



REPORT TO JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – FEBRUARY 2015

1. Work parties

The Society's work parties have been undertaking a variety of tasks throughout the autumn and winter. These have included:



- the cutting up and removal of felled trees at the land slip at Dogmersfield (*left*). The logs are being sold in order to raise funding for the Society, and to date, most have been disposed of.

It is hoped that approximately £3000 will be received for the timber.



- Laying wood chip along a previously muddy permitted path on the Malmesbury estate (*left*), adjacent to the western tunnel portal



- the delivery of a mud barge previously moored at Ash Lock (*left*) to a contractor on the R Wey. The barge was unsuitable for use on the canal and has now been sold to the contractor.



- the clearance of over-hanging vegetation mainly from the offside of the canal between Odiham and Greywell (*left*). This clearance is necessary in order to provide a clear passage for the John Pinkerton and other boats navigating to the western end of the canal.



- and the recovery of a patrol boat owned by the BCA that has languished in the Greywell tunnel mouth for many years. The Society's volunteers will be undertaking a programme of restoration of the boat.

Since the last Society report, around 160 man-days effort have been expended on Canal-related works, or £11.6K Equivalent Value in Kind.

For the whole of 2014 the totals were 730 man-days or £55.3K EVIK, and for the period 2011-2014, 2900 man-days and £224K EVIK.

2. Summer work camp

The Society is organizing a week-long work camp in July for a party of volunteers from the Waterway Recovery Group (WRG). While still at the planning stage, it is currently envisaged that the main task will be the extension of the mooring near the end of the Farnborough Airport main runway that was installed by the Society in 2012. This mooring is used by visiting boats in Farnborough Air Show years, and also by the John Pinkerton to take guests to the show. The trip boat operation is an important source of funding for the Society. It is hoped that the WRG volunteers can again be accommodated at HCC's Runways End Activity Centre which is near to the work site and provides an excellent facility for the hard-working volunteers.

3. Projects

The provision of better facilities for users of the canal has always been a priority for the Society. Projects which the Society has been actively pursuing include:

- the improvement of Ash Wharf (*below*). Currently the wharf is in poor condition with collapsing piling, an unkempt grassed area, no mooring bollards or seats and no boating facilities. The Society is hoping to work with the BCA, SCC, Guildford Borough Council, Ash Parish Council and local residents and land owners in a scheme to address all these issues.



- Woking quay and replica canal barge. The Society is working with Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council on a new wharf in the town centre and a replica of a Basingstoke Canal barge which will be positioned next to The Lightbox. The barge will provide the opportunity to inform the public about the history, heritage and restoration of the canal. It will also have an important educational role.
- Hatchwood Farm boat basin in Odiham. The Society has now secured the support of Odiham Parish Council to the provision of a boat basin adjacent to the Hatchwood Farm housing development near Colt Hill. The basin will provide much needed moorings at the western end of the canal.

Other ideas for the Colt Hill area include a visitor centre and a footbridge linking the car park to a new community area to be established by the Parish Council.

4. Magna Carta boat rally.

Plans are now in hand for a boat rally at Colt Hill, Odiham on 24th May 2015 as part of the Magna Carta 800 celebrations. It is hoped to attract about 30 boats to the rally which will provide an excellent opportunity to showcase the canal.

Philip Riley
Chairman
The Basingstoke Canal Society
17.01.15