

REPORT TO THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – MAY 2018

A. Work Parties

Since November 2017 the BCS weekend work party has been engaged on a variety of tasks including:

1. The construction of new moorings at Farnborough Road, Aldershot. In order to promote greater use of the canal, the BCS believes that additional boat moorings need to be provided to supplement the few moorings that already exist. The cost of the new moorings (including materials, plant hire etc) is being financed entirely from Society funds. Construction commenced earlier this year but less progress has been made than hoped because of a delay in getting the necessary assents, and is currently suspended pending the end of the bird nesting season.



2. Bank side clearance west of the Barley Mow in Winchfield

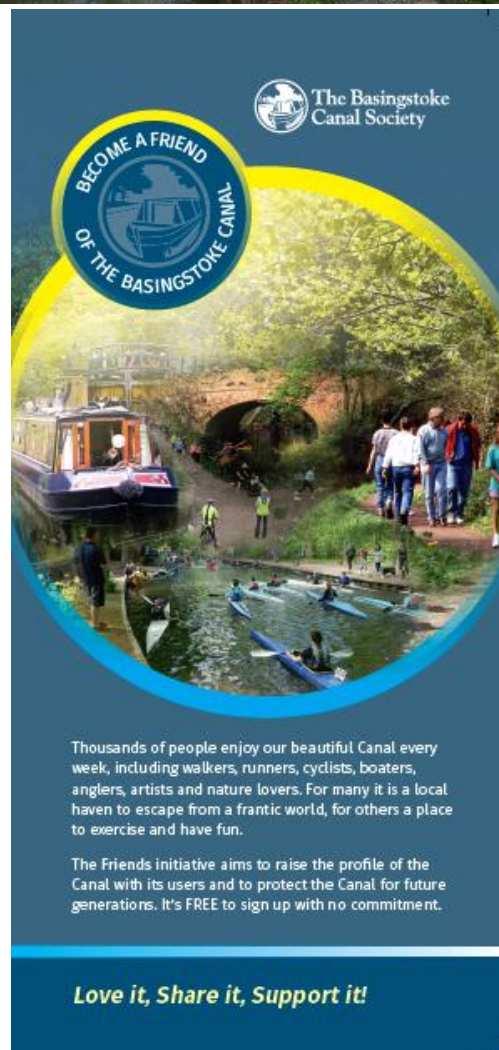
3. Rebuilding of the wharf at Crookham Village (*below*). The BCS is undertaking this work at the request of Accessible Boating which has been experiencing difficulties in boarding its boats at the wharf due to the height of the brickwork. The Society is very grateful to Crookham Village Parish Council for a donation of £1500 to cover part of the cost of this work.



The BCS Monday team have undertaken many jobs, carrying out repairs to BCA equipment and facilities. Over the last 6 months the team has replaced floorboards in the BCA’s trip boat (Rosebud), constructed storage frames for canoes and repaired the canoe shed door, made cover supports for patrol and “rescue” boat, repaired picnic tables and installed a flushing system for disposal of waste from visiting boats.

B. Lengthsman Scheme

BCS volunteers work closely with the BCA to operate a lengthsman scheme. This acts as the eyes and ears of the Canal Authority and ensures that incidents such as fallen trees, towpath blockages etc are promptly reported so urgent remedial action can be taken. The scheme involves 64 BCS members and they provide approximately 1000 volunteer hours per annum. This enables the BCA ranger team to concentrate on the more specialist maintenance tasks. In the event of storm conditions, the lengthsmen team can undertake an inspection of the whole length of the canal in 24 hrs.



**BECOME A FRIEND
OF THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL**

The Basingstoke
Canal Society

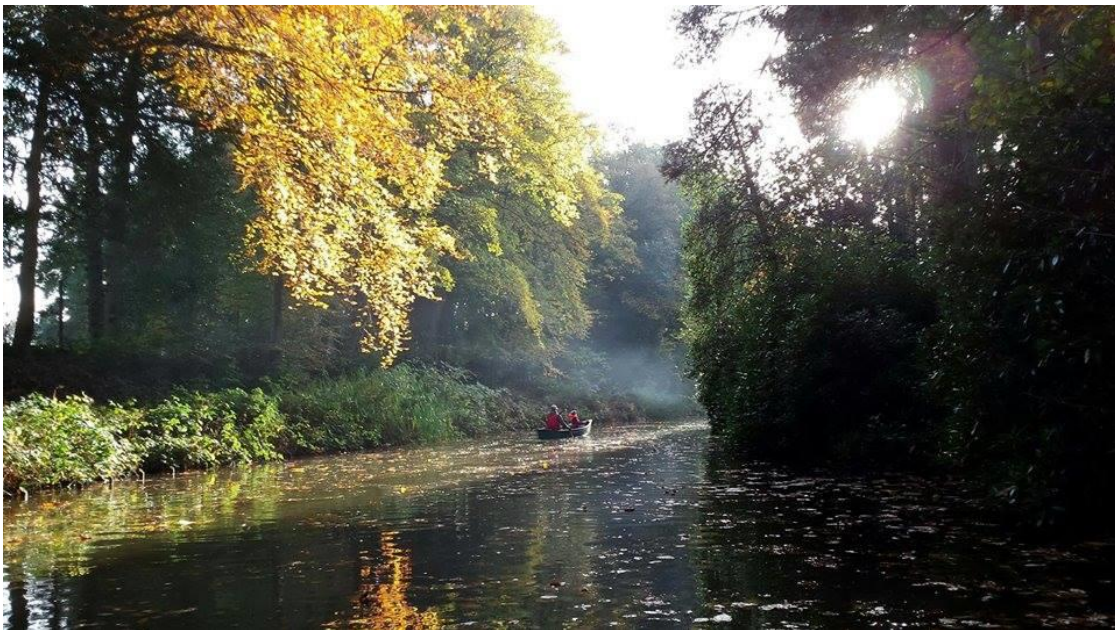
Thousands of people enjoy our beautiful Canal every week, including walkers, runners, cyclists, boaters, anglers, artists and nature lovers. For many it is a local haven to escape from a frantic world, for others a place to exercise and have fun.

The Friends initiative aims to raise the profile of the Canal with its users and to protect the Canal for future generations. It's FREE to sign up with no commitment.

Love it, Share it, Support it!

C. Promoting the canal

The BCS is ramping up its initiative to promote the canal more widely and to recruit more volunteers. Social media is now being used extensively by the Society, having now nearly 1900 followers of the [Society Facebook page](#) (largely a new audience) since setting this up in November. A [photograph competition](#) attracted a lot of interest and some high quality photos (the winning shot below). A new scheme, called “Friends of the Canal” (flyer above) has been set up to promote the canal in the local community, and around 1040 now receive the new-look Society Bulletin and other publicity free of charge. Also, a team has been assembled to liaise more closely with the riparian councils on canal-related issues.



D. Projects

The BCS has recently purchased some land at Colt Hill, Odiham which it is planning to use for the construction of a boat basin capable of accommodating up to 20 boats. Discussions have commenced with the planning authority (Hart) and an approach will be made to Odiham Parish Council (who will become an adjoining owner) to support the project.

E. Queens Award for Voluntary Service

The BCS has been nominated for a Queens Award for Voluntary Service. The outcome of the nomination is keenly awaited.

Philip Riley
Chairman
The Basingstoke Canal Society

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