

BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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**Canal Management Report**

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The BCA Canal Manager reports that:

Works

- Work on-going to install a new sluice gate at Artillery Weir, Aldershot.
- Japanese Knotweed injection and spraying along full length of canal.
- Further replacement Jack heads installed along flights as part of on-going jack head replacement programme.
- Telemetry sensors installed and currently being calibrated. Awaiting 2 further sensors
- Survey work carried out in preparation for new memorial bench policy and signage locations.
- A 2nd Crayfish fisherman has been licenced to use the canal through the Hampshire section (in addition to one in Surrey) working on a commercial large scale basis.
- A Paddleboard business is now licenced to use the canal.
- Negotiations on-going with Scout Association over annual licence fees for their unpowered boat use of the canal.
- Three significant leaks were discovered and 2 of these were dealt with as emergencies. The emergency standby contractor was called out in both of these cases. Leaks were stemmed in both cases with excavators and follow-up piling work has been completed as part of the capital works programme.
- Preparation for HLS tree felling works at Greywell Tunnel and Mytchett both starting in October.
- Tunnel engineers inspection October.
- Further break-in's Ash Lock and an attempted break-in at Deepcut and theft from a works van has meant further works to increase security at all our sites and on all our vehicles and machinery.
- Hydrocotyle spayed by EA up to lock 1. Monitoring results in conjunction with Conservation Steering group and considering spraying of Woking and Woodham stretches of canal next season.
- Stop gates at Ash Vale weir cleaned and tested.

Events/Visitor Services

- Further Share the space drop your pace campaign days were held at Kiln Bridge St Johns and the Canal Centre at Mytchett. Another is planned for Woodham in October. Several further complaints regarding issues between towpath users in Woking. One reported to police.
- Rosebud has operated all summer skippered entirely with a keen team of Volunteers including some from John Pinkerton/Canal Society.
- The unpowered boat business operated from late July and was very successful. Unfortunately a full season was not possible due to hold ups with staff recruitment and the rowing boats haven't arrived yet as we were not able to order them until the business plan was approved and this didn't leave enough lead in time to the summer season. It gives us a good indication however of what we should make next season. Staffing costs to date are £713 and income of £4,518 net. The staffing costs have been reduced due to operating with only one person on certain quieter week days, which longer term will contribute to a quicker pay back. Savings were also made on expenditure to those predicted.
- The campsite has been busy this season and has already exceeded its income target.

Staffing

Staff have undertaken training in first aid, pedestrian and ride-on mowers, pesticides and sidearm flails and brushcutters.

Volunteers

- We welcome Sandra a new volunteer to the canal centre office who joins Val who has now been with us for this last year and is diligently sorting out our map/plan collection and welcoming customers to the centre.
- Over many weeks piles of floating pennywort have been removed and vegetation cutting throughout Woking by the Tuesday vol team.
- Steps repaired at Staceys bridge and hedge cutting from Bridge Barn upstream for over a 1km.
- Workboats moved into position by willing volunteer Skippers saving several days of ranger work.
- Several corporate groups have been working on the canal and we are starting another wave of MOD volunteering, cutting back towpath and offside growth through Aldershot in October.

Management Team

- Both moorings now taken up at bridge barn, Woking and 4 new arrivals due at the moorings at the canal centre.
- Deepcut and Brookwood lock flights closed for 2 weeks in July and 2 weeks in Aug (with 2 weeks open in-between) due to shortage of water from the dry spring.
- Consultation on Kayak speed on canal.
- Regular meetings held with Canal Society, BCAA, Galleon Marine, Accessible Boating, Head Lengthsmen, Boaters, and Conservation Steering Group.
- Donations from the closing of the HCC sign workshop have provided us with a new set of meeting room and visitor centre chairs and an assortment of tools.

SCC / HCC Strategic Manager

In addition the Strategic Manager reports that:

Works

The *Capital Works Programme* is reaching a busy phase with works having been completed to embankments at the Canal Centre and the leak sites in Dogmersfield and Woking. A report on the Capital Programme is a separate item on the agenda.

Strategic Documents

Work to prepare a whole *Canal Business and Development Plan* is progressing, but is not yet ready to be reported to this Committee.

To ensure that all opportunities for outside funding are realised an *Infrastructure Statement* is being prepared – essentially a shopping list of all known projects which are not in themselves revenue generating.