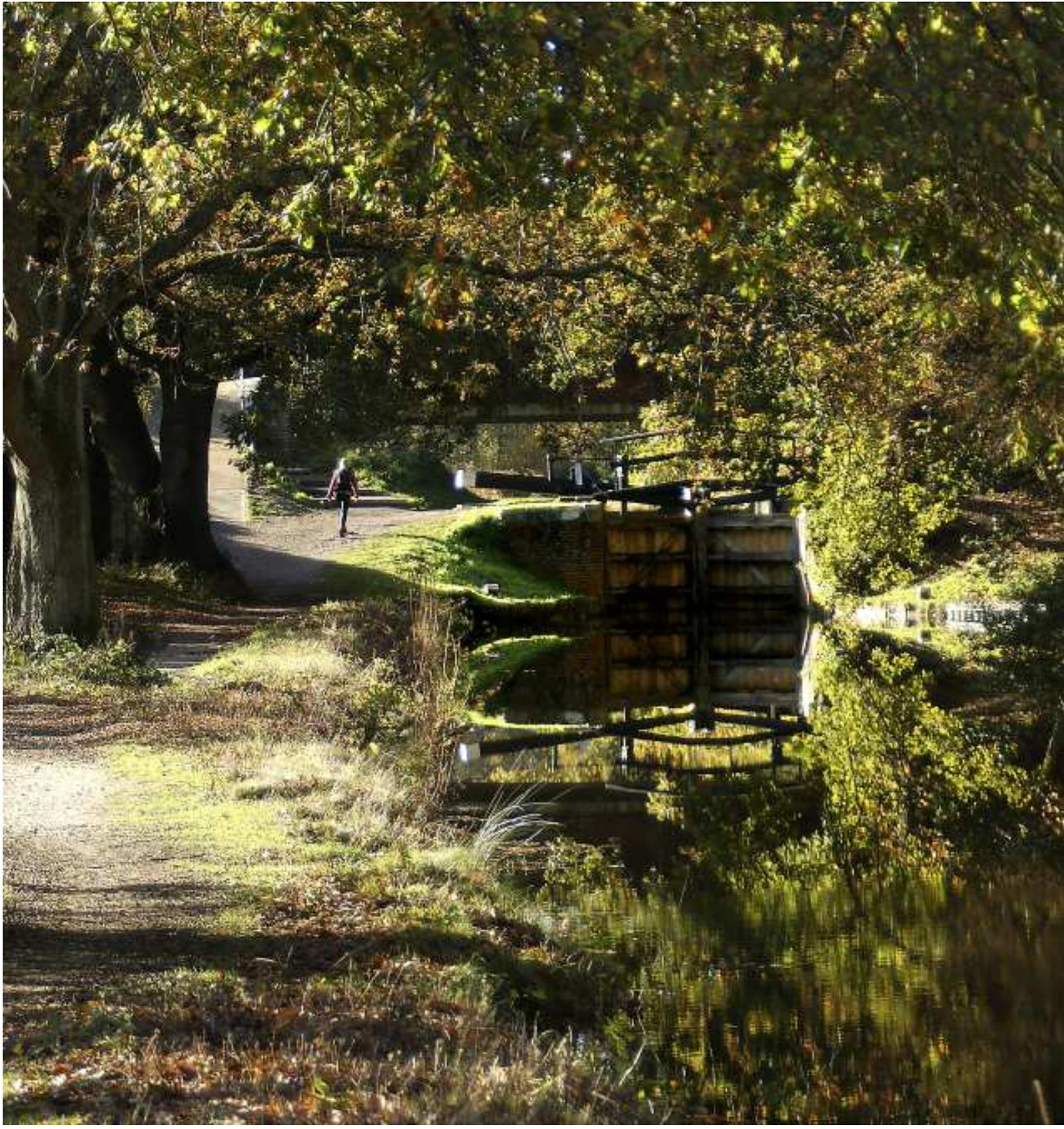




The Basingstoke
Canal Society

Basingstoke Canal News

No. 267 Autumn 2020





Editorial

Although it's been a pretty nasty year, it would have been very much worse 100 years ago with Spanish flu, or 350 years ago with the Black Death. We have the prospect of vaccines very soon and lockdown has been made much more bearable by the internet and radio and television.

Cover Picture : Autumn colours at Curzon Bridge and Lock 25.
Photo: Roger Cansdale

I think we also should be very grateful for the NHS and perhaps even more for the unsung heroes who have kept supplies of electricity, gas and water going, delivered the post and kept our supermarkets stocked and supplied.

It is perhaps a bit petty to be thinking about the Canal, but I think in an odd sort of way, 2020 has been good for it. It has certainly shown its worth as a recreational facility with hundreds of people using it for canoeing and paddle-boarding and Galleon Marine having their best season ever despite being out of action during the spring and early summer. 2020 has also shown the

need for volunteer effort to keep the canal tidy and weed-free.

The Society is also in increasingly good shape to face the future thanks largely to the efforts of Ken and Neil and their recruiting campaign, the new website and the use of social media.

Have a happy Christmas and here's to a great year in 2021!

Vice-Chairman's report

I want to share with you the progress that we are making.

Our overall purpose is to protect and support the canal, both for present and future generations. To do this we see two important themes. Firstly to work closely to support the local council owners of the canal and secondly to involve the local community and all users of the canal in actively supporting this wonderful amenity.

Perhaps I should also add that there is a third strand in that to achieve this we need to think how we organise ourselves to be able to do the above. Pleasingly we have made great progress in this and there is a separate article in this BCN that gives you an update of what is going on 'behind the scenes' - and how you can get involved!

So back to working with the council owners and the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA). Their challenge is that, as council budgets become more stretched, their work to maintain and, importantly, improve the Canal for local people becomes more challenging. Thus it is all the more important for us to work with them to improve support, be it through volunteers, funding, running projects, expertise, etc. So we are actively discussing how we can do more to help them.

As part of this our weekend working parties have resumed (all Covid compliant of course) and they hope to complete the Farnborough Road wharf moorings by the end of the year. Costing £80k and funded by the Society, this will then allow the BCA to provide extra

Vice-Chairman's report

mooring facilities with the mooring income going to help the BCA's finances. We are currently planning other similar mooring projects.

The Tuesday work group was also now back up and running. Moreover, we have jointly with the BCA also trained up 'volunteer leaders' who can help run extra 'Covid compliant' small groups to help look after more of our towpath. And of course we have the Lengthsmen continuing to walk the canal, and other groups doing various other work including clearing the invasive hydrocotyle weed.

Sadly, volunteer work has again been suspended until at least December due to the second lockdown.

Unfortunately Covid has put our trip boats on hold, this being a shame as not only are people missing the pleasure of trips on our wonderful canal but also that this volunteer operation normally brings in around £50k annually to help fund projects - we hope to get trips going as soon as possible next year and in the meantime people can contact our booking team to find out more.

Our second broad theme is of involving the local community and all users of the canal in supporting the canal. An important base for this is our website (our 'shop window') which now allows new members to join easily online, boat bookings to be made online (just need to get those boats going!), along with online sales of our books and products. Indeed, whilst talking of sales, please look at books which range from local walks through to history and paddle boarding. Through the website we have sold over 140 books in the last two months, this being a 500% increase on what we sold

last year. You can also buy our 2021 calendar and it's a super little Christmas stocking filler put together from our Facebook photo competition. Just go onto our website basingstoke-canal.org.uk to find out more.

Our other main initiative over the past few months is a campaign to raise £20,000 for a series of Information Points along the canal. Thousands of people use the canal and feedback is that people want to know more about the local history, nature and the environment. We launched the campaign in early October and it is currently running in the local press. We are asking people either to donate £20 and/or to become a member. Already we have raised or had pledges of £5,000 towards the £20,000. Thanks in particular to a Woking councillor who has pledged support, along with a £500 contribution from Fleet Rotary and several sizeable £100 donations.

So please continue donating (and mentioning it to friends and family) as we want to reach that £20,000 figure (if you would like to donate just go to our website and press 'Donate'). Going forward, we have many other projects that we are planning, some of which we hope will attract grant funding, and we will tell you about these as we go forward.

And finally, it is great that our membership is growing. Since the new website came on line we have brought on 50 new members, increasing the membership to 940. It would be great to top the 1000 by the end of the year!

Ken Sankey

Tuesday work party

What's happening in the Woking area?

Volunteers from the Canal Society have been working in cells of 6 clearing the surface weed between the junction of the canal and River Wey and up to lock 3 at West Byfleet, and in parallel they have been working downstream from lock 7 to Woking Town Wharf – and the reason?



Floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) is a species native to North America which was first discovered naturalised in Essex in 1990, having been introduced to the UK as an ornamental plant for ponds. It now is pervasive in the Woking area from the junction with the River Wey though to Lock 7 (Langmans Bridge).

It is a particular problem for navigable waterways and canals are particularly susceptible, as the

plant grows quickly in the slow moving, nutrient rich, warm water. The weed can grow up to 20cm a day forming dense mats of vegetation that can affect navigation (stopping canoes and paddleboards as well as hindering powered vessels), angling and water flow, and can increase flood risk.

Once the plant takes hold it can cost thousands of volunteer hours to remove and dispose of. It will completely dominate an area, so that nothing else can survive (as it blocks out sunlight and oxygen), potentially degrading this important SSSI.

The team have been assisted with the BCA weedcutter crewed by the BCS volunteers and this can take out the large mats in one go (maybe 250 kg), but most of the time the team are using canoes to place grappling hooks on the mats and pulling them into the bank for removal. Bear in mind that most of the weed is just water, so the teams are pulling out tonnes of stuff on every visit – who needs a gym!!



At the time of writing we still need to clear the section from Woking Town Wharf down to the top of Lock 3, and we know that in some areas the canal is completely covered by the weed. Almost analogous to painting the Forth Railway Bridge - a never ending task!!

New tools for volunteers

Going greener

The Canal Society has recently bought 2 Stihl electric hedge cutters to be used by the Volunteer work parties working under the guidance of the Canal Authority.

The rechargeable hedge cutters mean that the small teams of 6 people that we now work in, have greater capability to manage the towpath vegetation, and with the growth in users of over 300% it means a safer walking, cycling, running environment etc for all.

The rechargeable equipment illustrates one of the steps that the Society and the BCA are making to move away from fossil fuels.

The project was led by Society member Chris Scott, so many thanks to him for facilitating the purchase.



Above: Ian Moore (R) on behalf of the Canal Society handed over the new equipment to Head Canal Ranger Jon Green (L).

Inspections

Despite COVID, the natural processes keep on going and those include rust and decay!

The pictures shows Network Rail staff carrying out a triennial inspection of Mytchett Lake Railway Bridge.



Pinkerton's Progress

We managed 10 trips from 1st August at the maximum reduced capacity of 50% (25 seats) before the 'Rule of Six' intervened. All parties were very pleased to get out on the water, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The last trip this year on 19th September fulfilled a promise to reschedule the cancelled Mother's Day cruise from March. A good cruise to end on thoroughly enjoyed by all, and profitable in the bar to boot!

Over the year, we have managed to carry forward 26 charters from 2020 to 2021, but had to refund the remaining bookings. Anybody holding John Pinkerton vouchers, or who booked for Public Trips (excluding refunds) has been advised that they will be extended to cover 2021. Fresh enquiries for 2021 charters are starting to come in - let's hope they can be fulfilled.

The downside was that in mid-September, I was advised that the inverter/battery charger – the heart of the electric supplies on board – had failed, so made temporary arrangements for the trip to proceed. On examination by a local distributor, it was declared a terminal failure, so had to be replaced at a cost of about £2k. This

included extra discount, and upgrading the monitoring system. The replacement unit was fitted and everything is working again. This is our first major equipment failure since the boat was launched, so perhaps we shouldn't complain.

Good to welcome David Leitch to the team, recruited via Hart Voluntary Services. He has expressed an interest in the Boat Engineer role and has a very suitable background and has already helped to put the boat put to bed for the winter.

As a result of cancelling all further trips, there is a quantity of galley product available to buy at reduced price, as much will go out of date before next season. If any member would like to purchase beer or soft drinks etc, for Christmas or other festivities please contact me (wheelers.farm@btinternet.com) or John King at kingcayman55@gmail.com or 07765 251805.

As a special treat, why not purchase the specially created JP Mint Chocs - ideal for Christmas!

Dick King

Kitty

Sadly, Kitty's season has been a complete wash-out due to the impossibility of social distancing in a boat of this size. She remains at the Bridge Barn, all covered up.

The team however have been keeping themselves busy pulling out Hydrocotyle weed from the Woking area; seen here above Lock 3.



New Society website

We have a new Website manager (Mel Lewis) who used to run his own website business. He is now charged with taking the site to the next level—i.e. sorting out the myriad of minor issues, and making minor improvements (performance), and looking at historical data.

We are looking at changing the membership payment option as some members don't like PayPal. The majority of new members have signed up successfully using PayPal but we recognize existing (older) members may not like this method. Approximately one new member joins every day!

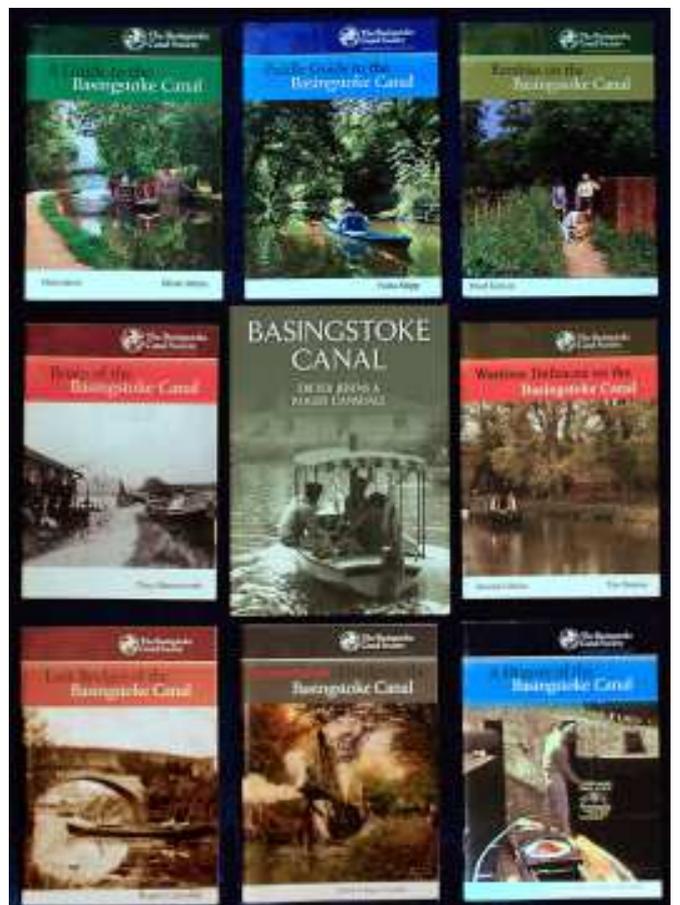
Overall the site is operating well and already having a major impact on recruiting new members (too many for Andy Beale to list on his membership page!) and on sales of books, calendars and Christmas cards. Sales income since the new website opened is over £1200, vastly in excess of anything we have done before. Fiona Shipp's Paddle Guide has proved a best seller, but the Rambles book and Canal Guide have also been doing well. The Society has now published eight books about various aspects of the Canal and we can also offer the book of photos that Deter Jebens was commissioned to do.

We have a new calendar for 2021 (*see page 22*) but we still have a considerable stock of Christmas cards from previous years, so we are offering them at the bargain price of 30 assorted cards for £10, including postage and packing. We have already sold over 450 cards.

Anyone not on the internet who wishes to buy anything, please contact Roger Cansdale on 01252 678608 or write to the address shown for him on page 23. Cheques to be payable to S&HCC Ltd please.



Above: New website manager Mel Lewis



Canal Winter Works

Work Description	Location	Date of Works	Effects on Towpath or Other Facility
Start tree survey of high priority areas and resulting urgent works	High priority areas along whole canal	Jan – Feb 2021	Towpath not effected with minor cordoned off areas as required.
Annual Lock gate replacement. Lower gates at Lock 28 and upper gates at Lock 27	Deepcut Flight 28 & 27	Dec or Jan 2021	Towpath either not affected or only very temporary closure. Follow on site instructions from signage or staff.
Structural Inspections followed by repairs to lock chambers - SCC contractor	Woodham Lock flight. Lock numbers 1 - 6	Surveys start Nov 2020	Towpath either not affected or only very temporary closure. Follow onsite instructions from signage or contractors
Offside vegetation cutting - BCA staff and BSC Vols	Off-side vegetation cutting on priority areas of the canal.	Dec 2020 -Feb 2021	Towpath not effected with minor cordoned off areas as required.
Bank protection works - Contractor	Sections classed as high priority. Works in both Surrey and Hampshire	Beginning – Nov 2020	Towpath access will be temporarily suspended during certain operations – please obey contractor's instructions and wait for instructions to proceed
Towpath vegetation cutting (Tractor flail & ride-on brushcutter) - BCA staff	Covering as much towpath length as possible depending on staff availability	Oct 2020– Feb 2021	Towpath access will be temporarily suspended during certain operations – please obey contractor's signage or instructions and wait for instructions to proceed
Farnborough Rd Moorings construction BCS	Farnborough Rd Car Park next to A325	Oct 2020 Feb 2021	None
Brookwood Mooring Platform Repairs - Contractor	Next to Brookwood country park	Winter 2020/21 TBC	Moorings will be closed during works Possible temporary access restrictions to cycle path during certain operations – please obey operator's signage or instructions and wait for instructions to proceed.
Deepcut Bridge Steps construction - Contractor on behalf of Skanska	Steps from towpath to road at Deepcut High Bridge	Dec 20 – Feb 2021 TBC	Existing access steps will be closed and removed. A towpath diversion is likely between Lock 28 and Deepcut High Bridge. Details still being discussed
Towpath surface spot repairs - BCA	Between Frimley Aqueduct and Deepcut High Bridge	Winter 2020-21 TBC	Temporary closure of towpath through this section while works are undertaken

and Stoppages List

Effects on Navigation	Status
None	Awaiting Staff employment
Deepcut and Brookwood flights closed to Navigation for approximately 2 weeks	
Woodham flight closed and dewatered between Locks 3 - 6. Locks 1 and 2 individually dewatered between stop planks. Last Winding Holes: Downstream of works Junction with River Wey. Upstream of works Above Lock 6	
Workboat with chipper in channel – slow and obey staff instructions.	
Dredger / work barge in channel - slow, prepare to stop and obey contractor's instructions	
No Effect – unpowered boats should keep to the offside of the channel where possible when passing tractor-mounted flail cutter	On-going throughout winter
Work barge in channel - slow, prepare to stop and obey contractor's instructions if necessary.	On-going at weekends
Potentially a work barge in channel - slow, prepare to stop and obey contractor's instructions if necessary.	
None	
Dredger / work barge in channel - slow, prepare to stop and obey contractor's instructions	

For enquiries or updates, please contact the BCA on 01252 370073

Farnborough Road moorings

After a very frustrating summer the Society work party was eventually allowed to reconvene at the end of August. This was after a major effort by the work party organisers in sorting out all the protocols to be followed and then doing the appropriate risk assessments. These then had to be approved by firstly the BCA then by the county councils to allow us to work on their land. These were quite strict protocols with the requirement for there to be hand washing facilities, masks or visors available and of course hand sanitizer. This station was set up in the on-site container. All volunteers were required to use these facilities and to wear gloves while sharing the use of tools, equipment etc.



The size of the work party was restricted to enable social distancing. The work party then split up into three different groups. One was bolting down the fibregrid, the second was finishing off the battening and then placing more fibregrid while the third was correcting the alignment of the outside poles. This later job came to an early stop when the weld on the auger arm broke. Kevin then took this home and a couple of hours later returned with it all rewelded and work could continue. In the meantime, the rest of his group had had an early lunch before

getting a chain saw to level off some of the poles to the right height for the fibregrid.

This pattern of work, thankfully without the broken weld, has continued in the following weekends. We have completed all the Fibregrid right up the canal & back to the slip. We have run out of the big mooring poles so there are some missing and we are asking to put the access ramp in with slight modifications to the drawing, so have had to ask for instructions on these two points before we can continue. The left-over posts from the Mychett moorings had turned out to be poor quality and those that could be used are not sufficiently anchored in the canal bed when driven to height - the water is quite deep in places at Farnborough Road and these posts are too short for the job.

New posts were ordered but there is a major problem. It would appear that the usual import of large posts from Scandinavia has not been happening for some time. It is not known the reasons - could be Covid, could be Brexit. Anyway the upshot is that the size of posts we require are like hens' teeth. Our usual supplier has been phoning round the country trying to locate what we need and the only place he can find that can supply what we need is in Canada and the posts are VERY expensive - £215 each (and we need 20). What we require are 200mm x 200mm 4.2m tanalised posts, with or without points. They are a specialist item. 3.0m and 3.6m posts are available but are simply not long enough.

The purpose of these poles is to prevent boats running into the Fibregrid decking (also very expensive) and damaging it. Alternative sources of supply or funding are being sought.

Thanks to Duncan Paine for the report.

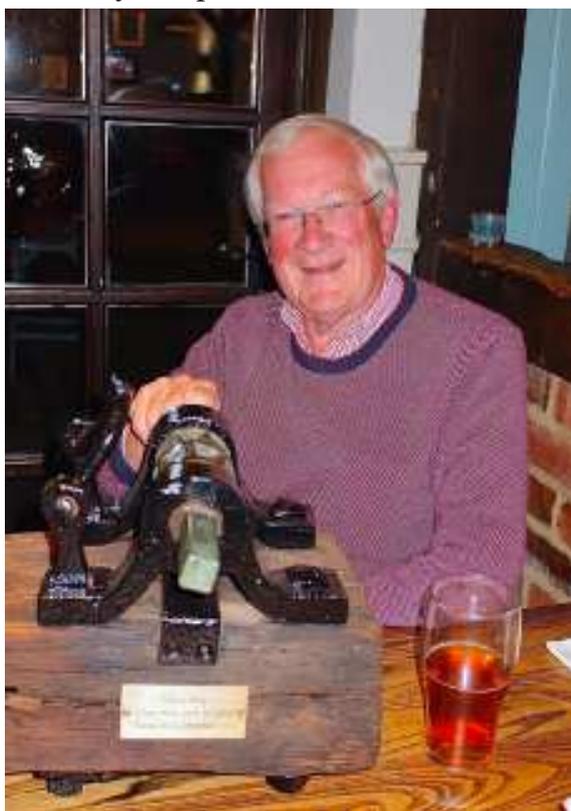
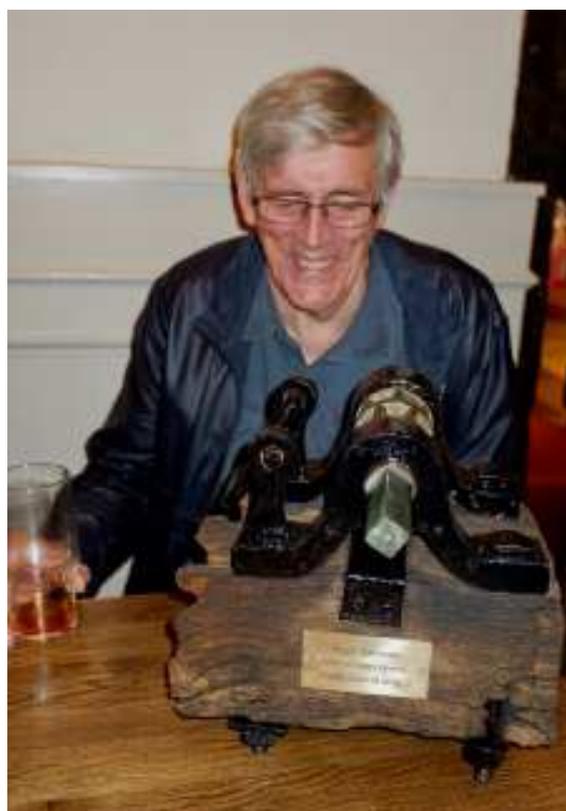
BCS awards

Back at the beginning of September, before everything locked down, we managed to have a Committee dinner at the Swan in Ash Vale.

The opportunity was taken to present the Robin Higgs Award, normally handed out at the AGM. It had been decided at the beginning of the year that this should go jointly to Denise and Verna Smith for their sterling work carting the sales stand round to events for the last 15 or more years. Sadly Denise passed away back in April, so Philip Riley presented it to Verna.

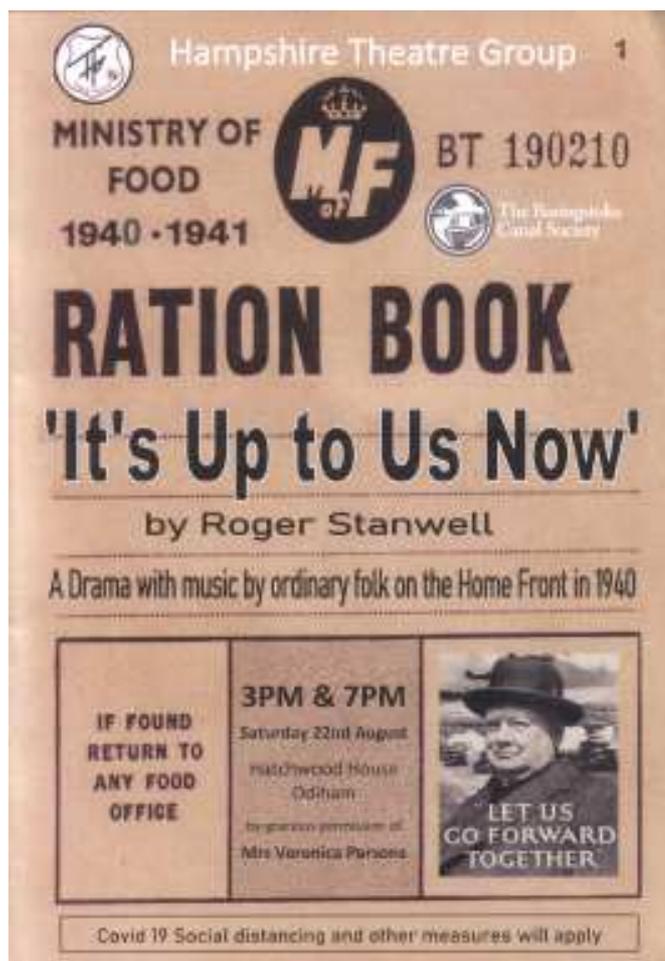


Two further awards for long service were then made to Philip himself and Roger Cansdale, who had stood down from the Committee. To say that these were a surprise is something of an understatement as they each weighed about 17 kg! Crafted by Kevin Redway from some old paddle gear, they are certainly unique mementos of the canal.



Thanks to Kev for these great souvenirs of many happy years of involvement with the canal. All we need to do now is find somewhere agreeable to our other halves to display them!

Theatre Group Open Air Performance



(Steve Sowerby) on how to recognise fifth column infiltrators, and the issue of ration books brought cast and audience together to wonder how ordinary folk can help the war effort.

We learn that Marjorie (Gill Sowerby) has been enrolled as a milling machine operator at Basingstoke. Joan (Joan Warren) was conscripted to the Idle Women, aka the Inland Waterway National Service, transporting essential goods by barge. Ethel (Helen Price) has yet to find a role, though teenager Kath (Jessica Warren) hopes to meet a nice young man at the next village dance. The Spiv (Bernard Stone) can provide many items not readily available in the shops, from an onion to 'silk' stockings!

The audience were in fine voice to join the entire cast, with George on his ukelele, and the show culminated with a review of how the local folk had indeed helped win the war, sourced and aided by the Smart Gent.

The Basingstoke Canal Society wishes to thank the Hampshire Theatre Group for permission to reproduce the photographs, and the time spent rehearsing, mostly by Zoom, to produce an excellent show, and look forward to next year's offering.

The Hampshire Theatre Group's first public performance since Covid lockdown was held on Saturday 22nd August when they gave two open air performances of 'Its Up to Us Now' in the delightful grounds of Hatchwood House, Odiham, by kind permission of Mrs Veronica Parsons.

Written and directed by JP crew member Roger Stanwell as the theme for a special canal cruise on John Pinkerton in June (*that had to be abandoned*), to commemorate 80 years since the expected invasion by the Nazis, the drama takes place in June 1940.

The play opens as local folk assemble to listen to the Prime Minister's wireless broadcast to the nation. Dire warnings from the Smart Gent

Farewell

Dick Snell

It is very sad indeed to report the passing of another founder member of the Canal Society, Dick Snell. Dick and his wife Alison, both photographers at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, were very active in the early days of the Society, campaigning, hacking back the overgrown banks of the canal and taking photos of it all.

They continued to support the Society, helping to man the sales stand and turning up to rallies at the Bridge Barn and Fox & Hounds in their boat *Athai*, often taking the Best Turned-out Boat award. Dick also often had his own fender-making stand at these events.

He will long be remembered fondly as a very nice man, always willing to help out despite suffering from various long term illnesses. When Nancy Larcombe decided that she had to sell her boat at the Canal centre, typically, it was Dick, then in his 70s, who took it down to the dry dock to re-black the hull for her.



Above: Dick and Alison on *Athai* at the Bridge Barn rally in 1999

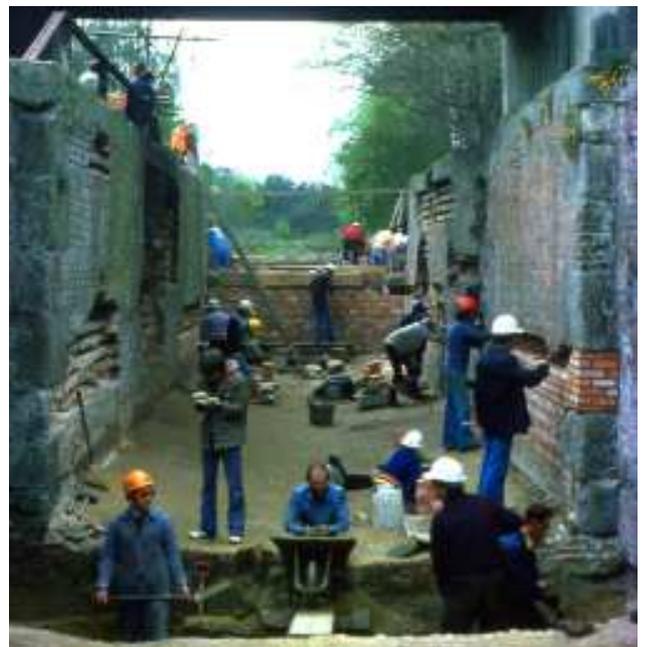
In 2013, he and Alison were given the Robin Higgs Trophy for all their efforts.

We send our love and sincere condolences to Alison.

Doug Gilby

Sad also to report to report the death of Doug Gilby, one time regular member of Peter Jones' work parties at Lock 25 (*right*) in the 1970s. They met again a couple of years ago at the Volunteer event at the Canal Centre.

Doug was at one time Head of Mathematics Dept at the RAE, but was a very quiet modest man. After retirement, he did a lot of work for the Farnborough Air Sciences Trust Museum, including helping to build the full scale replica of Cody's aeroplane.



An opportunity for

The BCS currently have over 70 Lengthsmen keeping a lookout along the whole of the canal making sure that any issues are reported & resolved in a timely fashion. It's a great way to get to know your local stretch of the canal & benefit from regular exercise in the fresh air.

Along most of the canal we have very good coverage and in most cases Lengthsmen overlap each other which ensures when somebody is unable to walk their length due to illness or being away on holiday etc. the canal always has a watching eye looking over it.

Partly due to COVID-19 we have a few places where some folks are walking their Lengths less frequently and this can leave some sections not be reported quite so regularly. This is currently the case from Langmans Lane Bridge (8.3Km) through St Johns up to Hermitage Road Bridge (10.7Km). So if there are any budding Lengthsmen (or women) with a couple of spare hours each week, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information please email lengthsreport@gmail.com

So what do our Lengthsmen get up to? Beyond reporting the usual issues along the towpath about fallen trees, bank erosion, vandalism etc., here are some recent reports from along the towpath.

- **In early July, near Norris Bridge, one Lengthsman spotted what looked like a leg in the canal! This was duly noted for further investigation . . .A short while later, he returned with a grappling hook & line to retrieve it, and on closer inspection when the leg had been "landed" it appeared to be**



the leg from a store manikin . . . and then he thought he could see another one further out lurking in the shadows and also managed to "land" this one too. Surely they couldn't be a breeding pair, it was far too late in the season!



a budding Lengthsman

“You don’t get anything for a pair..... not in this game.” [Quote from the Lengthsman’s Report]

- **In early September, we received this report from one of our Lengthsmen who patrols the Winchfield / Dogmersfield stretch:**

“Over the last 10 years I have found two laptops, three mobile phones, a Sat. Nav., a Fitbit, two sets of car keys, an entire suitcase of clothes and numerous other items.

A few days ago I found an electronic car key on the towpath. I contacted the Canal Centre and told them I had found it, so that if anybody who lost it contacted them, it could be returned.

The following day somebody called me to say that they had lost the key two weeks



ago and been quoted £600 to replace it. I was therefore able to save them £600. I don’t know whether you want to list that against the value of the volunteers.”

All in a day’s work for the BCS Volunteer Lengthsmen.

It isn’t just lengthsman who find things in the canal. This is the second safe removed from the site of the new Farnborough Road moorings by the Society’s work party.



Robin Higgs' stuff for sale



Robin Higgs sadly died last year and left his books and video tapes to the Society as well as the Terry Harrison print that was presented to him at the time of the Canal's reopening. Appropriately, this picture of the "Bisley Bullet" train passing over the bridge above Lock 15 showed Robin's two great enthusiasms. The framed print is for sale and we are looking for at least £50 for this historic memento. Given the difficulty and expense of postage and packing for such a large and fragile object, it will need to be collected.

Robin also left some 70 books, 11 VHS tapes and a couple of DVDs. These reflect his interest in canals in general and their restoration. They include many of the classics by people

like Tom Rolt Charles Hadfield, Paul Vine, Michael Ware and Robert Aickman.

The list is shown opposite, with apologies for the small print - it was the only way to fit it all in.

If you are interested in any of the books or tapes, please contact me, Roger Cansdale (roger.cansdale@ntlworld.com) or Philip Riley (wincombecottage2@gmail.com) with offers. Postage and packing costs are likely to be about £3.50 per book, but collection may be possible and easier when things get back to normal.

Book and tape list

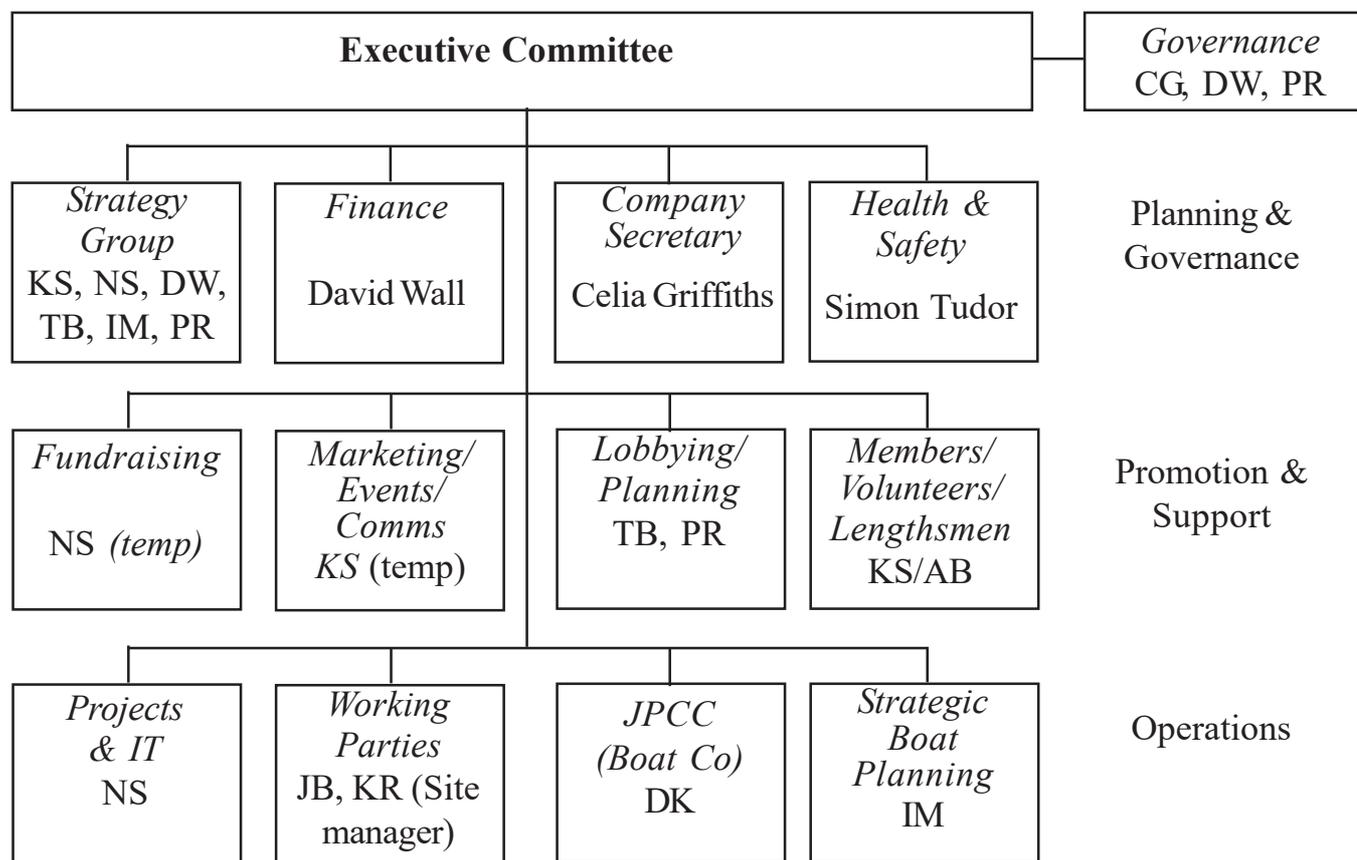
1. Steam on Canals – Weaver
 2. Canals in Wales – Wright
 3. The Trent & Mersey Canal – Lead
 4. Introducing Inland Waterways – Hadfield
 5. Holiday Cruising on Inland Waterways – Hadfield
 6. Waterways in Europe – Pilkington
 7. Real Ale Guide to Waterways – Nicholson
 8. Landscape with Canals – Rolt
 9. London's Lost Route to Basingstoke – Vine (original version)
 10. British Canals Part II Engineering – Gladwin
 11. London's Lost Route to Basingstoke – Vine
 12. Basingstoke Canal – The Case for Restoration
 13. Canals Revived
 14. Hampshire Waterways – Vine
 15. Surrey Waterways – Vine
 16. Southern Inland Waterways – Pratt
 17. The River Runs Uphill – Aickman
 18. Race Against Time – Bolton
 19. Inland waterways of Britain – Geo Projects Map
 20. The History of the Chichester Canal – Green
 21. Captain Whites River Life – Larcombe
 22. London's Lost Route to Basingstoke – Vine (revised version)
 23. The Wey Navigation – Wardle
 24. Britain's Restored Canals – Squires
 25. Britain's Waterways – Roberts
 26. Basingstoke Canal Restoration – Jebens
 27. The Canals of England – de Mare
 28. L. T. C. Rolt – A bibliography
 29. A Guide to the Anderton Lift – Carden
 30. Tales from the Inland Waterways – Corrie
 31. The Illustrated History of Canal Navigations – Paget-Tomlinson
 32. Three Men in a Boat – Jerome
 33. The Wey South Project – Wood
 34. Box file containing various BC brochures and event programmes
 35. Britains Lost Waterways – Ware
 36. Canalside Camera – Wade
 37. Basingstoke Canal – The Case for Restoration
 38. Sapperton Tunnel – Hobbs
 39. The Itchen Navigation – Course
 40. Woking Canal Festival – miscellaneous papers
 41. One Man and a Narrowboat – Haywood
 42. The Canal Age – Hadfield
 43. Through Dutch Canals – Bristow
 44. Know Your Waterways – Aickman
 45. Narrowboat Dreams – Haywood
 46. The Wey & Arun Junction Canal – Vine
 47. Visiting the Wey & Arun Canal
 48. Basingstoke Canal – Jebens and Cansdale
 49. The Royal Military Canal – Hutchinson
 50. Somersetshire Coal Canal Rediscovered – Allsop (2 copies)
 51. Observers Book – Canals – Gagg
 52. The Montgomeryshire Canal – Denton
 53. The Hereford & Gloucester Canal – Bick
 54. The Shrewsbury & Newport Canal – Worrall
 55. Landscape with Canals – Rolt
 56. British Canals – Hadfield
 57. Bude Canal – Young & Dudley Stamp
 58. Grand Western Canal
 59. History of the Basingstoke Canal – Crocker
 60. Our Canal in Oxford – Davies and Robinson
 61. Narrowboat – Rolt
 62. The Canals of South and South East England – Hadfield
 63. Waterside Pubs – Russell
 64. The Crinan Canal – Hutton
 65. Yukon River steamboats – Cohen
 66. Christopher Howkins New towpath Book (R Wey)
 67. By Waterway to Taunton -Haskell
 68. The Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal – Tomlinson
 69. The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust
 70. Canals of England - Hadfield
- VHS Tapes
71. Montgomery Canal
 72. British Steam (railways)
 73. The Train Now Departing (Part 2)
 74. Basingstoke Canal Review
 75. Mad but Enjoyable
 76. The New Aqueduct on the Basingstoke Canal
 77. The Bargee – Wey & Arun Canal
 78. Restoring to Life
 79. The Promise of the Western End
 80. Water World
 81. The Lost Wey to the Sea
- DVD
- Navvies 1 to 218
IWA Brookwood Campaign Rally May 2006

BCS Organisation

Despite the problems of COVID-19, a great deal of work has been going on to define a corporate structure for the Canal Society with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for people. In the past this sort of thing was a bit haphazard and there was a nasty tendency for jobs to fall on the Chairman by default.

Largely thanks to the efforts of Ken Sankey and Neil Sutherland, we have managed to recruit some excellent professionals to fill critical posts, including our Treasurer David Wall and our H&S man Simon Tudor. In addition to those named here, we have new people such as Lisa Taylor acting as Press Officer and others helping with events (whenever they might start again).

However, we are still looking to fill a few more posts which are listed on pages 23 and 24. Please contact Ken Sankey (ken.sankey@basingstoke-canal.org.uk) if you feel can help.



AB Andy Beale
CG Celia Griffiths
DK Dick King
DW David Wall
IM Ian Moore
JB Janet Buckley

KR Kevin Redway
KS Ken Sankey
NS Neil Sutherland
PR Philip Riley
ST Simon Tudor
TB Tony Balch



Andy Beale

BCS Who's who

New faces

David Wall



David ran a local accountancy practice, retiring in 2018. He and his wife are canal enthusiasts and have been holidaying on the inland waterways since the late 1970's. They live next to the canal in Ash Vale.

Simon Tudor



Simon runs his own Fire Safety Consultancy company, but also runs First Aid courses and advises on all aspects of Health and Safety, including currently dealing with COVID-19.

Tony Balch



Tony is a hospitality and tourism professional with over 30 years experience in senior management roles around the world. He is particularly passionate about tourism and the environment and how the two can work co-operatively to create a sustainable resource for all to enjoy.

Old faces



Ken Sankey



Neil Sutherland



Celia Griffiths



Dick King



Ian Moore



Philip Riley



Janet Buckley



Kevin Redway

Press and Marketing

We must continue to raise the profile of the Canal, support Fundraising and individual activities eg trip boats. Thus we particularly need help from people with Press and Marketing experience, including liaison with the press; skills including writing press releases.

Fundraising

It is critical that we increase our income through donations, grants, legacies, lottery funding and building links with local businesses. We are building a team to support fundraising and welcome help from anyone with an interest and/or experience in this area, particular grant funding.

Boat Engineer

We need an engineer to help lead the maintenance of our 50 passenger diesel trip boat John Pinkerton II trip boat moored at Odiham. This involves working with the current team, and includes planning and organisation, maintenance (day to day and winter checks), and ensuring compliance with regulatory procedures.

Help in recruiting and supporting Volunteers

We have over 250 volunteers on the canal and a regular flow of new people. However this brings its own challenges and we need help in ensuring that we have appropriate volunteer support in place both for new volunteers and to help keep in touch with existing ones. If you have HR or some form of recruitment experience and are interested in finding out more please contact us.

Building links with business

There is a real opportunity to involve local businesses in supporting the Canal with a benefit to all concerned. This is ideal for anyone who has had previous experience of working with corporates and building relationships.

Building links with local councils

The Society works closely with both the County Councils (Surrey & Hampshire), owners of the Canal, and other local councils, to help them get the best use out of the Canal for both residents and users of this wonderful asset. We have a team already linked into the councils via the managing agents, the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA) but there is always more to do – so please call us if you have experience in working with local councils.

Canal Champions in local areas

We want to increase the profile and involvement of local communities with the Canal and already have local people covering Woking and Ash. However we also want more representation in particular in the Mytchett, Fleet, Odiham and Basingstoke areas. To do this we are keen to find people to help coordinate activities going on locally in their area, e.g. events, local groups, social media, local press, etc. Contact us to find out more.

Bookkeeper

There is an opportunity for a bookkeeper to support the finance director in preparing monthly accounts and helping manage the day to day accounting. This is an interesting and very flexible role with only around 2 hours per week work, and working from

vacancies

home. Please contact us to find out more.

Archivist / support for the archivist

With our increasing number of historical records we need more help to review and organise our archives. This is a really

interesting role where you would be working with our current archivist and planning for how we best make use of the archives, including how we organise and make records more available to members. Again please contact us to find out more.

Correction to Annual Accounts

Apologies - as I predicted, there was an error in the last BCN. Thanks to those who pointed out the incorrect Net income/expenditure figures. The correct account is shown below.

Moral - don't cut and paste spreadsheets without checking that boxes have numbers in them and not formulas.

Summary of accounts for year ending 31 December 2019

Income and expenditure account

	2019 £	2018 £
Income		
Subscriptions	7,991	7,911
Donations - general	5,536	3,614
Legacies	3,000	0
Grants received	1,903	3,400
Gift Aid Recoveries	2,460	2,063
Income from subsidiaries	43,495	34,479
Fundraising income	1,681	1,806
Interest received	273	202
	<u>66,339</u>	<u>53,475</u>
Less expenditure		
Projects and working parties	(36,735)	(61,036)
Rallies and events	655	(1,696)
Newsletter and publications	(3,904)	(5,439)
Postage, stationery and printing	(2,188)	(2,343)
Insurance	(4,812)	(5,845)
Training	(6,296)	(545)
IT / website / social media	(11,034)	(208)
Sundries	(550)	(181)
Depreciation less profit on sale of asset	(944)	(1,940)
Accountant and professional fees	(1,800)	(1,910)
AGM and other governance costs	(550)	(391)
	<u>(68,158)</u>	<u>(81,534)</u>
Net income / (expenditure)	<u>(1,819)</u>	<u>(28,059)</u>

BCS Membership

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT

As I write Membership stands at 950, a fantastic increase since the last newsletter and again far too many to list individually. I'm sure that the new web site and the on-line membership system have contributed to this. A warm welcome to all those that have joined recently, your support is very much appreciated.

It is worth noting that ALL Society members now have an account on the new web site. If you joined before 1st August this year we have used your email address as your username. I will shortly be sending out an email to all such members with details of how to set up a password for your account. This will allow you

to log in to the site and, eventually, to renew your membership online. Doing that will save me an immense amount of administration. Of course if we don't your email address we have had to use something else – but you still have an account!

Don't forget to tell your friends and family about the Society and see if we can get to 1000 members by the end of the year.

Best Regards

Andy Beale

Membership Secretary

Basingstoke Canal 2021 Calendar

The photo competition that we ran on Facebook this year produced over 130 entries and some fabulous pictures that we have used to produce a calendar for next year. Again A5 size, it is available to buy from our website, price £6 including postage and packing.

If you still prefer to pay by cheque, **please make it out to S&HCC Ltd** and send your order to me, Roger Cansdale. at the address shown opposite.



Don't delay - we have sold 91 already via our Sales website and we might run out!

BCS information



The Bulletin is now up to Issue 48.

If you want to keep up with the latest news about the canal, please click on the Friends button on the Society website at

www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk

To join the Society, please contact the Membership Secretary, Andy Beale, whose contact details are below.

The annual subscription is Adults £15, Junior £0, Family £20, and Group £30 payable on March 1st each year. Life membership is a one-off £200.

Date for next copy 31st January 2021

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Editorial Team: Editor: Roger Cansdale 29 Knoll Road, Fleet, Hants GU51 4PT 01252-678608
e-mail: editor@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Presidents: Tim & Elizabeth Dodwell

Chairman: Vacant

Vice-Chairmen: Ken Sankey* Ken.sankey@basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Neil Sutherland* nrsutherland@hotmail.co.uk

Volunteers

Ken Sankey*

Projects, IT

Neil Sutherland*

Hon. Secretary:

Celia Griffiths*

Secretary@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Treasurer:

David Wall*

Treasurer@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Membership Secretary:

Andy Beale

Membership@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Lobbying

Tony Balch*

tonybalch@hotmail.com

Weekend Work Party

Janet Buckley*

janet.buckley@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

JPII Trip Boat Manager:

Dick King*

jpchairman@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Trip Boat Bookings:

Team

jpbookings@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

07506 86 4411

Sales Manager:

Roger Cansdale

Sales@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Events Coordinator:

Frances Bonnington

basingstokecanalsocietyevents@gmail.com

Marketing and Fundraising

Vacant

Safety Officer

Simon Tudor*

simon@londonfireconsultants.co.uk

Press Officer:

Lisa Taylor

lisataylorpublishing@gmail.com

External Talks Organiser:

Roger Cansdale

talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

01252-678608

Website Manager

Mel Lewis

mellewisbcs@gmail.com

Planning

Graham Corser

gbcorser@btinternet.com

Lengthsman Organiser:

Vacant

lengthsman@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

07941-654965

Archivist:

Rev David Tonkinson

archivist@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Chobham talks:

Graham Deavin & Alan Norris

talks@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Work Site Manager

Kevin Redway*

kittycontact@basingstoke-canal.org.uk

Kitty Trip Boat Manager

Ian Moore*

General Canal Society contact number: 07305 340547

Basingstoke Canal Authority

Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, Surrey GU16 6DD

01252-370073

Canal Society Internet Website: www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk
Canal Authority Internet Website: www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk

New Chobham Road Bridge



The new pedestrian and cycle footbridge spanning the Basingstoke Canal at Chobham Road Bridge, is now open, albeit with a few finishing touches still being done by Rob Locatelli's River & Canal Services gang. It allows people to follow the towpath as it changes sides here, without having to cross over the busy Chobham Road.

Sad to report that Ray Morgan, Woking's Chief Executive who was instrumental in getting this project going, is about to retire. We shall miss his support for the canal and wish him well in his retirement.

