, care homes improving their quality of life, Heritage Open Days, WBC for their Living Well programme, Food and Drink Festival and of course the children from Belarus who stay in the Borough via the Friends of Chernobyl.
- We had fun most of the time!

Thanks to the team; without them it would not be possible...

- Ian and Gill from the Social Media team.
- Jeremy for finding the crew.
- Derek for looking after TripAdvisor.
- All the 37 Skippers and crew as the BCS face to the passengers.
- Richard for building bridges with Woking BC.
- The BCA Tuesday group, the weedcutter team, the Rangers, the workboat team(s) and Woking BC.
- Steve for paying the invoices promptly.
- Apologies for missing anyone else.

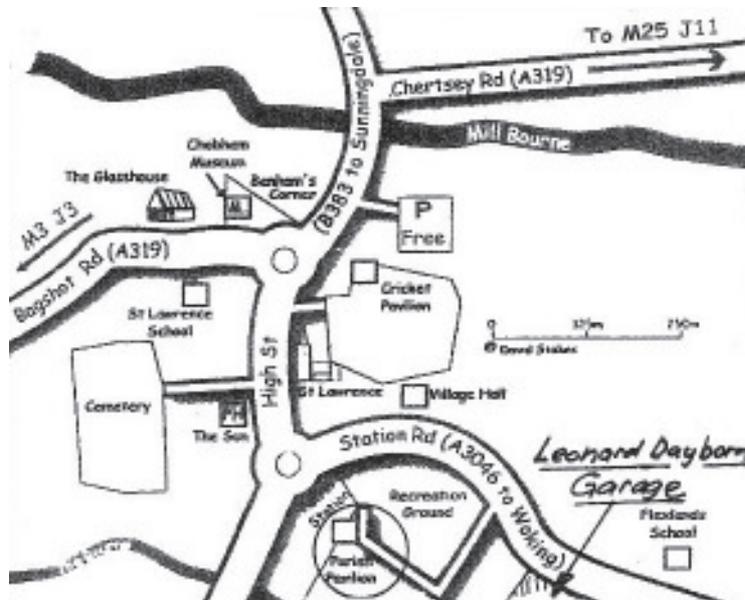
Stop Press: Kitty is now ranked in the top 10 of TripAdvisor things to do in the Woking area, way ahead of the WWF Living World Exhibition

Events

Winter 2019/2020 Chobham Talks programme.

As usual meetings will be held in the Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Chobham, near Woking. GU24 8AJ. Talks will be held on the third Wednesday of each month from October until April, starting at 8pm.

Talks will frequently cover topics related to canals and boats but some will be of a more general interest, particularly to local residents.



18th December.

Film evening. From the BCS archives.

Archive film about one of the last commercial voyages from the Wey Navigation into London's Royal Docks. The film was made in the 1970's by Tony Harmsworth but has recently had a commentary added and now presents a vivid picture of life and work on the Wey navigation and the River Thames at this time.

15th January.

Lester Hillman:

When London had an inland Port.

The arrival of the completed Regent's Canal with a huge terminal at City Basin was a game changer for London. Hear about the politics, engineering marvels, commerce and the crime linked to this project. What of the future of the City Basin?

19th February.

Ms Jo Gosney:

100 years under the flightpath.

Jo Gosney's talk is about Farnborough and the impact of aviation on the people, workplace and economy for over a century. Farnborough is renowned for its International Air Show but its inhabitants know a different history. At the beginning of the 20th century the army moved its Balloon Factory to Government land in South West Farnborough. This marked the beginning of an era of experimental flying and research that took Britain to the forefront of aviation development. With the evolution of flight the town expanded and developed rapidly. This talk charts that progression with photographs of various aspects of daily life in the shadow of the airfield.

Events

18th March.

Alan Norris:

Woking's Railway.

Alan describes the coming of the railway to Woking in the 1830's and how the London Necropolis Company's cemetery at Brookwood affected the town's development. The talk will also include the Brookwood Cemetery railway and the Bisley Tramway.

15th April.

Tim Knox:

The Electric Boat Association.

Tim is a committee member of the Electric Boat Association and owner of Mothership Marine. He will tell us about the association, the advantages of electric propulsion for canal boats and the current state of electric boat technology.

Trouble in the tunnel?

Earlier this year, Society member Cheryl Richards happened to be standing near the eastern portal of Greywell Tunnel when she heard a rumbling sound. A minute or so later, waves issued from the tunnel.

It seems very likely that there has been another roof fall.

As yet, and perhaps sensibly, there has been no attempt to investigate. County engineers are pondering on the best method to do so, which will probably involve contractors with some sort of remote sensing device; an aquatic drone perhaps or a bat with a camera?

Hard to know how fast waves travel in the tunnel, but judging by the significant delay between the rumble noise and the waves appearing in the tunnel mouth, the fall could

be a fair way in, and could be near the previous fall. That began in 1932 and there has been no attempt to do any sort of repair, so it would not be surprising if a further collapse has now occurred. Equally though, it could be at one of the points where tunnelling didn't quite meet up, as seen in the photo below. No new hole has been found above ground.



Trees down



The windy weather this autumn has given the BCA rangers a lot of practice at tree removal recently and are they very efficient at it.

One morning Fiona sent out a Navigation Update saying that a tree was down between the lift bridge and King John's castle and by the time I got there in the afternoon to take a photo, it had all been tidied away.

Others, however, take a bit longer. This massive beech tree that came down from the offside at Dogmersfield and completely obstructed the whole canal, took several days. It generated a good pile of logs though.

A lot of work, but at least it saves having to get permission to fell them from the local council Tree Officer. *(Photos from the BCA)*



Deepcut drain down



Lock 28 drained for inspection

The top end of the Deepcut flight is currently drained down to allow a routine inspection of the locks (*Right. A lovely job for a chilly November morning!*).

As usual, this presents an opportunity to see bits of the canal and things not normally on view. One of these lies between Locks 27 and 28 where the remains of an old boat have been quietly mouldering away on the offside for about 30 years. Its last name is believed to be *John P* , but it had several others during its 80-odd year life. See pages 14 and 15.



John P



John P is a wooden butty, i.e. an unpowered narrowboat. It started its life in the mid-1930s at Rickmansworth, where it was built by W H Walker & Brothers. The design was known as a Big Ricky. It was registered as Rick 49 before joining the Grand Union Canal Company fleet in 1935 as *Ethiopia*.

After the Second World War, the boat was sold to Samuel Barlow Coal Carrying Ltd and was renamed *Warwick*. Paired with motorboat *Cairo*, it was manned by George Smith and his wife Sonia, who later married Tom Rolt and became an iconic figure in the waterways movement until her death in 2014.

The photo below, from the Herbert Dunkley collection held by the C&RT, shows Sonia and George on the boats, tied up at the Griff Arm



End on the Coventry Canal. The rudder looks remarkably like the one below still standing at the back of the shed at Ash Lock; it was a common design, but could it be the same one?

However, carrying coal by canal was already beginning to decline and by 1961, only 7 pairs remained and operations ceased in 1962. *Warwick* then began a new life on the Basingstoke Canal.



Sidney Cooke, the then owner of the canal was looking for new income streams as it looked as if he was likely to lose his main source of revenue, which came from selling water to the National Gas Turbine Establishment at Pyestock. Sid formed a new company called Floating Homes Ltd and bought a

Leave a legacy

Legacies

As members are probably aware, the new moorings that are being installed at Farnborough Road are being paid for with money left to the Society as a legacy by Peter and Margaret Holland. They will be named the Holland Moorings in their memory and will be open next year, hopefully providing a new source of income for the canal and a much needed place for people to keep their boats.

Another legacy from late Society member Alan Flight enabled us to buy the *John Pinkerton II* that is the Society's principal source of income, and the work boat that now bears his name and is an invaluable piece of equipment for our Work Party.

You don't have to be wealthy to leave a gift in your will; whatever the amount, large or small,

we are extremely grateful for any gift that is left to the society, after you have looked after family and friends. Your loved ones come first – we respect that.

If you enjoy the Basingstoke Canal, whether you walk, cycle, fish, boat or simply enjoy the ambiance, please consider leaving the Society a gift in your will, helping us to meet the challenges in keeping our canal alive in years to come.

We will be putting information about legacy giving on our website, and developing a new legacy pack shortly; if you have any questions in the meantime please contact the society's Treasurer: treasurer@basingstoke-canal.org.uk.

considerable number of redundant narrowboats to convert into houseboats. One of these was *Warwick*, which then became *Lodore*, then *John B* and finally *John P*. The photo below shows the boat at Knaphill sometime in the 1980s.



According to Les Foster, who used to live in the Lock 28 cottage, the boat was brought up to Deepcut to get it out of the way when the Woking pound was to be dredged.

The hull appears to be sheathed in metal and Tony Harmsworth says that this was protection for the wooden hull against ice. Someone has also put something over the washboard and rather crudely painted the name on. Sadly none of this protection is preventing the slow and inevitable disintegration of the old boat.

RIP

*Rick 49 - Ethiopia - Warwick -
Lodore - John B - John P*

Memories of the

During the middle of July 1962 some companions and myself took advantage of the splendid weather, taking two wooden boats from Fleet with the intention of pursuing the Basingstoke Canal on its course towards Odiham. We were full of anticipation of a long and pleasant trip, but by chance we were soon to witness a remarkable phenomenon which was to frustrate our purpose, yet provide us with a most unusual experience.

We had not left the last of Fleet's housing estates behind us when, watching the reeds on the canal bank we noticed signs of a drop in the water level, perhaps two inches or so. This we deduced to be merely the result of the recent lack of rain, and so we rowed towards more open country, verdant and lush under a blue parasol of sky. Yet, another half mile and we were given more evidence of a reduction in the depth of water, for my oars were beginning to catch mud at every pull and the black tide-mark along the canal edge seemed deeper. It was a puzzling situation. We knew there were no old lock gates for many miles which, by collapsing, could be causing the water level to sink. So on we went, the water now thrashing up darkly at every cut of the oars.

A little later, approaching Crookham village we saw in the water the first signs of disturbance. Fish, which normally passed by as deep dark shapes, now seemed to be almost colliding with the sides of our boats, silver or grey, flashing madly around

us. We moved on and eventually saw a group of Scouts on the towpath approaching us.

“You won't get much further!”, one of them shouted as we laboured past.

“Why not?”. We were intrigued by the situation, but were made even more so by the boy's reply.

“The bottom's fallen out of the canal!”, he said gaily.

We laughed and carried on, puzzled. Yet before long we wondered if he had spoken the truth, for a little beyond Crookham swing bridge we beheld an amazing sight. The water level was now very low, though still deep enough for the draught of our boats, but a few hundred yards ahead we noted that the canal was empty! The water seemed to have rolled away, like the Red Sea at the word of Moses, and nothing remained but a long, empty canal bed, wet and shiny in the sunlight. It curved away into the distance, a channel of grey mud between borders of



Canal in the early 1960s

emerald green rushes. Figures were working frantically in gum boots and waders ahead of us, trying to dam the remaining water with wooden planks, and one of these hailed us to pull into the bank and disembark. This, with his help we managed to do, for we were well below the towpath level now and had to scramble up a wall of wet mud. We walked past the dam, under a red brick bridge (*below left*) and saw at once the cause of the



extraordinary occurrence. The bottom had indeed fallen out of the canal! (*Above right*)

A great chasm lay before us, as wide as the canal itself and into this huge clay hole tumbled a narrow stream of water which trickled down the centre of the bed, carrying bright twisting fishes with it into the depths of the earth. These poor thrashing silver forms were everywhere, catching the sunlight in a most spectacular display, gasping for life as they lay in the mud or were swallowed into the gaping hole. We could do nothing.

We spoke with several of the local inhabitants who were on the scene, and took photographs. The phenomenon we learned was caused by the collapse of an old brick culvert, which was built to carry a stream under the canal embankment. Consequently, with the collapse, a great section of clay caved in, forming a shaft through which the whole of the western canal water had rushed, flooding the low fields on each side.

Soon afterwards we left and struggled back to Fleet in our boats, while the water drained around us. Even if our hopes of travelling to Odiham had not been realised, we had been well compensated in seeing an interesting example of how landscape can be suddenly changed by the forces of nature, and a fascinating incident in the history of the Basingstoke Canal.

R Bingley Doyle

All of which helps to explain why the BCA is planning to drain this length of the canal and line it with Bentonite blanket in the same way as the Ash embankment was done. Apparently it has been leaking quite badly for some time and other efforts to cure it have failed. Delays in getting planning permission mean that this will now be done during the 2020/21 winter.

It will be interesting to see whether there is still any sign of where “the bottom fell out”.

Sales



Last year we published a calendar using photos from a competition that we ran. Various factors prevented us running a similar competition this year, so our 2020 calendar uses photos from our archives illustrating some of the activities that went into the restoration of the canal. See if you can find yourself among them!

You can buy them at the Canal Centre, or email Gill Phipps at gillphipps26@gmail.com. She will then send you a Paypal invoice from Basingstoke Canal Trading and once paid, we will post it to you.

We also have Christmas cards for sale. Just one design this year with a photo by Betty Hansell of the BCA.



The calendars are £6.50 each including p&p and the cards are £5.00 for one pack of 10 or £9.00 for two including p&p. Contact Gill for a quote for more.

New children's book

Skip's Waterway is a new children's adventure story written by a BCS volunteer and inspired by the history of the Basingstoke Canal.



The story follows the adventures of two children aboard “Baisey” the talking narrowboat, as they try to save the canal from closure by navigating all the way to the end at Basingstoke. It's loosely based on the true story of the last attempted navigation by Alec Harmsworth in 1913.

The author of the book is Jenny Pateman, one of our social media volunteers and Odiham mum of two. (*You may also recognise her from the cover of the last BCN as one of the “Ladies who Launch”!*)

Jenny wrote and illustrated the story before setting up an online crowd-funding campaign in August to raise the money for printing. The crowd-funder successfully reached its £2000 goal in October and the book is now in the final stages of production.

Jenny said: “I'd just like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the crowd-funding project. I'm happy to say that we are on track to send all our backers their copy of the book before Christmas. It's been great fun

for me so far and I hope your little ones enjoy it too. My hope is that the book will help raise the profile of our beautiful waterway among the younger generations during these uncertain times for the canal.”

You can find out more and order a copy of the book by visiting www.skipswaterway.co.uk or emailing Jenny at skipswaterway@gmail.com. It will be printed and delivered in time for Christmas. A donation from book sales will go to the Canal Society.

Recommended for age 5+

Price £6.99 (+£2.99 P&P, local collection can be arranged in the Odiham area)



Order now and receive your copy in time for Christmas

£6.99
(+£2.99 P&P)

www.skipswaterway.co.uk

New Chairman wanted

Philip Riley has been serving on the Canal Society's Committee for probably more years than he cares to remember. Secretary during the restoration years, Vice-Chairman under Peter Redway and Chairman ever since, for several years he has expressed a wish and an opinion that it was time for him to stand down. The problem was, and is, that he is a very good leader of the Society. However, the time has come for a change, so we are looking for a new Chairman. None of the current Committee is keen to take this on, so the following job description has been drawn up. Does it fit anyone you know?

Basingstoke Canal Society Chairman

Are you an experienced leader?

Can you bring your skills and experience to the Charity sector?

Do you have an interest in the environment and community wellbeing?

The Basingstoke Canal Society is looking for an individual to lead the work of the Society and chair its Executive Committee.

With 900 members and over 240 volunteers the Society are the guardians of the canal which runs through Surrey and Hampshire. The Society is organised with sub committees and a governance structure. It works alongside the councils' managing authority and its overarching aim is to 'keep the canal alive' by

- Promoting the future of the canal
- Protecting our environment
- Providing community leisure activities
- Preserving our heritage

The canal is a vital local amenity with virtually its whole length designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It provides a great range of leisure activities including boating, running, walking, cycling and angling

You will lead a team with diverse knowledge and skills, some of whom have been involved with the restoration and maintenance of the canal for many years. A full role specification is available on request but the key requirements are to:

- Lead the executive team in developing and delivering the Society's vision and strategy
- Ensure the appropriate executive team in place and carrying out the required duties
- Represent the Society at key stakeholder meetings, including the managing authority and both County Councils.
- Discharge the Society's legal and regulatory requirements

This is a voluntary role and the time commitment will be what you make of it but as a guide you would need to spend the equivalent of at least one day a week to undertake this important, interesting and rewarding role.

Please contact Ken Sankey or Neil Sutherland, Co Vice-Chairs for further details or for an informal conversation about the role on: ken.sankey@basingstoke-canal.org.uk or phone 07850 652769 neil.sutherland@basingstoke-canal.org.uk or phone 07796 272238

200 Club

Winners:

June

Mr J A Riley	£40
Mrs V Vine	£15
Mr T Williams	£10
Miss G L Miller	£10

August

Mrs A M Richardson	£40
Mrs J B Keep	£15
Mrs P J Sladen	£10
Mr C Bristow	£10

October

Mr J Simpkins	£40
Mr J P M H Evelyn	£15
Mr B Porter	£10
Mr D Paine	£10

There will be a draw in December, but we have decided to then discontinue the 200 Club. The number of subscribers has been falling steadily and it is probably now barely a 100 Club, so we feel that the effort involved in running it (mainly due to having to maintain a separate bank account) is no longer really worth it.

If anyone has been paying by standing order, please contact your bank and cancel it.

We thank all past and present members for their support and contributions to the Society's funds. We now have an active Fundraising Group, so, who knows, they may come up with another, more attractive scheme for filling our coffers.

Don Barber

Pat Perry-Barton

Sad to report the death of yet another significant figure in the Canal's recent history. Pat was Paddy Field's secretary when he became the BCA's first Canal Director in 1990 and she and her boat "Quercus" were much involved with Basingstoke events.

She was also a longstanding IWA member and volunteer. Pat contributed to IWA's major events including IWA Canalway Cavalcade and the National Festival over 35 years, managing boat bookings, waterspace, volunteers and children's activities. Always generous with offers of accommodation and catering, several VIP events were catered from Pat's boat. Pat Barton was awarded a Richard Bird medal in 2012 in recognition of the many hours of support given to IWA's major events. She will be greatly missed by her many friends.



BCS Membership

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT

A warm and appreciative welcome to our new members:

Frances Bonnington of Fleet
Philippa Brealey of Alton
David Carrington of Camberley
Trisha Duckworth of Camberley
Alice Grant of Fleet
Lynne Haldenby of Fleet
Mike Hillman of Bagshot
Malcolm Lyne of Frimley
Debbie Mellors of Bordon
Christopher Nobbs of Camberley
Ted Pritchard of Basingstoke
Gill Riding of Camberley
Pete Roberts of Fleet
Robert Rowley of Crookham
Andrew Thompson of Ash Vale
Martin Thompson of Addlestone

Tanya Willson of Hook
Peter Wilson of Alton

As we make more use of electronic communication please make sure our emails don't end up in your 'junk' folder by adding Membership@basingstoke-canal.org.uk to your 'Safe Senders' list. If you have recently acquired an email address please let me know, it helps immensely!

Watch out for details of changes to subscription renewal in the New Year.

Best Regards

Andy Beale
Membership Secretary

New Treasurer needed

Guy Faller has been the Canal Society's Treasurer for nearly seven years but has now given notice of his intention to stand down as from the end of this financial year. He is finding it difficult to fit Society business in with the increasing amounts of time he is spending abroad.

Guy is a chartered accountant and has managed the Society's financial affairs in a very professional and organised way, which should make things straightforward for his successor to take up.

The Treasurer's post is one of the essential ones that, as a Limited Company and Registered Charity, the Society must fill if it is to continue to function.

It is not necessary for the Treasurer to have any accountancy qualifications, and indeed, Guy is the first of our treasurers to do so, but some such experience would obviously help.

If you, or someone you know might be willing to take on the job, please contact our Secretary, Celia Griffiths.

BCS information



The Bulletin is now up to Issue 42.

If you want to keep up with the latest news about the canal, please click on the Friends button on the Society

website at www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk

To join the Society, please contact the Membership Secretary, Andy Beale, whose contact details are below.

The annual subscription is Adults £15, Junior £0, Family £20, and Group £30 payable on March 1st each year. Life membership is a one-off £200.

Date for next copy 31st January 2020

Published by the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society Ltd., a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee, registered as a Charity. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Society. Executive members of the Committee are shown in bold type and Directors of the Society have an asterisk () after their name.*

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Swans



A family of swans arriving for their elevensies at Old Thatch, Winchfield after paddling down from Odiham.