

The Packet

Spring 2015 Issue 77



THE PACKET SPRING 2015 ISSUE 77.

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Please contact Chris Madge at the above addresses.

Front Cover: The Bell Inn, Sadlergate, Derby - Where it all began.

EDITOR'S CORNER.

Please do remember to send all material for the next issue to Doug Flack no later than the end of June, 2015.

Apologies for the blank pages in the last issue, this was a printer's error.

Advertising.

If you wish to advertise or, most importantly, know anyone that does, contact the Editor. Don't forget, there are 3 issues per year.

Mercia Marina have very kindly donated a significant amount of money towards the production of a new leaflet.

Acknowledgements.

Views expressed by individuals in The Packet are not necessarily those of the Society or Trust.

Photographs.

If you have or know anyone who has a picture of the canal, please let me know so that we can scan them for our archives.

Book – The Derby Canal by Mike Smith.

In 1978 Mike Smith wrote a book entitled "The Derby Canal" which detailed the history, decline and closure of our canal and which is an invaluable source of information.

He gave us permission to re-issue the book and I have spent some time updating it and having it printed.

It is available at our meetings @ £7.00.

They were produced with grants very kindly given to us by The Foyle Foundation and the Derbyshire Community Foundation.



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Words from the Chair. Welcome to the first issue of 2015.

Restoration Developments.

HS2.

We thought we had escaped the challenge of HS2. We've been impressed at the improvements to the Fradley crossing achieved by the IWA and CRT and sympathised with the Chesterfield, but until recently we felt we had escaped. Many of you, especially those living around Breaston, will know that an alternative route has been suggested travelling close to Breaston with a station near to the M1. The rationale is to reduce the cost of tunnelling under the airport at Castle Donington, but it causes other issues going through the surface water along the proposed route.

Since this has been raised we've seen tremendous activity by Erewash Council and its neighbours to fight the option. The leader at Erewash held a very well attended public meeting to inform and consult with those potentially affected. Since then we have seen further challenges to the plan and a concerted effort by local councils to persuade Sir David Higgins of the error of this ways. It looks like they are having an impact and we'll know by the summer. On our part we have arranged a meeting with the Minister twice to state our case, but have had it postponed both times. By the time we get there I suspect the position will be decided, but we will keep up the pressure, especially as the election campaign picks up speed.

Chellaston.

The work continues at Chellaston as contractors work on the development of the infrastructure to Infinity Park. We have had a number of meetings with Derby City Council on how to deal with the T12 crossing to ensure the Canal restoration is not prevented. We are currently informed that with the constraints on funding at the Council both now and in the future they will not be in a position to legally commit to building a bridge when we need it.

We are not sure whether this breaches rules or is just seen as good management, but the result is that we will have to live with a policy statement that they will build the bridge rather than a legally binding agreement.

We have been disappointed by the handling of this change in approach, but heartened by the closer contact that is now being granted. As part of our plans to build partnerships with key stakeholders Derby has now agreed to meet with us on a quarterly basis in addition to attending Trust meetings and to provide non-financial support for the project. It is apparent

from these meetings that support for the project is still as strong as ever, but there will be many other priorities that will have to rank above us - at least in the short term. As part of this ongoing dialogue we have been asked to make a presentation to Council members to ensure they are aware of the benefits and implications of restoring the canal to Derby and we have had confirmation of the proposed grant of £60,000 towards the overall project.

Paul Turner is currently in conversation with the owner of a stretch of the old canal line at Swarkestone running from the bridge to the A50. Whilst the restored line will run from below the lock in order to go under the A50, this section could be of use to feed water through the A50 by pipe to the other side of the Farmer's Culvert. Whilst the owner is looking to sell his valuation seems far above our own estimate, but we have been offered some expertise from CRT to understand the costs and implications of using the stretch.

Sandiacre.

Activity around Sandiacre has been substantial over the months since the last report. We have been concentrating on the smaller project suggested by HLF to:

- investigate the condition of the locks to give a firmer costing.
- involve the local community to establish their level of support for the canal restoration and how they would benefit from it.
- establish partnerships with key stakeholders (the Councils, CRT, User Groups, etc.).

The smaller project will also provide a basis for HLF to assess our ability to deliver the promised project to time and budget making a subsequent larger application more comfortable for them.

We have to date had a visit from IWA Surveyors together with John Baylis and an experienced working party to identify the probable location of drains and assess where we should focus any investigations. We have already involved the County Council in managing the land encroachment – slow but steady progress. It is also apparent that the approach to public involvement will need more expertise than we currently have so we have interviewed two consultants to assist in the development and presentation of this aspect of the bid.

We have also been advised by the planning and conservation officers at Erewash BC, who have also offered to provide a small amount of funding.

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This small project has also attracted the attention of the Secretary of State for DEFRA – Elizabeth Truss – and the new candidate MP for Sandiacre. Chris ReesFitzPatrick and I met her on site in January to explain what we are doing and asked for help on the abstraction rights (see below). We received encouragement and a very constructive interview on Radio Derby. After an hour with us I can assure you she was well primed and of course offered support.

Spondon.

The Spondon development is continuing slowly, although it looks as though the current owners have now established the development proposal and are determining whether they will continue the development themselves or sell on the proposal to other developers. Steve Jeffery is keeping close to events there and is looking after our interests.

The sale of The Moon pub by the Spondon winding hole to Fletchers has resulted in mayhem to the winding hole. Having spent many sessions clearing the area the new owners scrubbed out the hedge around the winding hole and piled it in the centre of the hole. We also suffered damage to some of the walls. Obviously we received a few shocked calls from members wondering what we were doing, but hopefully that has now been answered.

We have since been able to talk to the new owners and have agreed on boundaries to protect the old walls. Fletchers maintain that they are looking to reopen the pub (renaming it “The Canal Turn”!) and are keen to make the most of the area. Hopefully we can work together to finish the job and end up with a better outcome than we could have achieved on our own. CRT have also visited the area and welcomed our attempts to preserve the heritage of the old wharf/winding hole and the Council in Derby also continue to support our efforts.

Canal and River Trust.

In the last Packet I explained that we were looking to get closer to CRT as a major potential supporter. Since then we have continued to have contact with them and this has resulted in our being given a named point of contact – Lucy Hoelmer – to assist us where possible. Lucy and Julia Tinker a restoration officer joined us to travel along the whole canal on 14th January. It was thankfully a beautiful day and we were able to show off the route and discuss the challenges. As part of that meeting we were offered access to some expertise in evaluating the works at Swarkestone (marina and old section restoration), interest in the visitor centre and use of the

river, help with water abstraction and flooding issues and involvement in the HLF bid at Sandiacre. It was a very encouraging day. Lucy also outlined plans to raise an HLF bid to develop the Sandiacre toll cottage and area. There is now the possibility that this could work alongside our own bid. Certainly co-ordination is much more likely to gain results.

A further annual workshop is planned in late April and we will be attending again. The focus will be on partnerships and funding, which will be very useful.

Meeting with the Environment Agency.

We had a very helpful meeting with MP for Spondon Pauline Latham. She (and Chris Williamson) had been very supportive during their time on Derby City Council. We asked for help in a few areas and she has been instrumental in setting meetings up (if not completed) with Patrick McLoughlin and she has organised a meeting with the Environment Agency in early March to promote the transfer of abstraction rights from Celanese. We are hoping that the transfer of a small share of Celanese rights can be made without affecting their rights to the balance. We are also hoping to pick up on the desire to use the river to get to Derby and also to understand their approach to flooding, particularly around the Arm at Pride Park.

Other Matters.

We have had further input from Network Rail around their plans to electrify the East Midland mainline. They do not currently envisage altering the track alignment at Raynesway, instead they will lower it to give greater clearance however we are on their radar should they look to straighten it. At Station Road Borrowash they will definitely be constructing a new bridge to lift the road to give greater headroom; this gives us an opportunity and Network Rail have committed to engage us once they commence the design of the new bridge.

The development on the Pride Park triangle by the Wyvern seems to be moving forward again and we are working to get together a full case to promote the Derby Arm to developers.

Working Parties.

We have continued to increase the size and effectiveness of our working parties. We are closing in on completing the Draycott hedge laying and it is really drawing favourable comments from passers-by.

Eddy has now been fully trained to spray Japanese Knotweed, which is a problem for the Draycott run and seems to be invading many other areas. We know this is a potential earner for us as the demand for a reasonable cost service is increasing. Parish Councils have already expressed an interest and Eddy has offered to attend on our behalf.

Fortunately his employer, DHL, are being very supportive. Not only have they made a donation for the time he has spent for us, but he's been able to take holidays to cover the demanding needs of the Trust. Definitely a hero for us and continuing the tremendous effort recognised at the AGM with his receipt of the Kate Birtles award. Thanks Eddy.



Findern Lane, Willington, Derbyshire DE65 6DW
T: 01283 703332 www.merciamarina.co.uk


MERCIA MARINA

Events.

It has been the quiet season for events, although we still managed to support the Breaston Navigation Funday and generated lots of interest. We also supported the Draycott Christmas Fair in early December. You may remember that it was very cold in early December, but we had a good turnout of support and gained some sympathy votes. It was also very

festive being alongside the carol singers from Rotary. This may have accounted for us attracting four new members under the gift membership scheme. Please remember it is still available- contact Roger for details or download an application form.

Future planned appearances are to be:

Monday 4 th May	Breaston Gala.
Sunday 17 th May	Swadlincote Festival of Transport. (TBC)
Monday 25 th May	Swarkestone Lock Through.
Sat June 20 th	Spirit of Chellaston.
Sat 11 th July	Spondon Barn Dance

The Festival of Transport is an unusual option that we have been asked to consider by South Derbyshire District Council. At the time that we go to print we are yet to finalise details, please see the web site nearer the time. As you'll understand we are looking at a lock through rather than a trip to Crick at Whit this year. We think this will work better for us. We won't be supporting the County Show, which is becoming very expensive for us. We had considered the Elvaston Steam Fair but they are fully booked.

We are currently planning a barn dance in the summer to raise funds and have some entertainment. ~~evening~~. Please mark it in your diaries and support us. We have almost completed an update of our leaflet showing a walking route around the ring, so will be pushing that hard at all our events.

Eddy, Eileen and Anne have also added a few more items to the merchandise list as you'll see below. This will be available at the events.

Meetings.

As always our speakers have been entertaining and covered talks on Drystone Walling (never thought of using them as a bank – although I suppose the ATMs are often referred to as a “hole in the wall”), Stanley Matthews on the footplate with some brilliant anecdotes, and Stuart Dare on Sustrans – one of our partners.

The keynote was the AGM, where we secured the services of Roger Ashmead as Membership Secretary and had an update from Eddy on the working parties achievements. Thanks to all those who attended.

Planned meetings include:

April 28 th	The Ecclesbourne Railway by Eric Boulton.
May 28 th	The Uttoxeter Canal by Steve Wood.
June 23 rd	Canal Walk which this year will commence from the canal bridge on London Road at 7:30pm.

Please come along and support the meetings. It's also a chance to catch up with progress.

Future meetings are held on the fourth Tuesdays at the Wilmot Arms, 49 Derby Road, Borrowash from 8pm. Members £2, visitors £3.

Thanks for your Support.

As always we rely on you to support us where you can and to keep your membership active. It really does help us to keep the pressure up. If you've any comments please feel free to email Chris Madge on chris@gowercroft.com or our editor or other committee members. Details are at the front of the Packet or on our website.

Hope to see you all at our forthcoming events.

Membership.

As mentioned above we were delighted to attract Roger to take over the membership administration for us.

The Gift Membership idea has been well received and Roger has already attacked the data that we hold for emails, etc. You'll see an appeal from him to please keep us up to date. Emails work so much better for us to keep you informed. See below.

We have struggled to work out how we can keep in contact and be more attractive to younger members and I'm pleased to say we are now talking to Emma who is going to advise us and help to get the message across. I'm not a tweeter, etc, but I understand that she has the low-down on social media and improving websites and we recognise this is an area that we can improve. So watch this space or the website or the cloud or..... you can see why we need some help!!



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- * Free entry to the first two meetings.
- * Items from our shop can be added at an additional cost.
- * Gift Wrapped and delivered to the address specified.

Now is the time we need to encourage more local participation and you can help us. And it's open to anyone you nominate. In future years they can renew at current applicable rates.

If you wish to purchase gift membership please print the Gift Membership form that is available on the website. Alternatively write to rsashmead@Yahoo.co.uk detailing the full name and address of the recipient of the gift, the date of the gift birthday etc., and whether you want the gift pack to be sent directly to the recipient to arrive shortly before the gift date or for the gift pack to be sent to you the giver so that you can add a nice bow ribbon and present it direct to the recipient.

If you are adding additional merchandise you are asked to make the cheque payable to The Derby and Sandiacre Canal Society who will pass on the membership element to the Trust. If there are no additional merchandise items it would be helpful if the cheque is made payable to The Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust. Please note that irrespective of the giver's Gift Aid status HMRC rules preclude the claiming of Gift Aid in this.

The web site is gaining popularity and we are using it to publicise events and updates. We have also posted an animation of the Arm in its new format lifting boats from the aqueduct level down to the Derwent and visitor centre. It's worth a look.

We have 482 current membership records but with joint and family memberships we have about 730 members. We also have a few who have lapsed for the only reason that we cannot associate the person who has paid their subs with the actual named member. Not so good. If someone else is paying for you, lucky people, please remember to put the named member on the back of the cheque.

One thing we'd like to be able to do is distribute more information about the society members by e-mail as currently only about 25% of the members have given us an e-mail address. So, I'd like a flood of emails from the membership that I can cull the addresses from so as to improve our information service to you in future. One such could be a reminder e-mail service for your subscription so you can remain a member of your favourite canal society.

My email address is rsashmead@Yahoo.co.uk so don't delay, e-mail me today!

Title it 'DSCS – I'm in!' 482 e-mails would be rather good!

One other thing to note is the Gift Membership offer still stands so if you're stuck for a gift for your best friend during the year, why not consider this?

Best £15 you can spend! ☺

Roger Ashmead, Membership Secretary.

Harvey Road Bridge 1950s.



Something for the Ladies!

"Ladies! I would like to share with you the secret of my Sunday morning outings, in the company of a group of handsome young men! (by the way, I have a good imagination).

Would you like the opportunity to spend time with them in a romantic setting - on a canal bank near you? Yes! As you have probably guessed, I have been coming to some of the working parties, and they are more fun than you might expect.

I must admit, I thought at first it was going to be hard work for few results, but now I can see cleared footpaths and neatly laid hedges, and be proud that I have made a small contribution.

I don't have any real talent, I don't want to wield a chainsaw or anything else dangerous, but there is always plenty to do, clearing up after the real men, getting down and dirty in the canal bed pulling up Himalayan balsam and, my favourite, setting bonfires! *It's good to be out in the fresh air and being active.*

We even sometimes go to the pub afterwards - what's not to like?

So, if you fancy joining us, you would be very welcome. Just contact Eddy Case - he's the boss, and the ladies man!"

Cheers, Anne Madge.

IWA Raffle Update.

Thank you to everyone that supported the IWA raffle that has been a great success. The raffle has now closed, prizes have been awarded and the allocations of canal society nominations finalised. Out of the 50 societies being supported The Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust came eleventh in the rankings of most supported societies, our share of the profits will be £306 a great return for little effort on our part. The Friends of the Cromford scooped the largest allocation at £1,200, and that was nearly double the second ranked society. Finally congratulations go to one of our members John Dyson who picked up the 10th prize.

Fundraising.

We now have a number of fund raising initiatives that are available to raise further funds to help drive forward our ambition of restoring the Derby and Sandiacre Canal.



Through Recycle 4 Charity we are able to recycle inkjet cartridges, mobile phones and laser or toner cartridges, and a payment will be made to the

Trust. Any of these can be brought along to a Society meeting and handed to a Committee member. Alternatively inkjet cartridges and old mobile phones can be sent for recycling in the envelope that is enclosed with this addition of The Packet. Before sending off the envelope; please add your name and address on the back so that Recycle 4 Charity can send more envelopes direct to you for future use. If you don't have anything to recycle please pass on the envelope to a friend or relative that does.

If you have laser or toner cartridges and can't bring them to a society meeting or you would like a collection box for a larger quantity of cartridges or for a business please contact our treasurer Chris ReesFitzPatrick.



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Do you do any of your shopping online? If you do then a donation to the Trust will be made by the online retailer without your shopping costing you a penny more.

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<http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/derbysandiacrecanal>

Star Buy!

Derby Canal Company Dapol 00 Gauge Private Owner Wagon.
The wagon has a green background with "Derby Canal Company
Established 1796" emblazoned in white text.



More than half of the limited edition have now been sold, don't miss out! The wagons are available for just £12 plus £5 P&P (for up to 3 wagons). If you wish to order one (or more) please contact Chris ReesFitzPatrick. For those of you that are local to the canal's route delivery can be arranged.

There are plenty of other items for sale such as Polo Shirts, Sweat Shirts, calendars, books etc. available.

New Merchandise Now on Sale!

Along with our wonderful Festive offering of Membership to friends and family for only £15.00, we are also pleased to announce the launch of our very own ecommerce page with lots of new ideas for gifts that are suitable for all ages.

New items range from high quality cotton T-Shirts for adults (with a wicked 'Your Canal Needs You' logo) at only £7.50, there is also a children's T-Shirt with a wonderful design on the front at only £5.00 (these come in three different sizes).



We also have two versions of The Derby Arm Mug in a lovely blue and another new mug featuring the canal route, on a white background, these are competitively priced at only £4.50 each.

Along with the cooler days and nights we have a selection of adult sweat shirts priced at £12.50, plus a wide choice of books and other goods, all available on the www.derbycanal.org.uk site.

Local delivery within the Derby and surrounding area can be arranged free, otherwise postage will be advised dependant on order numbers.

To obtain any further information on any of the above, please email Eddy on eddycase69@hotmail.co.uk

Working Party Report Autumn/Winter 2014.

Working Parties (WP) resumed as normal after the August break, well deserved after a wonderful Spring campaign. Our first WP saw us at Borrowwash, clearing out the restored lock at the lower end; all the growth was removed and later disposed of by the Borrowwash team, leaving a nice tidy area. Our next WP saw two teams hard at work back at Draycott clearing the land and canal bank at the Hopwell Road end of all the brambles that had begun to take over the area, and also preparing the top end ready for the coming season of hedge laying teams. Our first WP of October was the beginning of hedge cutting and laying, over 200 metres of hedge to lay and 800 to cut, could we do it all this year? Time will tell. The second week there saw three teams hard at work, team one worked to finish the scrub clearing whilst the other two teams attacked the hedge cutting and clearing.

November, 500 metres laid to date, 400 metres cut and cleared. We now have enough regular helpers turning upon a weekly basis that we can often deploy three teams each time we meet, this means that we are getting even more work done, in fact November saw the largest turn-out ever for a WP held at Borrowash, where we helped clear scrub and trees growing onto the footpath and in the canal bed.

December started with us helping out on a stall at the Draycott Christmas fair, we met a lot of local people, sold a good amount of merchandise and recruited some more new members, we will be re turning this year. Once again the first WP in December saw us with three teams working on the hedge laying and the final stretch of cutting that needed completing at the top end of the stretch, it really is looking good up there now the work is getting closer to completion.



Bottom Lock clearance.

Another job done in December was clearing the public footpath that is used a lot by local walkers along the canal route, this will enable all to have a clear path throughout the winter and spring months. Our final “Burn off the calories” WP for the year had to be cancelled due to a blanket of snow, a response from one of our members, Peter, was “Sorry – cannot get the car off the drive – let alone burn any snow”.

New Year, new start, January saw us at Draycott on a fairly chilly morning, now with only 105 metres to lay, three large bonfires to remove and an area of scrub to clear along the bank before the wildlife returns in the spring.

Work to do at Borrowash, Spondon, Sandiacre, Draycott and other Areas means that this year more than ever we need your help.

Full details are available on our web page or call Eddy in person on 07523 896645, any help is appreciated and people always keep turning up again, so it must be fun, and it keeps me fit!

News on the battle of the Japanese Knotweed to follow in the next edition.

Eddy.



Hedge Trimming.



These pictures show the progress of our hedge, from planting 14,000 whips to blossoming, to laying & trimming.





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