



# BASINGSTOKE CANAL BULLETIN

No. 4 February 2011

## Peter Redway MBE 1934 - 2011



It is with regret and sadness that we report the death of Peter Redway, Chairman of the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011, following a long period of poor health. As a token of respect, Peter, who lived next to the Canal for much of his life, was given a traditional boatman's funeral. His coffin was placed on the Society's workboat *Alan Flight* which was bow hauled by his two sons Kevin and Ian and members of the Society regular work party from outside his house in St John's to an awaiting hearse at Lock 11 a short distance away. Peter had spent a lot of time on the renovation of the *Alan Flight* during last year, and it is ironic that his first trip on the boat should be his last on the Basingstoke. The [Spring edition of the Basingstoke Canal News](#) (due out at the end February) will contain tributes to Peter Redway from friends and colleagues with whom he worked unstintingly over the years in support of the Canal.

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## Structural Repairs

### News from the BCA:

The bank leak at Poulter's Bridge continues to be carefully monitored by the ranger team. With the water level lowered, the leak had stopped. Recent evaluation has placed this leak in the low risk category and bank protection can wait to be done in the early Summer by the newly appointed term contractor. In any event the water level of the Hampshire Pound will now start to rise to optimum navigation levels ahead of the boating season, and other work on the Hampshire Pound can be carried out with no effect on canal traffic.

Ash Lock will be temporarily closed until the 28<sup>th</sup> February while inspection and maintenance work (delayed from last year because of the weather) is carried out on Government Road bridge.

Major structural repairs on Locks 19 and 20 of the Deepcut flight are scheduled to start from May 2011 onwards, along with various lock gate replacements and other repairs as listed in [Bulletin No. 1](#). Opening of the Deepcut flight is still scheduled for early spring 2012. The Brookwood flight of locks will be reopened once new gates are fitted to Lock 12 this month.

The heavily-used towpath that joins the Canal Visitor Centre and Frimley Lodge Country Park is in a very poor state of repair (see [Bulletin No. 2](#)). A recent risk assessment requires that certain areas will need to be cordoned off until repairs are carried out. However, at the time of writing it has still to be determined if this stretch will have to be closed completely, and for how long – that will be reviewed later in the month. Ian Brown, the Canal Director, has made an application for funding to Surrey Heath Borough Council to see if they can help towards the repair by either making their full revenue contribution or making up the shortfall with a capital project grant. The BCA will prioritise the need for installing bank protection this year but with severely restricted resources are limited in what can be done in the short term.

## Progress on Trip Boat replacement

I am sure that Peter Redway would have been pleased to hear about the progress being made regarding the design of the replacement to the Society's trip boat, the [John Pinkerton](#), and visits made to potential builders. (The JP raised over £30,000 towards the Canal in 2010). See the [Basingstoke Canal News](#) for a report from one of the team involved in the planning of "JP2".

## Volunteering News

### *Working Parties at Odiham*

A lot more bank clearance and tidying up activity has taken place around Odiham since the visit by members of the [Newbury Working Party Group](#) (NWPG) reported on in the [last bulletin](#). The regular Society working party were joined one weekend by the "[Bit In The Middle](#)" (BITM) [Waterways Recovery Group](#) and together they cleared a substantial length of the off-bank near Lodge Farm bridge (about half a mile west of Odiham). On the following weekend several members of the [Kent and East Sussex Canal Restoration Group](#) (KESCRG), also hosted by Duncan Paine, took up where the other groups left off. The result is a much tidier section of canal no longer encroached upon by wayward trees, hawthorn and brambles. We thank BITM and KESCRG for all their efforts.

These weekends were the first time that the Society's work boat, the *Alan Flight*, was put to use for its intended purpose, and it is unfortunate that Peter Redway, who organised its acquisition and refitting, was not able to see it in action.



*The off bank near the North Warnborough lift bridge before and after bank clearance by NWPG*



*Members of KESCRG putting the Alan Flight to work at Lodge Farm bridge.*

We should also point out that the Basingstoke Canal Authority rangers (who I am sure would not count themselves as volunteers) have also been hard at work with bank clearance near Broad Oak (a short distance east of Odiham). Those members of the [John Pinkerton](#) crew who have tangled with it will be pleased to know that the previously very narrow section between old bridge remains and overhanging trees has now been opened out (right). Almost unrecognisable now.



### *Regular Working Parties*

The regular SHCS working party has met every second and fourth weekend of the month (ie every two weeks mostly). However, with Peter Redway's passing, the plans for future work parties are currently unclear, and the Society committee and working party members are exercising their minds on how these will now move forward. Peter did much work behind the scenes as work party organiser, determining what needed to be done and how, acquiring materials, hiring plant, preparing paperwork and the like, and it will be here in particular where we will miss his expertise and quiet enthusiasm and drive to get things done. He was also responsible for encouraging visiting groups to come along and help as described above.

**It would be a fitting tribute to Peter that work parties continue in future as they have done for many years under his leadership, since there is still so much to be done along the Canal and the resources to do it are dwindling. However, if that is to happen, we need people to step forward as team leaders to help with working party organisation. Also we need more regular volunteers. If you feel up to the job and are able to help in any way, do please email [Roger Cansdale](#), or call him on 01252-678608.**

We do however have one outstanding job that Peter set in motion, which is to build a permanent mooring near the runway's end at Farnborough, for which Rushmoor Borough Council has provided some grant money. It is currently expected that work will begin in late March. Meanwhile, the following work parties are planned:

- 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> February – Bank clearance near Odiham
- 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> March – Bank clearance near Odiham

## Committee News


It is expected that 3 SHCS committee positions will become vacant by the Society's AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2011, as a result of Peter Redway's death and two resignations. This leaves the current committee membership somewhat depleted of course, so we are urgently looking for interested people to fill these positions. If you would like to become closely involved with the Society and think you could contribute as a committee member and manage a few meetings a year, please email the Society's secretary [Gareth Jones](#) or phone him on 01252-690024.

## Other News

### ***Woking Canal Festival 2011, at the Bridge Barn P.H. Woking April 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> 2011***

The Canal Festival is a well established event in the Woking calendar, and is a chance to see the Canal Society showcase its work of the in grounds of a historic pub. Thanks to support from the local boat clubs, this two-day event highlights the Canal in Woking and provides boat trips, stalls and a programme of live entertainment. This will be the main outside event organised by the Society this year and we need your help to run the car park, boat trips, publicity, site services, setup and break down. We really need some good ideas for activities that raise money in addition to the children's boat pond. Could you spare some time to support the Society? Even 1 hour would help. We really need at least 10 more people to make this event run smoothly. *We urge you to support the Bridge Barn event. If you are able to help, please email [Verna Smith](#) or call her on 01252 517622.*

### ***BCA Santa Cruises sell out and raise £18000***

 For those who are unaware of our annual event, the BCA Santa Cruises involve families taking a short boat trip down the canal before getting off at the jetty with the little ones leading the way through the woods to find Father Christmas in his grotto, and receive a present. Once they have seen Father Christmas, it is back through the woods and back to the Canal Centre for hot drinks, mince pies and colouring activities for the children. The Santa Cruises not only generate much needed income for the Canal (just over £18,000 in 2010), but help to promote the Canal itself. In fact the event was so successful, we have already started to receive enquiries for Christmas 2011!!

*Dean Wall, BCA*

## Forthcoming events

Here are some dates for your diary:

- ***Chobham Social Meetings*** at The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, take place at **8pm** on the **third Wednesday** of the month. Non members and friends are very welcome. Please call David Millett on 01252 617364 for more information. For a map and for more details about the talks, please refer to the [BCN](#)
  - **16<sup>th</sup> March 2011** – Roger Clay – ‘The Hidden Avon’
  - **20<sup>th</sup> April 2011** – John Ross – ‘Roses and Castles – Canal Boat Decoration’
- ***Surrey and Hampshire Canal Cruises (John Pinkerton Boat Company) AGM***  
**4<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – 7pm for 7.30pm** at the Canal Centre, Mytchett. Come and hear more about JP2.
- ***Woking Canal Festival***, outside the Bridge Barn public house, Woking, **23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> April 2011**
- ***Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society AGM, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2011 at 2pm***, at the St John's Memorial Hall, St John's, Woking.

## Have your say..

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

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