



BASINGSTOKE CANAL BULLETIN

No. 10 November 2011

Lock 17 Rebuilding Complete



Finishing touch to the work on Lock 17, by Society workparty member and stonemason, Janet Buckley. The Society regular workparty were relieved to complete an extensive programme of rebuilding and repointing at Lock 17 last month. Not a lot of this work will show when the Deepcut flight is eventually navigable again, but of course that is the idea...

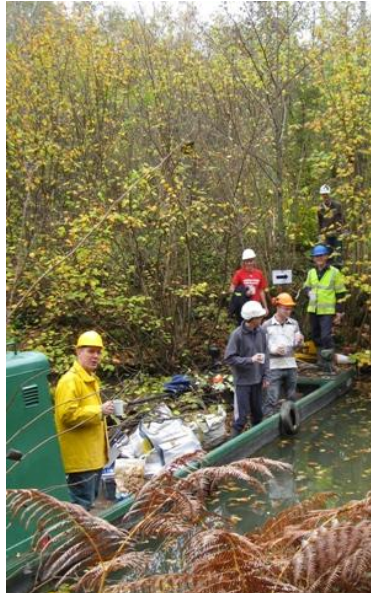
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Activity on the Basingstoke

We are very pleased to report that activity on the Canal has recently picked up significantly. The term contractor, Dyer and Butler, has made some good progress along the Deepcut flight with the rebuilding of the by-wash* outlet at Lock 19 (above right) and starting the reconstruction of a collapsed lower wing wall at



Lock 20 (lower right).

We would like to thank Bill Nicholson and his team from the [Newbury Working Party Group](#) (left) for their recent stint of bank clearance at the overgrown section in West Hart, taking up from where the [Waterway Recovery Group \(WRG\)](#) left off in October.

(*A bywash is an overflow channel constructed around a lock – Ed)

Activity on the Basingstoke (continued)



I expect that much to the relief of local residents, there is water again in the Brookwood pound between Locks 12 and 13 (*left*), now that the rangers have refitted the upper gates at Lock 12.



The Society regular workparty has also been busy paving the notoriously muddy towpath near the runway's end at Farnborough (*above right*), again picking up from where the WRG team left it in October. Hopefully this will be completed by the end of November. Funding for this job is being provided by TAG, the proprietors of the airfield, via the tariffs they pay Rushmoor Borough Council.



Engineering work of a different type has also taken place this month. Some of you may be aware that the BCA's dredger, *Unity*, has been out of action for a long while because of damage done to its pipework resulting from the use of unsuitable hydraulic oil. During this time it has been languishing near Poulter's

Bridge, Crookham. The Society agreed to fund the replacement of the pipework, which has now been installed by the rangers, with new oil, and the dredger is working once again (*above left*). At the time of writing, it is undergoing test by the rangers.

Another BCA craft, a weedcutting machine (*right*), has also been out of action for some time with a number of faults, including rainwater damage. Walkers will have noticed that weed growth on the Canal bed is choking the navigation in places (Ash Embankment, for example) and this weedcutter is badly needed back in service. The [John Pinkerton trip boat](#) maintenance team led by John Wharf, and ranger Andy Foster are applying themselves to this renovation task. Funding for the repair will be split between the BCA and the Society. John will hopefully be able to provide a progress report for the next bulletin.



Society Regular Volunteer Work Party

The next regular Society work parties will take place on **26th/27th November**, hopefully to complete the runway's end towpath paving (see above), and then on **10th/11th December** (towpath paving, or other job to be agreed). We will need several dumper drivers to transport the roadstone along the towpath. For the location, see [here](#).

If you are interested in helping on the Canal and don't mind getting a bit dirty, please email Janet Buckley at workparty@basinstoke-canal.org.uk or call her on 01252 620787.

Request for Volunteers

John Pinkerton Crew Organisers URGENTLY Wanted

We have had an excellent response to the request for volunteers to be new skippers for the John Pinkerton trip boat. All these volunteers are now training before they start as skippers next season. This time we are asking for a volunteer, or volunteers, to organise the rostering of crews for our summer 2012 operation. In the past there have been two crew managers: one for weekend trips and evenings during the week, and one for daytime weekday trips. However, this could be done by one person with more time! Crews could be contacted either by email or telephone. By using email all crew can be sent a list of trips each month and can then reply with their choice of dates to crew the boat. The crew manager only operates during the trip season of Easter or 1st April to the end of October each year. On average we run about 140 trips a season. The time taken by two crew managers to organise crew will of course vary with the trip numbers. Typically with two people this may be a couple of hours a week. This will help us considerably, and bring in the £25,000 to £30,000 that we then give to the Canal Society for supporting the Basingstoke Canal each year. If you would like more information, please email me on petejwright@bopenworld.com, phone 01344 772461 or mobile 07788 780917. *Peter Wright*

Weekday Workparty Volunteers Wanted

Ranger Chris Healy is [trying to recruit volunteers](#) to another workparty, which will meet on a weekly basis. The first meet will take place in the Brookwood area on **Tuesday 10th January 2012** to clear scrub along the bankside. Over time, the hope is that these work parties will be extended to other parts of the Canal. This activity is to support the long awaited structural work which is currently being undertaken at Deepcut and Brookwood. Read the [Winter edition of the Basingstoke Canal News](#) (when it appears), and the [“Your Canal Needs You”](#) poster for more information. If you are interested in participating, please contact the BCA at info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk, or call the Canal Centre on 01252 370073. *Kathryn Dodington*

Proposed Change of Society Name

It has been proposed by the Committee that perhaps the Society should change the name under which it operates to something that more closely reflects the name of the Canal which it supports, that is, to the *“Basingstoke Canal Society”*. We know there is some backing for this idea out there, though it is not unanimous. The arguments that have been made in favour of this proposal are these:

- the general public do not necessarily associate the Basingstoke Canal with the current name, The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society;
- some assume that we are associated with other canals in Surrey and in Hampshire, which we are not; and
- if we were starting up the Society today, then we would call ourselves the *Basingstoke Canal Society* - the only reason for not doing so originally was because of an objection from the then, similarly-named, owner of the Canal.

However, those against the proposal have raised these equally valid points:

- the current name has been established since the mid 60's and is well-known, so “if not broke, why fix it?”;
- the proposed new name could be confused with that of the Basingstoke Canal Authority.

If we were to proceed with a name change, then a compromise solution seems to exist: it is possible to set up a “working name” without changing the registered company name. This would manifest itself as, for example, “Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society Ltd *operating as* Basingstoke Canal Society” in the smallprint. We would then be known as the *Basingstoke Canal Society*, but retain our current name for legal purposes.

Either way, we would like to know what you think and would appreciate your comments to help guide the Committee. Please forward these to the [bulletin editor](#). The proposal will be put to the next AGM in May 2012.

Basingstoke Canal Authority News

Ian Brown, Canal Director, TV Interview

Ian Brown recently was recently [interviewed](#) on the Sky TV programme UK Boating, to raise awareness of the Basingstoke and the facilities it provides, and of the funding issues the Canal faces. The work done by the regular Society work party is given prominence, particularly at Lock 17 from where some of the interview took place. Please [click here to view](#) (it runs from approx. 00:50 to 6:20).

BCA Reports



The BCA team have produced a comprehensive set of status reports this month, which will be published in the [Winter edition](#) of the [Basingstoke Canal News](#), when it appears. Read about what the rangers have been doing, about the fact that takings from the Mytchett campsite are up on last year to over £30,000 despite poor summer weather, and about the now well-established “Santa Cruises”, which have already sold out, bringing in around another £20,000 to the Canal.

Other News

New Committee Member

We are pleased to report that **Stuart Black** has agreed to stand as Committee member, bringing our number to the full quota of 12. Stuart lives on the Canal, owns a boat, and brings some marketing experience the Society will be able to make use of. Stuart will be profiled in a future [Basingstoke Canal News](#).

Professional Volunteer Recruitment

You may have read that in the [last bulletin](#) that we have been attempting to identify [volunteering professionals](#) with particular skills to take on particular roles for which members of the Society Committee do not have time or appropriate knowledge. Luckily, we have made some good progress. **Craig Shanks** has agreed to take on the role of webmaster and overhaul and manage the Society's website. He takes over from Andy Beale, whom we thank for his contribution here. **Sandy Redman** has agreed to be coordinator of the monitoring of and responding to planning applications for developments along the Canal. It is clear that the [Planning Specialist](#) role as advertised is going to be more work than one individual can reasonably handle, and so we are looking for others who would also like to be involved. We are currently working on filling the other roles, and hope to be able to make an announcement soon.

Water Resources Group

Recognising that the canal has always suffered from water shortages, especially in dry summers, we have established a Water Resources Group to examine the various options for improving the water supply to the Canal. These range from further backpumping schemes (at Brookwood and Deepcut) to accessing water from Bourley reservoirs near Aldershot. We are also trying to secure further supplies from reservoirs which could be associated with new developments on the Canal and we are also looking at options for further abstraction. We welcome the participation of **John How** and **Tony Clark** in this group, which will work with the BCA to pursue all opportunities that are identified. There is a lot to assess and a strategy document will not emerge until some time next year. We will of course keep you posted on their progress.

Forthcoming events

Here are some dates for your diary:

- **New Members Meeting, Saturday 26th November, 2.30-5.00pm** at the Canal Centre, Mychett (for directions, click [here](#)). If you have recently joined the Society, or are [contemplating doing so](#), please come along and meet the Committee and other members of Society in a relaxed, friendly environment, and find out more about what we do. Refreshments will be provided.
- The 2011/12 season of the **Chobham Social Meetings** will take place at The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, at **8pm** on the **third Wednesday** of the month. Non members and friends are very welcome. Refreshments will be available at the interval. Please call David Millett on 01252 617364 for more information. For a map and for more details about the talks, please refer to the latest [Basingstoke Canal News](#).
 - **21st December 2011** - Richard Thomas – “The Gunpowder Plot”
 - **18th January 2012** - Chris Witts – “My Life on the River Severn”

Note: We urgently need one or more persons willing to help with refreshments at the Chobham social meetings to identify themselves. All the tea making equipment and ingredients will be provided. Hopefully a rota can be organised. If you are willing to help, please contact Peter Coxhead on 01932 344564.

Have your say..

Please send any feedback you may have about this bulletin to the [bulletin editor](#). **Short articles about the Canal with accompanying photos would be appreciated.** The copy date for bulletin articles is the **last day of each month**. Publication (if it occurs) will normally take place approximately in the middle of the following month.

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