

BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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**Canal Management Report**

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The BCA Canal Manager reports that:

Larger Works

- Work starting on winter offside cutting (cutting back vegetation overhanging canal on the non towpath side) throughout October
- Summer towpath cuts completed with 2-3 cuts min in all areas
- New gates installed at Barley Mow and Crookham wharf car parks to deal with antisocial activities
- Farnborough road weir overhauled with new paddle and winding gear installed
- Repair 2 sets of lifted lock gates (lock 15 and 11)
- Repair one set of damaged gates that were driven into lock 9
- Japanese Knotweed injecting completed
- Weed spraying of all visitor moorings
- Stopper added to zebon copse swing bridge to improve operation
- Remove sunken rowing boat hermitage
- Safety fencing at Ash lock and Deepcut
- Cills repaired at lock 23
- Approx 7 tonnes of crayfish removed from canal during summer season by commercial fisherman
- Full canal vegetation survey carried out (awaiting report)
- Review of emergency rendezvous points

Events/Visitor Services

- The canoe and rowing boat hire had a great season and has already paid off all costs to set up the business.
- Santa cruise tickets sold out by 97% on the day they went on sale, and sold out the following morning.
- Attended the Woking Canal festival with staff and volunteers and also attended other festivals at Fleet pond and the River Wey.
- Rosebud trips went well this year and have now expanded into charter trips which are already proving popular with more scope for expansion next season.

Staffing

Our cleaner and maintenance officer left and we are using this opportunity to rejig how we cover this role. Currently being covered by a contractor.

Volunteers

- Tuesday volunteers did many days of hydrocotyle clearing in Woking which made a real difference to the look and accessibility of this area for boaters. Sessions were also had at Broad Oak, Colt Hill and Odiham castle clearing back vegetation and also painting and strimming of locks throughout the flights.
- A summer BBQ was held for volunteers, which was attended by over 30 volunteers who enjoyed fine food and fete games and from which we received much positive feedback.
- The Patrol boat has now had a good summer of operation and made a real difference to the presence on the canal. It has covered the whole of the canal this summer with trips right up to the castle and spending a few weeks in Fleet as well time in Woking supporting the Woking Canal festival. It sweeps the canal as it goes

talking to everyone they meet, checking any licences and clearing all rubbish and manageable vegetation out of the canal. We have had very positive feedback about its presence and it even helped to rescue someone who had fallen from their bike. They also helped carry out a full canal boat audit in conjunction with BCA office staff.

- New joint volunteer leaflet produced with Canal Society already being handed out at festivals/shows.
- Society volunteers have been repairing the Hampshire Workboat and readying it for its busy winter season and also carrying out further weed cutting in Woking.

Management Team

- Arranging procurement of Lock Gates contract
- Write vegetation survey specification
- Regular meetings held with the Canal Society, Head lengthsman, Galleon Marine, Accessible Boating and the Basingstoke Canal Angling Association.
- Presentation to Surrey Heath Borough Council re funding
- Annual lock Inspections

SCC / HCC Strategic Manager

The Strategic Manager reports that:

Surrey

- Works to re-line the eastern portion of Ash Embankment to reduce seepage were completed at the end of March, and have resolved the long standing seepage issue
- Planned works for 2016/17 are to complete the Ash Embankment works on behalf of both Counties, bank protection works at key targets, Locks 12-18 for structural repairs, and the “routine” tree surgery identified by the arboricultural inspector.
- Principle Inspections of Locks 12-18 will be carried out whilst they are drained for works
- The Surrey winter programme is considered very ambitious for the staff resource available – the next tranche of lock repairs and inspection will be rolled forward in to 2017.

Hampshire

- The contractor for the lining of Wilks Water culvert was unable to honour their original price as they had underestimated the complexity of the work – the lining work can no longer be afforded. Engineers advise that this was the least urgent of the culverts identified as needing attention.
- A Principle Inspection of the Whitewater Aqueduct was priced during the summer 2016 and due to the complexity of the temporary works for dewatering was considered prohibitively expensive. A diving inspection is now planned instead.
- The “routine” tree surgery identified by the arboricultural inspector will be carried out in the autumn/winter
- Much of the remainder of the Hampshire capital budget is now tied up with the Dogmersfield Landslip / Barley Mow culvert replacement project which is being led by HCC Engineers. It is expected that these works will now take place from October 2016 and may last up to 6 months.
- HCC Engineers have been reviewing the report by the IWA’s Engineer (Roy Sutton) into options for Swan “Cutting”

Both Counties

- Randall Surveys carried out a full channel depth/siltation survey (awaiting survey results)