



REPORT TO JMC 6th JULY 2017

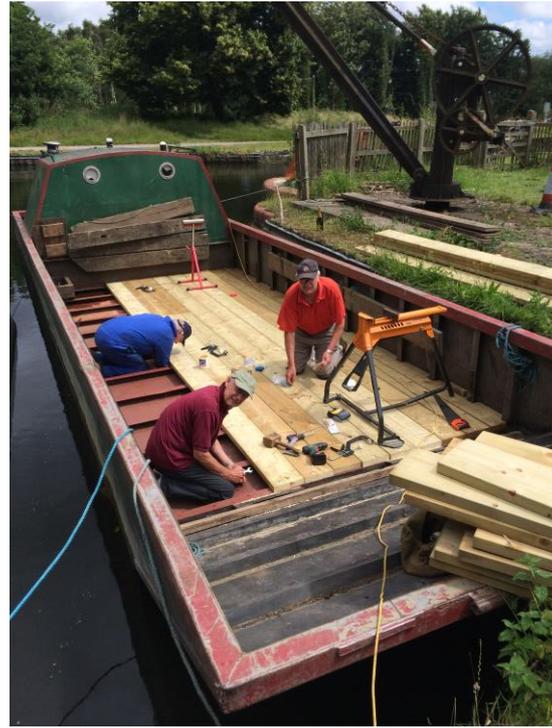
1. Work parties

The Society's regular work party has recently completed the plumbing in and construction of a second water point at the Canal Centre (*see below*), and plans in due course to refurbish the waste disposal facility there. The Society regards the provision of proper facilities for boat owners as a priority and the works at Mytchett represent the second project of this kind which the Society has undertaken over the last 12 months (the other was at Bridge Barn in Woking).



The team is now refurbishing their work boat *Fly II* at Ash Lock (*see below left*) which will be used for various engineering and bank side clearance works.

The Society's engineering team has also been busy. They have undertaken the refurbishment of the two BCA workboats (*see below right*), including re-timbering the decks, fitting bilge pumps and repainting. They have also constructed additional racks for canoes in the BCA boat shed and undertaken repairs to various pieces of BCA equipment.



[Man-days of effort and equivalent value in kind since the last report to be supplied]

2. Farnborough Road moorings

The Society has agreed to fund and construct around 200m of boat moorings at Farnborough Road near Runways End. The moorings will accommodate up to 15 craft permanently based on the canal and approximately three moorings for visiting boats. These moorings will generate further income to finance the operation of the BCA. The total cost of this work will amount to approximately £50,000 all of which will be paid for by the Society from its own funds (including income produced by the *John Pinkerton* trip boat operation).

3. Woking Developments

The increased use of the canal in Woking town centre has always been regarded by the Society as a key component in developing the canal as an important local amenity. The Society has therefore agreed to contribute £12,000 towards the cost of building a ~100m extension to the Woking Town Wharf (adjacent to the Bedser Bridge and WWF building), which will encourage more boat owners to visit the town and use its facilities. This project is being led by Woking Borough Council with other contributions coming from Surrey CC. Work is expected to start this Summer.

The Society has recently launched its new trip boat operation in Woking which offers opportunities for local residents to experience the canal from the water. The operation uses the Society's newly acquired 12 seater boat, *Kitty* (see below), which will run trips from Woking Town Wharf throughout the summer months.



4. Swan Cutting

The repair of Swan Cutting west of Swan Bridge in N Warnborough remains a serious issue for the Society as any further constriction to the channel will threaten the continued operation of the John Pinkerton on its main route from Colt Hill, Odiham to King Johns Castle in N Warnborough. In order to focus the need for urgent repairs, the Society has commissioned an engineering report which is currently being reviewed by HCC professional staff. The Society urges the JMC to press for this report to be fully considered so that the necessary work can be planned and the funding for the project can be raised.

5. Future Ownership and Management of the canal

The Society was disappointed to be told that the discussions between the owners of the canal and the Canal & River Trust (which manages a substantial part of the national canal network) had failed to produce a positive result. The Society firmly believes that the C&RT is the only credible body with the necessary expertise and resources to manage and develop the canal and to ensure that it achieves its undoubted potential. Accordingly it will continue to advocate a transfer of the canal to the C&RT to ensure that it has a secure and sustainable future. In the meantime the Society welcomes the assurances given by Surrey and Hampshire County Councils that they will continue to support the canal over the next few years to ensure that essential maintenance is undertaken and the risk of the canal succumbing to dereliction again is avoided.

Philip Riley
Chairman
The Basingstoke Canal Society

29.5.17

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