



CUTTING THE RIBBON – Councillor Colin Kemp, Woking Deputy Mayor Cllr Saj Hussain and his daughter Faaria Sahi, the deputy mayoress, with Basingstoke Canal Society Chairman Philip Riley Pictures by Len Walker



INVITED GUESTS – Those attending the opening included Woking MP Jonathan Lord, Cllr Ayesha Azad and Cllr Chitra Rana, with the deputy mayor and Faaria Sahi by the notice board about the history of the canal

Ribbon cut on canal wharf

THE Woking Town Wharf has been officially opened, providing residents and visitors with a base from which to explore the Basingstoke Canal.

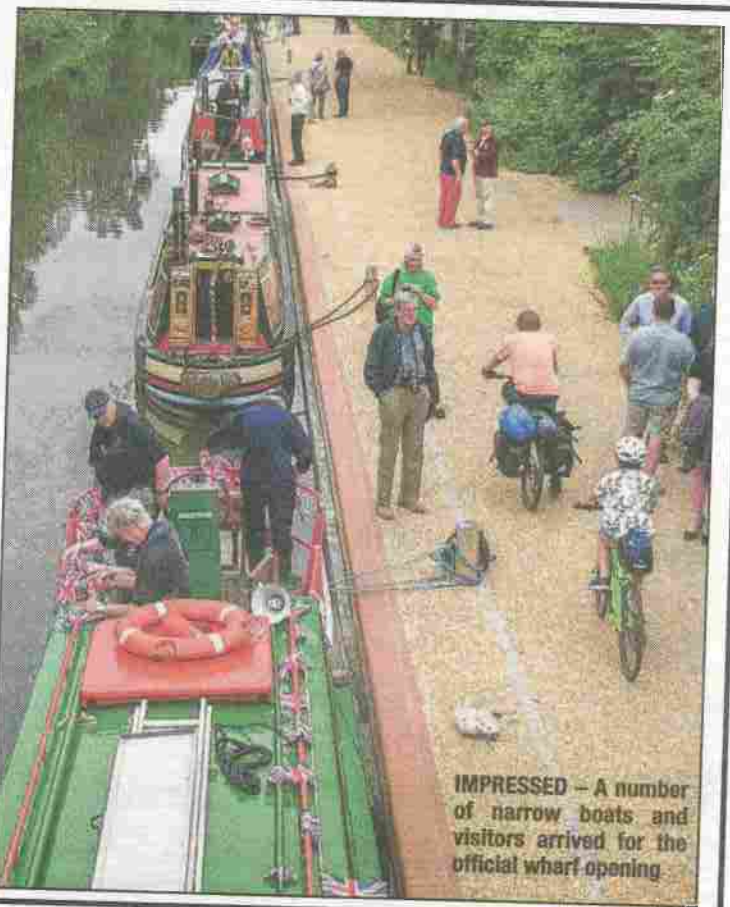
The wharf was created last year and funded by Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council with a contribution from Basingstoke Canal Society.

The facility is intended to attract visiting boaters to stop off in Woking as well as create an attractive area for all to enjoy by the canal side

It also provides a base for the Woking trip boat Kitty and accessible trip boat Maggie G which have provided a new visitor attraction in the centre of Woking enabling all visitors and residents to have an opportunity to explore their local waterway by boat.

The stretch of the canal in Surrey was purchased by the county council in 1976 and was restored, with substantial help from what became the Basingstoke Canal Society) and reopened in 1991.

The canal is also a haven for wildlife and holds Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status with statutory protection for much of its length and is nationally important for its unique water chemistry and the range of plants and invertebrates that this supports.



IMPRESSED – A number of narrow boats and visitors arrived for the official wharf opening

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