



Joint Management Committee November 2019 Report

1. BCS Work parties

The construction of new permanent boat moorings at Farnborough Road, Aldershot was suspended in the spring at the request of Natural England but the project will recommence this month and it is hoped that the new moorings (to accommodate up to 10 boats) will be completed in the new year. The whole cost of the job (including the purchase of materials and the hire of plant) is being borne by the Canal Society which has benefitted from a bequest that has covered expenses – hence the moorings have been named after the donor (the Holland moorings). The work is being undertaken entirely by volunteers.



The volunteers have also installed a new, more accessible water point at Ash Lock. This work has included piling of the bank to enable boats to conveniently access the water supply.



Work is also continuing on the renovation of the Canal Society's work boats which are essential to the activities of the work parties.

2. Skills training

The Canal Society has agreed to provide £12000 (in two annual instalments) to fund training programmes for volunteers. It has been agreed with the BCA that suitably trained volunteers can undertake more skilled tasks in order to release rangers for other duties. The Society is also working with the BCA to explore the opportunity to arrange 'corporate days' for local companies.

3. Trip Boat Operations

The Canal Society's two trip boats (the *John Pinkerton II* in Odiham and *Kitty* in Woking) have had a very successful year's trading. Gross receipts from boat operations exceed £57000 and the remaining balance (after deducting the cost of operations) will be used to finance the activities of the work parties. Volunteer hours on the JP have exceeded 4100 hours.

4. Events

Another successful Raft Race was held in Odiham on 1st September. This was attended by at least 1000 visitors and generated considerable interest in the canal. The event also produced a healthy surplus.



"Ladies who Launch"

The Canal Society also organised an event in Woking in May to celebrate the opening by the Deputy Mayor of Woking Town Wharf. The cost of the wharf was financed by Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council, with a substantial contribution by the Canal Society.



5. Swan Cutting

The Canal Society remains concerned about the slow progress in preparing a repair scheme for Swan Cutting in North Warnborough. It is, of course, accepted that there are several landowners involved but, at the current rate of progress, it is feared that the canal above Colt Hill may become unnavigable to larger boats in the foreseeable future. We would urge HCC, as a matter of priority, to come forward with a clear and costed plan to repair the cutting.

6. Funding

In view of the increasing pressures on local government finances, the Canal Society is developing plans to secure alternative sources of funding. These plans include increasing its membership, encouraging members and supporters to leave legacies to the canal, approaching local businesses for support, pursuing grant opportunities etc.

Philip Riley
Chairman

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