

**Expressions of interest to join the Basingstoke Canal JMC  
as a Special Interest Group**

**Accessible Boating – John Ranson**

As Accessible Boating, we undertake a unique role on the canal by providing narrow boat cruising facilities for people with mobility issues. The special designs of our boats means that people who would not be able to use the canal at all under normal conditions, have a fantastic chance to enjoy this wonderful facility. Much of our work is with local charities and homes plus various agencies. We are flexible in our operation, offering a choice of self drive, skippered, day hire and holiday bookings. Consequently, we look at the canal from many different angles of operation and we are keen to do all we can to work closely with other interested parties to develop the use of the canal and to safeguard it's future operations in a sustainable manner.

**Association of Inland Navigation Authorities/National Trust River Wey – John Gibson**

As Navigation Manager for the National Trust River Wey & Godalming Navigations I have 15 years direct experience operating and managing an historic river navigation that connects directly with the Basingstoke Canal.

Currently I am Vice Chairman of the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities and previously served six years for the Environment Agency's Thames Region Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee.

I have over 25 years experience working in Countryside and Recreation Management with previous roles with the Forestry Commission and local authorities. I would hope to use my experience to positively support the work of the committee and that of the Basingstoke Canal Authority.

**Basingstoke Canal Angler's Association – Dave Harper**

I am the current Chair of the Basingstoke Canal Angler's Association but have many years background in angling administration at club, regional and national level. Prior to the National Federation of Anglers being subsumed into the Angling Trust, I was the Regional Director for London and the South East as was also delegate to the Fisheries and Conservation Trust (FACT) who were the enabling body to bring most of the various angling factions together.

As an angling coach I have been responsible for introducing a large number of people to the sport and have also run a number of major competitions both for my club and on behalf of other organisations.

Being fully retired I have more availability to attend meetings than most.

**Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club – Liz Murnaghan**

The Canoe Club was formed in 1979 and was initially based in Fleet. In 2003 it moved to the canal centre at Mytchett and it's membership has grown considerably. Currently it provides paddlesport activity year round on the canal for its 300+ members, this varies from fun, family sessions in the summer to rigorous structured training up to 5 times a week for elite athletes. We have been successful at

producing athletes for Team GB in a number of kayaking disciplines, (and their success publicises the canal at national level.). Our coaches too have received recognition at Regional and National level for the work they do.

In addition to the club members, over 150 young people who are members of local Scout and Guide groups were introduced to canoeing by BCCC this year. Our events attract other paddlers and their families to the canal. We are keen to see the canal maintained as a navigation and for the recreational opportunities that the canal offers to be developed.

### **Bat Group – Paul Hope**

I was a ranger on the canal for 16 yrs so know it well. My PhD was on the hibernating bat population at Greywell Tunnel. I have been monitoring bats on the canal using bat boxes at a number of sites for a number of years. I am presently writing a bat management plan for the canal.

### **Hart District Association of Parish & Town Councils - Alastair Clark**

The Hart District Association of Parish & Town Councils (HDAPTC) comprises representatives from all twenty one Parish and Town Councils within the District of Hart. The member Parishes are also members of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC).

One third of our member Councils have the Basingstoke Canal passing through their area and have thus been described as “Riparian Parishes”. The District of Hart comprises in excess of 36,000 dwellings approximately half of which are situated within the Riparian Parishes.

For the last four or five years the Riparian Parishes, together with a couple of others, have made regular annual contributions (loosely based on dwelling numbers) towards the Basingstoke Canal thus providing a total partner contribution in excess of £32,500 p.a. HDAPTC has also provided a representative to regularly attend BCA JMC meetings and at other times to liaise with both the County Council and Canal staff to assist with the promotion of the canal and disseminate information to Parish Councillors and our residents.

### **Inland Waterway Association – Gareth Jones**

As you know IWA, of which I am the local chairman, is currently an advisory member of the JMC of the Basingstoke Canal Authority. These posts are being reviewed and the IWA would wish to continue in the role.

The IWA was founded in 1948 to ensure that as much of the then commercial waterways were retained primarily for future leisure boating. As well as representing boaters including residential and continuous cruisers IWA has a heritage, education, engineering, training and primarily through the Waterways Recovery Group a restoration role. As a registered charity its main role is campaigning and education but it has facilitated large scale funding and labour for a number of restoration projects. It also is a waterways owner, the Chelmer and Blackwater, and provides trustees for the new Canal and River Trust with whom it played an active role with National Government at inception and has an ongoing written understanding. It therefore can bring a broad range of skills to this advisory role.

While now a long time ago it nearly became the owner of the canal it has played an active role in restoration, encouraging usage particularly navigation both owner and hirer, water supply, specific projects, providing small scale seed grants, governance and economics. It is sympathetic to the broad range of users of a waterway. Nationally IWA has over 16,000 members and locally some 1,200.

#### **John Cale Canal Cruises – John Cale**

I do feel it is essential to have commercial representation so that our concerns & interests are put forward at this level. It will also enable boat operators to understand the concerns & requirements of other parties on the canal. I look forward to being involved in a positive way through the JMC.

#### **Residential Boat Owners Association – Julia Jacs**

With our concern for the welfare of the Basingstoke Canal as a navigation and for the

local houseboat residents, RBOA remain enthusiastic and keen to be involved in the work of the JMC, having been regular attendees and contributors for over 4 years.

As a national organisation of 50 years standing, our excellent working/advisory relationships with waterway authorities, including EA, DEFRA, PLA (currently drafting an

MoU) and CRT (with whom we have an MoU) will, I believe, be useful in helping with future changes in Canal Ownership.

We are most willing, if requested, to share our meeting reports, regardless of membership, with all local houseboat residents, and keep them informed, and, if appropriate, to voice their concerns to the meetings, indeed we would welcome such interest, because RBOA seek to protect and improve life-afloat for all residential boat owners.

I love the canal on which I have lived for 26 years, and, as a member of BCS and the RBOA Local Representative, I am intent on continuing my regular attendance and would want to contribute to the JMC meetings.

CRT: Canal and River Trust

PLA: Port of London Authority

EA: Environment Agency

DEFRA: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

RBOA: Residential Boat Owners Association

MoU: Memorandum of Understanding

BCS: Basingstoke Canal Society

#### **Woking Cycle Users Group – Norman Johns**

With the WCUG committee I did a lot of work to promote cycling and cycle routes into and across the town centre when Woking Cycle Town was flavour of the month, we still try to promote cycling and run introductory cycle outings each month for those seeking to gain experience. I am also a ranger with Sustrans and work with volunteers to keep the Woking cycle routes open and safe.

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