

## REPORT TO THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 30 JUNE 2016

### 1. Work Parties

Since the last report was produced for the JMC (Feb 2016), the regular Society workparty has spent several weekends on bank clearance and clearing overhanging branches upstream from the Deepcut top lock 28. Attention has been given in particular to the long-overdue removal of rhododendron growth extending across the navigation near Wharfenden Lake (downstream from the Canal Centre). We were assisted with this task by a workparty from the Kent and East Sussex Canal Restoration Group (KESCRG) who visited the Canal for a weekend in February.



The Society workparty have since turned their attention to the refurbishment of the water and waste disposal facility near the Bridge Barn pub, in readiness for the Canal Festival, and work is well under way. Enhancements will include a lockable exterior water point and a walled and gated enclosure for waste bins (see below).

Meanwhile the Society engineering team has been getting on with a variety of other tasks, including the renovation of an open boat donated jointly to the Society and BCA by a local Boy's Brigade, further maintenance works on the weedcutter, and also removal of hydrocotyle weed in Woking.



Since the last report, a total of 200 man days effort, with an equivalent value in kind of £14.4k has been recorded.

## 2. Swan Cutting

In the February report, reference was made to the need to address the deteriorating position of the Canal west of Swan Bridge, North Warnborough where there has been a significant narrowing of the Canal. This has also resulted in reduced navigation depths. The effects of this are to hamper the passage of boats through this section and our concern is that, if the issue is not addressed on a priority basis, the Canal will become un-navigable to larger vessels including the John Pinkerton trip boat which is a major source of revenue for the Canal. In order to develop a solution to this problem the Society and the Inland Waterways Association has recently commissioned an engineers report. This contains an analysis of the causes of the bank slippage and shallowing and recommends a repair scheme. The report is being shared with Hampshire County Council and the BCA. Whilst the Society and the IWA recognize that the repairs will have significant cost implications (and they have indicated their willingness to assist in raising funds) and they also understand the difficult land-owner issues involved, the fact remains that if the repairs are not carried out, in the near future, there will be serious implications for the future of the navigation at the western end of the Canal. The Society and the IWA are therefore seeking the support of all JMC members to address the Swan Cutting problems without undue delay.

## 3. Woking Canal Festival

Detailed planning for the Woking Canal Festival (WCF) continues and the event (which is being held jointly with the Historic Narrowboat Club to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of both organisations) promises to be a landmark occasion for the Canal. It is also hoped that the event will

help to focus attention on the Canal in the Woking area which has seen relatively little prominence in recent years. The WCF is to be held on **6/7<sup>th</sup> August** and it is hoped that as many JMC members as possible will be able to attend. The Society is grateful for the support of Woking Borough Council in running the WCF which will be held on Brookhouse Common near Woking town centre.



**WOKING CANAL Festival**

Sat 6th / Sun 7th AUGUST 2016  
11AM – 4.30PM

**Brookhouse Common, Woking**

**Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Re-opening of the Basingstoke Canal**

Historic Narrow Boat Parade, Film Shows, Live Music, Displays & Exhibitions, Morris Dancing, Childrens' Entertainment, Mikron Theatre Production, Food and Real Ale Bar.

1966 - 2016  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Basingstoke Canal Society  
Historic Narrow Boat Club

PARKING IN TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKS - USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT RECOMMENDED

[www.WokingCanalFestival.info](http://www.WokingCanalFestival.info)

CELEBRATE **WOKING** BE PROUD... BE PART OF IT  
Basingstoke Canal  
SURREY

ALL ENTERTAINMENT AND ATTRACTIONS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND FAVOURABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

## 4. Trip Boats

The John Pinkerton trip boat, based in Odiham, had its most successful year to date in 2015, generating a surplus of over £41,000, all of which will be used to finance the work of the Society's volunteers and to promote the Canal (for example through the WCF).

The Society has also recently purchased a second trip boat for use at the eastern end of the Canal. This boat, previously called Egremont and to be named *Kitty*, is a twelve seater and has a lift to accommodate wheelchairs. Plans for the operation of *Kitty* are still at the formative stage but it is hoped that she will be used to promote the Canal in the Woking area and will feature prominently at the Canal Festival.



Philip Riley  
Chairman  
The Basingstoke Canal Society