



BASINGSTOKE CANAL BULLETIN

No. 14 June / July 2012

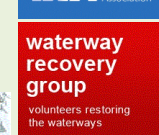
21st Birthday Celebrations at Frimley Lodge Park



As part of the celebrations for the 21st anniversary of the Canal reopening after restoration at the Canal Jubilee event in Frimley Lodge Park in early June, a cake was cut and distributed to attendees. Surrey Heath mayor Cllr Bruce Mansell did the honours.

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- [The Canal "then, later and now" pictures](#)
- [Basingstoke Canal Wiki Page](#)
- [Basingstoke Canal Authority \(BCA\) Website](#)
- [Map of the Basingstoke Canal](#)
- [John Pinkerton on Facebook](#)
- [BCA Visitor Centre on Facebook](#)



Canal Jubilee Event



Like all Jubilee celebrations elsewhere, the Frimley Lodge Park Canal Jubilee event was affected by the wet weather, but the foresight of the organisers Verna, Freddie and Peter ensured there was ample under cover space. The occasion spanned the three days of the public holiday, and despite the rain, a good time was had by all



Click here to join the Surrey and Hants Canal Society

Appointment of Canal Manager



As reported in the [last bulletin](#), Phil Allen has been appointed to take on the “strategic” Canal management post, which is one of the two Hampshire County Council roles which replace the job of the Canal Director, previously held by Ian Brown who retired at the end of June. One of Phil’s first tasks has been to organise the appointment of an individual to fill the other, “operational”, role. Adverts for a Canal Manager have now been posted on the [HCC website](#) and in the [Guardian](#). The successful candidate will report to Phil, and will be based at the Mychett Canal Centre, and will be responsible for managing the ranger team and the day-to-day running of the Canal. The closing date is 6th August, and applications are welcomed from suitably qualified personnel. Additional information on the Canal Manager Post include a [full job description](#) and a [job summary and person specification](#).

The job details read as if describing principally a countryside manager role, however the Society believes it is essential that the selected candidate is well experienced with the challenges of running a navigable waterway.

Society and Visiting Work Parties



the piling has been completed, the landing stage and widened towpath will be dressed with a hard wearing crushed stone and will look a good deal smarter than it does now.



from the week-long work party are doing a variety of tasks at Deepcut, including piling, pointing brickwork, repairs to a bywash channel and general tidying up. A report will follow in the next bulletin.

The regular Society work party has continued work at Frimley Lodge Park and have now installed soft bank protection along a 200m section of towpath as far as the model railway buildings (*left*). Construction of a 40m landing stage near Guildford Road bridge has recently been started, with the



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Water Situation again

Well, hasn't there been a lot of it! The whole issue of rainfall and water supply has become of particular interest to the voluntary Water Strategy Group, led by John How, a water engineer and member of the Inland Waterways Association, consulting on behalf of the Society. The WSG's aim is to find more water for the canal, and are in the process of looking at every opportunity for potential additional supplies, including pumping schemes, boreholes, and use of water from diverted streams, reservoirs and urban catchments. It is still early days in an investigation that is expected to take several years, however we hope to be able to announce a first significant step in the next few months.

Documents such as the [June 2012 water situation report from the Environment Agency](#) therefore tend to catch our attention, and it includes some interesting highlights. For example, England and Wales has had the wettest June since records began in 1910. The South-East received around 250% of the average rainfall for the month, or more than 80mm (3.5"), and apparently other records have been set around the country. However the cumulative rainfall total for the last 21 months to June 2012 in the area is still only 80-90% of the long term average – highlighting how dry it has been overall. Surprisingly, some aquifers in the South East are still registering as "below normal" or "notably low", despite all that we have had chucked at us, but are evidently recovering, reflected by the fact that the remaining hose-pipe bans have now all been lifted. July could be another record breaking month of course, though it does appear that summer has resumed at last.

Early results of a WSG study on how rainfall affects the flow in the canal suggest that it will continue to benefit from the recent rains for the next 4-5 months.

John Pinkerton News

JP2 Update

The Society committee has seen an impressive computer simulated "tour" of the proposed new John Pinkerton trip boat. The contractor, Lambons of Droitwich, has taken the design to a high level of detail, including the internal fittings and furnishing, and it will be soon be ready to submit to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency for approval (as being suitable vessel for carrying the general public). Once this has been obtained (which we expect will happen in August), we hope the "tour package" can be placed on the Society's website for everyone to see.

Report from a new JP skipper



Just arrived home after a pleasurable trip on the John Pinkerton from Colt Hill to St. John's Castle and back. Members of the Princess Royal Trust For Carers were joined by the new Mayor of



Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Martin Biermann (right). I have enclosed some photos taken on the John Pinkerton. I am one of this year's new Skippers and I was supported by 3 very experienced crew members: David Lloydlangston, Wal Cousins and Keith Temple. While we were at St. John's Castle, I did say that the tunnel may never be opened again and the Mayor replied 'Never say Never'. He thanked all the crew for thoroughly enjoyable trip.

Bob Malcolm

Volunteer Booking Managers for the John Pinkerton urgently needed

At the end of the year we will be losing our Booking Managers Marion and Hugh Gough who will be retiring after about twenty years. **If you think you would be interested in taking over the position of taking enquiries and bookings for the John Pinkerton could you please email Peter Wright**, or call him on 01344-772461 to have a chat. We run, on average, about 175 cruises a year. This usually translates into around £30,000 of profit that will be paid direct to the Canal Society, forming approximately two thirds of its income. This money goes towards making improvements to the Canal.

Canal and River Trust Launch

The Society will be closely watching the fortunes of the new charitable [Canal and River Trust](#) (C&RT) that was recently launched to take on British Waterways' 2000 miles of rivers and canals. There is a proportion of England and Wales waterways for which C&RT is not responsible, including those managed by the Environment Agency (including the River Thames), and others like the Wey Navigation, and the Basingstoke (managed by the Natural Trust, and Surrey and Hampshire counties, respectively). However, there is an expectation that the EA managed waterways may move into C&RT a few years down the line, and the case for absorbing other waterways, probably on an individual basis, will be looked at in the more distant future. The Society firmly believes that the best sustainable future for the Basingstoke Canal lies with it being under the C&RT umbrella, and will continue to campaign in this regard.

Contributions to the Bulletin are welcome..

Short articles about the Canal with accompanying photos if possible would be appreciated. Please send them to the [bulletin editor](#). The copy date for bulletin articles is the **last day of each month**. Publication (if it occurs) will normally take place towards the end of the following month.

Please also let the [bulletin editor](#) know if there are any articles or information you would like to appear in future bulletins.

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The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Society.

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