



The Basingstoke
Canal Society

Basingstoke Canal Bulletin

No. 23 MAY / JUNE / JULY 2014

A New Addition....



Congratulations go to Jon and Sara Green, both canal rangers, on the birth of their daughter Evie. She was borne on June 5th at 2.13pm, and weighed 8lbs 0½ oz.

Learn about the Canal by clicking these links

- [Join the Society](#)
- [Become Involved](#)
- [The Basingstoke Canal Society Website](#)
- Sign up to receive future bulletins (if this one was forwarded/downloaded): [Members](#) [Non-members](#)
- [Read previous Basingstoke Canal Bulletins](#)
- [Read the Basingstoke Canal News \(BCN\)](#)
- [John Pinkerton cruising on the Basingstoke Canal](#)
- [The Basingstoke Canal Picture Gallery](#)
- [The History and Restoration of the Basingstoke Basingstoke Canal Wiki Page](#)
- [Basingstoke Canal Authority \(BCA\) Website](#)
- [Joint Management Committee \(JMC\) Papers](#)
- [Map of the Basingstoke Canal](#)
- [John Pinkerton on Facebook](#)
- [BCA Visitor Centre on Facebook](#)



Click on the [website links](#) in the Bulletin articles to read more

Busy On The Basingstoke

We are pleased to see a busy cruising season on the Canal. Many visiting boats, some from far afield,



have been taking advantage of the (generally) good weather, and a lot of boaters travelled to the end of Farnborough airport runway to enjoy the Air Show last week (planes take off over the Canal). For more photographs, see the [Society website](#).

Progress Being Made With Canal Centre Development

For two or three years now, Surrey County Council has been working on a plan for redeveloping the Canal Centre. As a first step, consultants were commissioned to come up with a “Vision” for the Canal, which was intended to provide SCC a basis for a new business plan and subsequent investment. Their [report was duly published](#) in early 2013. The Society and the IWA commented extensively on this report, but we were somewhat disappointed with it since it did not bring many new ideas to the table, nor did it recommend a manageable, focussed, set of initiatives. However, improving the Canal Centre facilities did figure in their conclusions. Surrey CC commissioned a second (unpublished) study and has undertaken further work to look in detail at how the Canal Centre can be overhauled and be largely self-sustaining by exploiting its assets (canal-side location, camp-site *below* etc) to best effect and by introducing additional



revenue-earning attractions. Progress has been made here, and the Society awaits the report with interest. The upgraded facilities will feature in some form: a visitor centre, “interactive attractions”, new visitor moorings (already under construction, *above right*), restaurant, the much-delayed canoe club facilities, BCA offices and reception, toilets etc. Architects will shortly be engaged to produce drawings, and a planning application is expected to be made at the end of the year. However, when work will begin on the site is anyone’s guess. Nothing is guaranteed with developments on the Canal (the recently [stalled development in Woking](#) reported in the [last bulletin](#) being a case in point), and SCC will have to find funds for this project in the face of more council belt-tightening over the next few years. But if it goes ahead, it will be good news for the Basingstoke.

Some Progress Made On Dogmerfield Landslip

Read the [update article on the website](#). The plan is still to have repairs done before next year’s cruising season.

Management Changes At The BCA

We were sorry to hear of the departure of Phil Allen, Hampshire Countryside Manager (*right*) from the Canal Management Team. He decided to accept voluntary redundancy and has left HCC to pursue other interests, including an extended stay with his brother across the Atlantic. We all wish him good luck for the future. We are led to believe we may not have seen the last of him however – he was toying with the idea of joining the Society...



Needless to say, the job Phil did still needs to be covered. James Taylor, Countryside Manager for Surrey (*left*) has accepted the job of Strategic Manager for the Canal, and will represent both Hampshire and Surrey Counties.

We have also heard that Andy Smith, Phil’s previous boss in HCC and a long-term supporter of the Canal, has accepted a job with Natural England. Again, we don’t believe we have seen the last of Andy as it is possible he will represent NE at the Canal’s Joint Management Committee meetings.

Fiona Shipp’s job, that of Canal Manager, is unaffected (except perhaps for the additional work that may come her way as a result of James’ extended role).

Work Party Activity

We are pleased to see a lot of good work done on the Canal by the BCA-led weekday work parties, under the principal leadership of ranger Chris Healey. They have been doing tasks such as hydrocotyl weed removal, bank protection work, installation of bollards, lock gate painting, rubbish removal and bank clearance, amongst other things.

The Society regular workparty has continued with the upgrading of the *John Pinkerton* mooring at the Colt Hill barn in Odiham (*right*), and has nearly finished the job. We now have a barn “garden” with grassed area and a plant bed, new steps down to the landing stage and two hard-standing areas. We were pleased that [Councillor Ken Thornber, chairman of](#)



[Hampshire CC agreed to unveil a plaque](#) to commemorate the completion of the barn renovation, though it was a pity we hadn't quite managed to finish off the barn grounds in time. It has emerged that the barn is constructed of nearly 700-year old timbers – see [a summary of the report obtained by Mark Coxhead](#).

A work party comprising members of the London team of the [Waterway Recovery Group](#) (WRG) and led by Helena Rosiecka, came to the Canal for a weekend during July (*left*). They undertook a variety of jobs and some investigatory work around Lock 28 and the dry dock, including repairs to the “wilderness weir”, paving the track leading to the dry dock, putting a hard stand around a water tap, and painting

lock gates. We thank them for their contribution. We may see some of them again in late August when a week-long workparty will be based in Brookwood Country Park.

Volunteer Lawn Mowers Wanted

Now that the barn garden and area at the end of the Waterwitch garden has been turfed, we now need volunteers to help with giving these an occasional mow and trim. We are fortunate to have been donated a mower and strimmer. If you would be willing to help in any way, please contact barn manager [Derek Taylor](#).

Spare Steel Racking

We need additional racking to allow more efficient storage in the barn. Please contact [Derek Taylor](#) if you happen to have some you can spare, or know where we could acquire some.

John Pinkerton News



John Pinkerton Canal Cruises

The *John Pinkerton II* (*right*) has been out on the Canal, and is apparently having a very good season. It has a busy schedule of [Charter](#) and [Public trips](#) lined up for the rest of the year. If you are interested in taking a JP II cruise, take a [look at the website for more information](#).

The old John Pinkerton has also been out providing cruises for our Farnborough Air Show clients (*below*). Before it finally leaves the Canal at the beginning of August, the old JP will be used for a few, longer, **nostalgia cruises**, including a return trip to Woking. These “[enthusiasts cruises](#)” take place on **Monday July 21st**, **Friday 25th July** and **Saturday 26th July**.





The Nostalgia Cruises on JP1 are open to all, but may be of particular interest to long-serving JP crew and other Society members. For details, please see the [JP Enthusiasts Cruises webpage](#), and to book please contact our [Bookings Manager, David Horwood](#) on 01256 765889.

We understand the old JP will then be relocated by its new owners to Hungerford on the Kennet and Avon Canal to start a new life there. When we know more, we will report on what has happened to it.

Forthcoming Events

- [Enthusiasts Cruises on the JP1](#), on **Monday July 21st**, **Friday 25th July** and **Saturday 26th July**. For more details, see article above.
- [The Mikron Theatre Company Visit](#) takes place on **Sunday 27th July at 7.30pm**, at the **Fleet Football Club Clubroom, Crookham Road, Fleet, GU51 5FA**. The show is called “**The Troupers**”. For more details, see the [Event webpage](#), or contact David Millett on 01252 617364 or Verna Smith on 01252 517622. Come along and enjoy the show. A bar will be available.
- [The Illustrated Talks 2014/15 season](#) at the Parish Pavilion in Chobham [has recently been announced](#). For more details of venue and dates, please refer to the [Illustrated Talks page](#). The first session takes place on **Wednesday 15th October at 8pm**, where Nick Grundy will give his account of HM The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Pageant.

Bulletin Articles Welcome

We welcome short articles about the Canal with accompanying photos if possible. Please send them to the [bulletin editor](#)

Published by The Basingstoke Canal Society

A Non-profit Distributing Company, Limited by Guarantee, Registered as *The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society Ltd* in England No. 1296593 and as a Charity No. 273085. Affiliated to the Inland Waterways Association.

Presidents: Tim and Elizabeth Dodwell. **Vice-Presidents:** John Humphries OBE, Paul Vine MA, Robin Higgs OBE, David Gerry, David Millett, Dieter Jebens, Rt Hon James Arbuthnot MP, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, Sir Gerald Howarth MP, Jonathan Lord MP, Rt Hon. Maria Miller MP, Ann Milton MP, Cllr Alan Rice TD

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Society.

Bulletin Editorial Team: Martin Leech, Roger Cansdale

Click here to join The Basingstoke Canal Society