

The Packet



Issue 79

Winter 2016.

£1



Contact the Committee.

The committee meets on the second Monday of each month at The Coach and Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott, DE72 3PS, 7.30pm. Thanks to Mark and staff for provision of facilities (and access to real ale). Feel free to attend as ANY help or interest is always welcomed.

Chairman: Chris Madge.
62, Broadway, Duffield, Derbyshire, DE56 4BU.
Email:chair@derbycanal.org.uk
Tel:01332 840502; 07827 946444

Vice Chairman Eddy Case.
Email:coordinator@derbycanal.org.uk
Tel:07523 896645

Secretary: Anne Madge.

Membership: Roger Ashmead.
172, Sandcroft Road, Spondon, Derby, DE21 7LD.
Email:membership@derbycanal.org.uk

Treasurer: Chris Rees FitzPatrick.
Email:treasurer@derbycanal.org.uk

Working Parties: Eddy Case.
Email:coordinator@derbycanal.org.uk
Tel:07523 896645

Editor: Doug Flack.
Email:editor@derbycanal.org.uk

Social Secretary: Position currently vacant.

Full details of the committee can be found on our website www.derbycanal.org.uk

Chris Madge and Chris Rees FitzPatrick are also directors of the Trust and can be contacted on the above details.

Cover photo of works to take soil samples at Sandiacre lock.



Words From The Chair.

Firstly let me offer our apologies for the not so timely delivery of the last Packet. Whilst most of the material was prepared in the early summer the final proofing, printing and delivery was held up by lots of activity on canal matters. We also had the help of Mark Gilliver, who took over responsibility for the Packet's layout and getting used to new software and the inevitable learning curve slowed down the issue. We have committed to work to a tighter timetable going forward so that you are kept up to date. We do value your support, which has been steadily increasing, and know the Packet is a key part of that. We are now being much more successful in keeping our website up to date, so please check it out or I can include you on the brief monthly updates if you supply your email address. However from your kind comments it appears the improvements to the last Packet made it worth the wait! If you have any comments (good or bad) or suggestions please send these or any contributions/articles to packet@derbycanal.org.uk

Restoration Developments

Development Group

As you'll gather from the previous Packet and what follows the development has picked up in pace and we have found that progress is limited to the time available. With the news that David Hayes wanted to step down from the group we decided to look for additional help. In particular we needed a project manager and skills to replace David.

I'm pleased to report that we now have three new members of the Development Group, each of whom brings very welcome additional skills and experience to the team. Firstly we have been joined by Mike Wingfield who works at Rolls Royce and has experience in the fund raising and development areas. Second to join was David Savidge, also already a member. David retired recently from Contract Management at Abbey Glass and has already proved his knowledge and experience by rewriting and upgrading the health and safety requirements. David has already taken a lead role in the Sandiacre sampling work. In January we met Duncan Inwood for the first time. Duncan has recently retired from a role in the Planning Department at Derby City Council.

We are also hoping that we may see more of Chairman, Steve Jeffery, following the sale of a major part of his estate agency. As a consequence of the sale we have had to vacate the office in St Peter's Churchyard, although at present the advertising sign is still on the wall. As a result we are gradually consolidating the records previously held there. I managed to get our half scale narrow-boat out of my garage just in time. If anyone knows of an alternative accommodation address in Derby – perhaps a base for meetings – please let me know.



Water Supply

I reported in the last Packet that we were making progress on getting water for the canal from Celanese. We had some excellent news in September when the site director of Celanese contacted us about our request for some of their water abstraction rights. We'd had an interesting meeting in March with him and the Environment Agency when the matter was broached. Celanese has been in the process of demolishing their acetate production site for the last year or so and needed a little more time to work through how the water licence will fit into future plans.

We were working to assess the amount of water needed to keep the canal topped up during the summer months, so we could minimise the transfer and contacted them to see if a reduced amount would help the decision. We were delighted to learn in October that Celanese was happy to transfer the lot to us. We therefore approached the Environment Agency to work out the next step and were confronted with two issues – firstly, cost. Celanese only borrowed the water for an industrial process and returned it to the river at the same point, but we wanted to “keep it” albeit returning it to the Trent at least 5 miles away. For our requirement the cost would be in the region of £40k p.a. for the licence to be available even if we didn't use it in the year.



The chemistry inside innovation™

Secondly we need to prove we have access to the abstraction point, currently owned by Celanese. We have agreed with Celanese will draft a letter of authority for the twelve months required by the Environment Agency and are awaiting signature by the local directors to effect the change. Celanese have been extremely helpful to us and I have offered to ensure they get public recognition for this. I suggested we could name the Spondon winding hole in their honourwhen we had completed it. So they offered a donation to pay for the final diggers operation in the spring. Thank you again, Celanese.

So we are now left to decide how much water to ask for and to see if there's an opportunity to get an abatement of the charges. Current advice is that we go for a reasonably small amount that we can afford, and that could keep the canal open even if we had to back-pump at locks. We can then look to improve the position later when we actually need it and can therefore afford it.

Sandiacre Lock Excavation

We've been very busy at Sandiacre Bottom Lock since the last Packet. You may recall that we are aiming to open up Sandiacre bottom lock, repair it and discover where it has been breached by drains, so we can plan to reroute them. As always this sort of project involves a critical path to get to the goal. The plan goes as follows:

1. Meet the land owner (Derbyshire County Council) and get permission for the excavation. ✓
2. Get planning permission ✓
3. Meet the sampling planning condition and
 - a. Appoint a professional sampler ✓
 - b. Find a digger and driver to take the samples ✓
 - c. Get the money ✓
 - d. Undertake the sampling ✓
 - e. Devise a strategy to manage any hazardous items found
 - f. Agree this with Erewash Borough Council in a Method Statement and discharge the condition.
4. Work out the most cost effective and safe approach

5. Identify who will do the work (General Contractors, Waterways Recovery Group – the IWA volunteers group, Erewash Conservation, Development Preservation Association, our own volunteers, etc.) and produce a budget.
6. Produce an application for funding for Heritage Lottery Fund (and others). This will include substantial work in the community and using an experienced consultant. As you will recall from the last Packet we are well on the way with this and waiting the methods and costs to get this stage completed.
7. Secure funding (about 12 weeks)
8. Notify completion of other minor conditions with Erewash and Derbyshire Councils.
9. Undertake the excavation.

As you'll see we have got past 3d and received a draft report on the findings a few days ago. This report identifies some hazardous material including asbestos, zinc and copper. This was not obvious during the sampling as safe levels are now many factors lower than when the lock was land filled.

In furtherance of the above we have continued to spend time in preparation on site. We have undertaken a quick investigation to find coping stones and cleared away a lot of encroaching vegetation. In the course of this we have been welcomed by residents on both sides of the lock. The owners of Beech House offered us their facilities while we were on site, joined the Trust and are keen to get the project under way, co-ordinating it with their own extension works.

We have long felt that the house on the opposite side had encroached onto canal land and during the works we were able to talk to the owner (Dave Lockley), who remembers the lock before it was filled in, and he has generously offered for us to reclaim 1.5m to make the restoration more straightforward.

In fact Dave even looked out old photos and reports to help.

We continued to be struck by the interest shown by all that passed and the support and encouragement we received from them. Eddy and I attended a meeting of the Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association and received a warm welcome and again support for the project.

So in early December we had a digger on site and got the hard hats on. We took the relevant samples and found bobbins amongst the samples. We think Derbyshire County Council must have given permission for the remains of an old lace making factory to be dumped in the lock. At an earlier investigation we had traced a good length of the coping stones, but then lost the line suddenly towards the top cill of the lock. With the digger available we were able to locate some of the missing lengths. We found that the stones were out of line vertically and the horizontal line moved a little and around the cill we could find no evidence whatsoever. The neighbour told us that Severn Trent had put in a further pipe across the top cill. Our samples suggest that this work may have substantially damaged that cill, so we will have quite a lot of repair work to carry out once the excavation is completed.

We now expect to get the excavation completed in the summer and given that the early results show some hazardous deposits we believe we will be able to vary the planning permission to dispose of the spoil rather than refill the lock.

The Nottingham Trams

Sometimes you get a feeling of Deja Vu. In mid November the canal line hit the news again as proposals for a tramway extension from Toton towards Derby along the canal path resurfaced. This time it came about as part of the proposals by the Notts and Derbys County Councils as part of their "merger". The two organisations appear keen to merge a lot of functions so they can attract extra government funding and take over regional control of a number of functions including transport.

The extension of the tram presumably helps to make the case for integration, although we know that local councils affected are set against the scheme.

The answer to this it would appear is to "Get the canal dug, while they are still talking" and we are aiming to do just that.

Derby City Council

I'm pleased to confirm that we have now received the grant of £60k from the Council to assist the Derby side developments and particularly the Derby Arm. Our meetings continue each quarter and remain very helpful and productive, although we are getting close to elections again and that inevitably restricts time available from Councillors. We are therefore looking to set the next date with the Councillor in charge of Regeneration, Martin Rawson, after the May elections when the political landscape may be clearer. It is already apparent that the Council will be severely restricted on funds available to development projects such as our own.

The Council continues to support our discussions with the developers of the "Chaddesden Triangle" (the site of the Arm), which are progressing slowly. Mike Wood has now produced plans showing the Arm on the site and we await further discussions on these. We have pointed out that our presence on site will sit mostly on land designated for flood management and therefore not available for other development. Of the full 11 acres only 4 is on developable land. The activity will therefore promote their development of retail based buildings, making use of the river and canal view. This should add to the value of the site as a whole.

Currently there is difficulty agreeing the relative contributions to the road enhancements. It is planned to make the road from Sainsbury's to Toys R Us into a dual carriageway and widen the westbound exit from the A52 onto Pride Park. This will also affect the layout of the developer's site as it will change the access roads currently on their plans. We therefore wait for them to resolve this issue before we can discuss our use of part of the site. The Council have also put us in contact with the officers responsible for highways and

water on the site. We will also get an opportunity to discuss plans with officers responsible for developments along the river, particularly at the Arriva/Telegraph site. The Council are also helpful in pointing to Government Infrastructure Funding as it becomes available.

European Bid

We are also in conversation with a consultant who is preparing a bid to Europe to investigate the energy and cost efficiency of boat lifts and their sites. This bid is currently involving the Anderton Lift, the Falkirk Wheel and a boat transporter in Zoetermeer, Holland. It is hoped to also involve lifts in Belgium and Germany to enhance the chance of winning funding.

The bid was developed at a meeting at Falkirk in October. Mike Snaith and I were made very welcome by the Director responsible for the Wheel and Kelpies near Falkirk. The information he made available will therefore help us enormously as we refine our business plan.

Developing Broader Contacts

We have continued to work with an increasing number and variety of contacts to spread the word and elicit support.

Marketing Derby has continued to provide contacts with other local businesses and will allow us to promote ourselves to local businesses when we judge the time is right. We have a meeting with their managing director in January when Mike Wingfield and I will explore how to promote the project.

Mike has taken on the mantle of developing contact with **Rolls Royce**. So far he has met with key contacts who have expressed an interest in providing input and time from their student intake. They would learn about their community and develop some business skills and we would move a project on. We have had a lot of support in the past from the business and from many past and present employees who have become members. A higher profile in RR can only be good for us and Mike will undoubtedly provide that for us.

We continue to have extensive contact with the **University of Derby**. At the moment we have three studies under discussion and one just completed in the College of Business. We are hoping to get projects under way that will assess the impact of the Arm and river link in Derby, update our "branding" and look at social media. Each of these studies will play a part in developing the overall Derby Arm business plan. We also have Nottingham Trent undertaking a review of the financial and fund raising approach we should use. The universities are playing an increasing part in the development of Derby and are a source of good quality and cost effective advice and support. They have established excellent experience in raising grant and other funding and we hope to benefit from that.

On the subject of support we have continued to develop our relationship with **Canal and River Trust (CRT)** and attended their Canalfest celebration in Nottingham in October. We had a very prominent position with our boat in pride of place and attracted a lot of attention and signed up a few keen new members. We will be attending the annual restoration workshop run by the Inland Waterways Association and CRT and continue to get involved with and attend the national Restoration Project Managers' forum. We value the technical support available from CRT and the opportunity to have open discussions with other restorers across the country.

And of course we continue to meet with and in most cases gain the support of businesses involved with "construction". We continue to be supported by the BWB consultancy on technical and water issues like abstraction, Ivy House on spoil analysis, GF Tomlinson for restoration, 3D for digger hire and driver. We have also had great advice from Peter Siddall of East Midlands Demolition around how to manage the disposal of spoil cost effectively. We continue to be grateful for and surprised by the generosity of so many local organisations looking to improve our community.

Society Updates

Another Year Another AGM

The minutes of the AGM are available on our website, but I'd like to repeat a couple of comments here.

At this AGM Paul Birtles stepped down from his position as Vice Chairman after many years of very active involvement. It often happens that over time committees change and new faces come in and there's a temptation to reinvent the wheel. Paul has been able to reduce the debate by recalling past experiences and point us in the right direction. I am still reminded every time I pull the half sized boat that Paul built virtually single handed (and which Jackie and he painted with roses and castles and a harlequin) of the lasting contribution he has made. Paul has been very involved with a virtual rebuilding of his house over the past few years and we now wish him a more relaxed time of (semi) retirement to enjoy his labours.

One other lasting contribution from Paul is the Kate Birtles Shield, in memory of his late wife, and which recognises someone who has made the difference to the Society or Restoration. As I said at the AGM the award can sometimes recognise someone who has made a major contribution in the year, but this time we are delighted to see Chris Rees FitzPatrick, Treasurer for the Society and Trust and Director of the Trust win it for his unstinting effort over the last three or four years. Some people don't take the limelight, but just get on with the job and Chris is one of those people. This year he has also supported Christine, his wife, who broke her arm badly in a fall and needed an almost full time "PA, cook and driver". But still he attended committee meetings, working parties, Trust meetings, kept the books, researched plans and supported Emma in her IT improvements.

Paul had engineered the voting so that Chris did not expect the award, so his words of acceptance congratulated Paul on his cunning and thanked the Society for enabling him to keep his mind sharp! Thank you again.

Events

Since the last Packet we have attended

- The University sponsored "Nature Connections" with Chris Packham – an event poorly attended by the public, but which showed our support for the University and matters green.
- Friends of the Navigation at Breaston – again a successful event run by a group that we want to support
- Nottingham Canalfest with CRT – a very successful event
- Draycott Christmas Fair – not as cold as last year, we had a much better location and great support. This is an event in support of the village, which as Eddy reports has done so much to encourage and support our efforts.
- The Barn Dance at the Canal Turn. We held this in late November as something of an unusual event for us. We normally attend events organised by others. This was an event which generated many grey hairs in the set up, not least of which due to the power failure at the pub resolved only 30 minutes before the start, but which was enjoyed so much we want to do it again! We did it to thank the pub and as a social event for supporters, so we were delighted when we also generated a profit. We now need to finish the winding hole – the digger is booked for March/April time, weather permitting.



We are planning a full programme again next year as follows:

- 2nd May Breaston Gala
- 28th May Chesterfield National Trailboat Festival
- 18th June Spirit of Chellaston
- 25th June Spondon
- 9th July Friends of Hayworth Park at Sandiacre
- 29th Aug Swarkestone Lock Through
- Dec Draycott Christmas Fair

We are also looking at Elvaston Steam Fair in early July if it fits and will support the Friends of the Navigation and Mercia Marina if events are held. Please let us know if you could help – no knowledge required – or if we've missed an obvious opportunity.

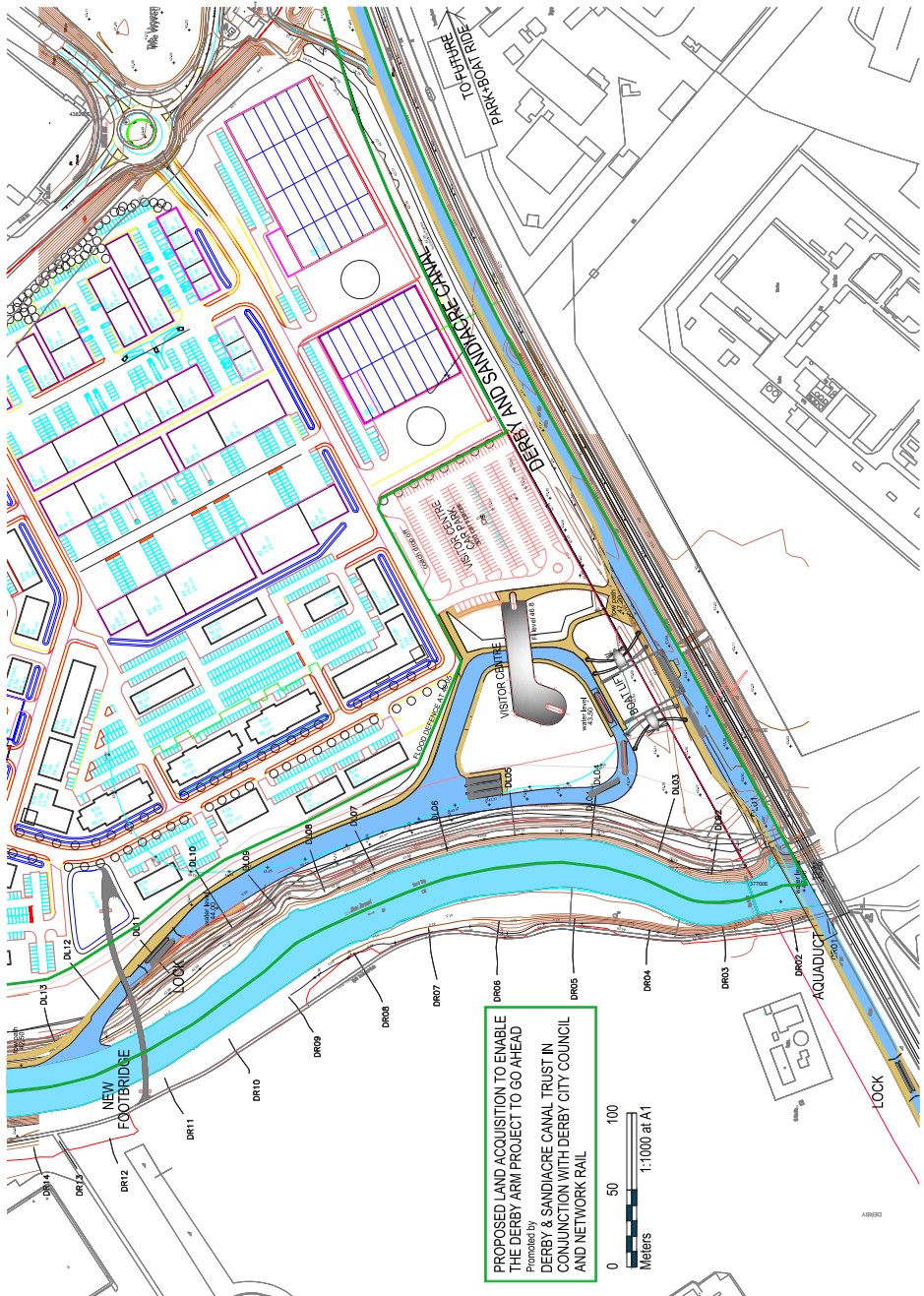
Leaflets

I'm pleased to say that we have now received a reprint of our leaflets. They have been redesigned to make more of the route around the ring. Hopefully you can now use them to walk or cycle around it. We have been supported by businesses in covering the print costs, notably Mercia Marina, The Wilmot Arms, Holiday Inn, the Navigation in Breaston and Cherry Tree Post Office. Please let us know if you want a copy or have a location for a display stand.

The Packet

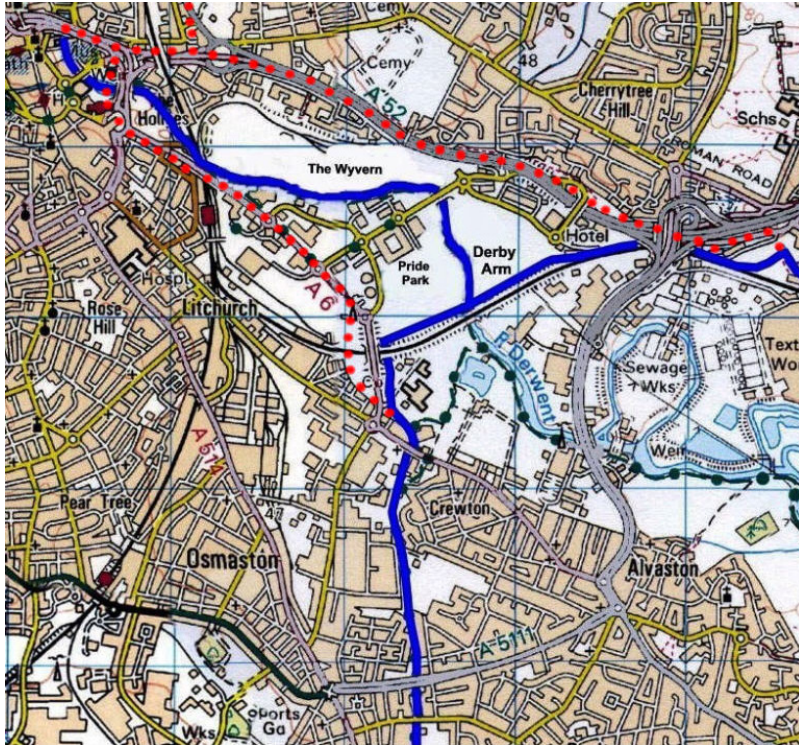
As always I'll end with a plea for any contributions to the Packet. Send them to packet@derbycanal.org.uk or by post to me. We are very grateful to Don and Joyce Olivant at Cherry Tree Post Office for their past donations to help with the costs of UK postage for those outside our local distribution network – approximately half of you. We wish them both well in their retirement, but it means that we need to ask you again PLEASE HELP US TO REDUCE COSTS BY LETTING US KNOW IF YOU ARE HAPPY TO TAKE THE PACKET ELECTRONICALLY.

Derby Arm Proposal, October 2015.



The Route of the Derby Canal 2

For the benefit of newer members this is the second in a series of maps showing where the canal was and where we propose to rebuild it.



Going north from Bracken's Lane, the canal goes under the ring road and locks up to its original level on the north side, originally there was a standard hump-backed bridge here. Then the line passes under the A6 London Road at Wilmorton, under the railway and turns right, crosses the river Derwent, past the Derby Arm site and then under the ring road at Spondon and back onto the original line.

The red dotted line shows the original route through the city centre - and we will lock down into the river via the Derby Arm Boat Lift and proceed to the city centre.

History Repeats Itself

The good news regarding the water supply reminded me that it is history repeating itself but with an added bonus. When the canal was opened, water was extracted from the river Derwent through White Bear and Pegg's locks to the east and south respectively but... only on Sundays when the various mills weren't working, and this caused a perennial water shortage.

However, the new arrangement means that we will be able to extract water more or less as required at Spondon and top up the canal from there as it is on the top pound.

It also recalls the case during WWII when ICI (they had a colour works on the site of the present Loom's scrapyard) complained to the Derby Canal Company about their inability to extract water from the canal, as the level was too low. The canal company investigated their case and found that the main cause was that ICI were taking out many times the number of gallons agreed, not only that, but they hadn't paid for it!

When challenged, ICI replied saying "there is a war on you know"

There is no record of the outcome unfortunately.



Puzzle Page

Canal Wildlife Word Search

K	H	T	J	Z	U	V	V	K	K	P	X
L	P	A	V	U	L	G	V	V	E	M	V
P	Q	N	O	B	Y	D	D	U	C	K	X
W	G	H	L	B	J	E	X	P	X	Z	Q
E	E	A	E	X	M	Z	I	N	A	T	O
C	R	R	E	C	R	O	B	L	Y	O	M
J	Y	H	G	E	T	V	O	R	L	N	T
E	L	Y	D	F	O	T	J	R	G	P	T
E	G	D	S	T	S	N	Y	S	H	Y	L
O	A	O	T	E	O	J	D	I	W	E	Y

DUCK, SWAN, OTTER, VOLE, TOAD, FROG, NEWT, ADDER, LIZARD, GEESE,
COOT, HERON, KINGFISHER, MOORHEN

Medium Sudoku

3					1			
6	9	4					5	
			3				7	
	2	9			3	1		
	6		2	4		5		
9	7				2		4	
			7					8
			1					

Derby and Sandiacre Canal Society

2016 Meetings Programme

Meetings are to be held on 4th Tuesdays of each month with breaks in the summer (August) and Christmas (December).

Meetings are held in the function room at the Wilmot Arms, Derby Road, Borrowash, DE72 3HA. The pub serves good value food and real ale if you want to eat before we meet. Tel 01332 663636

Tues 26 th Jan	Jane Whitaker	Victorian Slums in Derby
Tues 23 rd Feb	Dave Thomas	(CRT) The Anderton Boat Lift
Tues 23 rd Mar	David Bell	The Plague Doctor
Tues 26 th Apr	Paul Sturges	Derby Life in the 1950s
Tues 24 th May	Rosemary Gibson	The Grantham Canal
Tues 28 th Jun	David and Derek	Walk at Sandiacre
Tues 26 th Jul	Stuart Smith	Notable Railway Accidents
Tues 27 th Sep	John Wilkinson	Boating in Burgundy
Tues 25 th Oct	AGM	
Tues 22 nd Nov	Ian Bowley	The Derby Canal Film
and Archives		



Launching the Derby Canal into the 21st Century!



My Dad, Ian Bowley, has been a member of the Derby & Sandiacre Canal Society for about as long as I can remember. Eight years or so ago he joined the working party and then joined the committee. The society was looking for someone to help with their website and bring them "into the 21st Century" and without too much persuading I said yes! What else was I going to do with my maternity leave?!

In March I met with Chris, Chris, Doug & Eddy to find out what they wanted me to assist with and soon I was let loose! We now have an updated website, which continues to be updated on a weekly basis so if you haven't taken a look for a while please check it out and let us know what you think - www.derbycanal.org.uk

I also re-launched the Facebook page and we are working to increase our likers and reach out to the local community. We have increased awareness of our meetings...



Rob Stockman Was really hoping to come along, but I'm off to Germany tomorrow and haven't had a chance to pack yet. Do you meet up on a regular night? I'll come along next time. Rob, NB Rivendell, Shardlow

Like · Reply · 24 March at 20:23



Derby and Sandiacre Canal Hi Rob, we meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 8pm (except August & December) - more details can be found here - <http://derbycanal.org.uk/the-society/meetings-programme/>



Our next meeting is Tuesday 28th April, we hope to see you there!

and made contact with previous working party members...



Gary Dakin It's looking grate I was there when we dug out borrowwash bottom lock I was only 14 at the time and I did every working party I remember driving Dorris the digger to anyone else remember our little digger ?

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 28 April at 09:35



Derby and Sandiacre Canal Glad you think it's looking good! Unfortunately Dorris is poorly and will be going on sale for parts 😞 She is missing you and hopes you can join us - we'd love to have your help! Next working party meets 9.30am Sunday 10th May, Borrowwash!

Like · 30 April at 12:17

As of the beginning of November we have 189 likers on Facebook - and our posts are reaching over 650 people. If you are on Facebook please like us at www.facebook.com/derbycanal.org.uk and invite your friends, family and colleagues to like us also.

I also launched us on Twitter with an amazing response, within two weeks we had over 100 followers. Here we have been able to reach out to a different audience including local companies, residents and organisations - along with narrowboat owners - I am amazed at the number of followers we have who live on narrowboats and tweet on a daily basis!



RSA East Midlands @RSA_EM · May 3

Wow! @Derby_Canal concept proposal for the #Derby Arm is truly awesome!
ow.ly/Mr9ON



canal market place @MarketCanal · Apr 13

@Derby_Canal Your doing a wonderful job, I love that stretch of the water.
[#marketcanal canalmarketplace.co.uk](https://marketcanal.canalmarketplace.co.uk)

👍 1



Long Eaton Life @LongEatonLife · Mar 25

Record number of volunteers for Derby and Sandiacre Canal Society's work party
derbytelegraph.co.uk/Record-number-...
@Derby_Canal #Draycott #Derbyshire

We now have over 300 followers - if you are on Twitter please follow us @Derby_Canal and retweet us!

Through Facebook and Twitter we are communicating with both the local and wider community on almost a daily basis, keeping them updated on our progress and increasing our support. I hope through these channels we can increase the awareness of the restoration of the Derby Canal, helping to make the dream a reality.

Hope to see you all online soon,

Emma Keeling

(and don't forget to visit our website www.derbycanal.org.uk)

Membership

Hi folks, just a little update on the membership. We currently have just over 750 members including 8 groups. Groups are other societies, associations or small businesses. We would like to increase the number of members going forwards so my challenge to everyone is to find one new member each this year. Some of you have already given gift memberships for Christmas so you're exempt but feel free to join in none the less. As has been the case for a year now Gift memberships are available and include the Waterways to Derby and The Heritage of the Derby Canal booklets plus two free entries to the monthly meetings. It's really good value for money!

To help with recruiting new members we have a form available on our website at www.derbycanal.org.uk/the-society/join-us/

Some of you may be only picking up The Packet magazine on the web site and be wondering why it doesn't land on your doorstep any more. We do have around 15 people who pay by standing order, in some cases for several years now, but we have no record of who they are. It's mighty generous of whoever is paying but we'd love to identify the member as well! If you think this might be you then please do tell us who you are.

We also need folks to join in the working parties. These are now every two weeks starting on Jan 3rd, so let's see some new faces joining the regulars. You'll be very welcome as we neaten the bank side and start to actually get the canal dug out with Sandiacre lock being the first piece.

So, please do renew your membership when the time comes and try to find us another member too.

Roger Ashmead

Membership Secretary

Memories of the Derby Canal

I recently got talking to Ian Bowley and Scott Birkhead about their memories of the Derby Canal. Scott and Ian are both members of the DSCS committee, regular working party members and lifelong friends, having started infant school on the same day back in the very early fifties. They both spent their formative years in Chaddesden.

Ian -

"When you were on a double decker bus going down the old Nottingham Road, as you passed Brown's foundry you could see two or three sunken canal boats at the canal wharf, and they were there for years. There was also a road going off Nottingham Road that went over a hump backed bridge and into Erasmus Street".

Scott -

"When I was about ten I got onto the entrance to the horse bridge (Long Bridge) and walked across it. It was so rotten that I had to walk along the edge in a lot of places because there were so many boards missing. I wasn't on my own, but can't recall who was with me."



Ian and Scott both used to go fishing in the canal. Ian used to go down Highfield Lane, past the cottages, over the hump-backed bridge and fish on the towpath side of the canal, close to Chaddesden Sidings. Scott used to go down Meadow Lane, past Johnson's Farm which used to be on left and over the bridge. Because the canal was partially blocked in various places, there were large sections which were full of fish, and the water was surprisingly clear. Other sections were full of reeds, so you could not fish. Scott also recalled fishing holes behind Masons' Paints and off Chequer's Lane.

Ian-

" My father, who was an engine driver, aquired a railway goods van for my brother-in-law, Ted Morten of Brook Farm, Chaddesden. We borrowed a trailer from Mr Johnson, of Johnson's Farm. The goods van body was loaded onto the trailer and we started to tow it back to Ted's farm with a little grey Massey-Ferguson tractor. We came to cross the canal via a hump-backed bridge, and as the tractor reached the crown of the bridge the weight of the trailer caused the tractor front wheels to leave the ground, so we were stuck. Mr Johnson brought his big Fordson Major tractor to assist, and we managed to reverse the Ferguson tractor and trailer off the bridge and swapped tractors. The Fordson tractor then towed the trailer all the way through Chaddesden to Brook Farm".

Ian and Scott could both recall cycling along the canal from Chequer's Lane all the way to Raynesway as the canal tow-path was virtually intact.



Picture of Alan Shenton fishing for sticklebacks under pegg's bridge.

THINKING OF BUYING A CARPET????

THE LAST TIME YOU HAD A CARPET FITTED

Did the Fitters cut your
doors **FREE OF
CHARGE**
WE DO!

Did the fitters **MOVE** your
**FURNITURE WITHOUT
CHARGE**
if you could not manage
WE DO!

Did they **TAKE YOUR
OLD CARPET UP** if you
couldn't manage
WE DO!

**WERE THEY ON TIME,
POLITE and BAG up all the
WASTE afterwards**
WE DO!

Did they do a
GOOD JOB
WE DO!

Was the fitting **STILL FREE**
even on the cheapest
carpets and Vinyl
OURS IS!

Did the shop offer to
**BIND any WASTE into
MATS & RUGS for you**
WE DO !

If you weren't
SATISFIED in any way,
did the shop put any
problems right to your
satisfaction
WE DO!

**Furniture at below
City
Centre Prices**

**FREE
DELIVERY
on all items**

THESE ARE JUST A FEW REASONS WHY OUR FAMILY FIRM HAS BEEN
ESTABLISHED OVER 40 YEARS ON RECOMMENDATION ONLY.
**PLUS THE BEST ALL-IN PRICE WITHOUT INFERIOR UNDERLAY &
ACCESSORIES.**

FREE HOME ESTIMATE & SELECTION

Chaddesden Furniture & Carpets

637 NOTTINGHAM ROAD, CHADDESSEN, DERBY TEL: 01332 674638

My Garden

My garden backs onto fields and so gets a lot of weather, the Derwent is not far away and is always on my mind with regard to flooding. So the last 2 years my partner and I have decided to introduce a few raised beds in the garden to try and keep the soil a little dryer as often the water table rises to make our garden slightly water-logged but not flooded. As the back garden is west facing it gets the afternoon sun, so doesn't warm up until after noon. So I decided to try a few plants in pots as well, and possibly move the planters into the sun.

The front garden is of course a drive for our 2 cars so I purchased some lovely coloured pots, terracotta, blue pottery and even a couple of baskets. I planted a small acer in one and it loves the morning sun on the front of the house which is east facing. My thoughts were that I could bring it into the conservatory in the winter if needed, but the first year I wrapped it in fleece and it's still going strong.

Other planters contain bulbs for spring colour of daffodils and tulips, a very kind man who was clearing out some stock from his plant business gave me a huge bag of tête à tête dwarf daffodils and they have been a picture in the morning sun in an oblong terracotta pot. I have also read that it is best to stand planters on brick legs so they don't freeze and crack in the winter. I have always lost hellebores in the back garden so I planted one in a pot on the front and it has thrived.

Then one day my partner came home with a 24inch terracotta plastic pot he had found in a skip, so we sowed carrot seeds in it for fun and lo and behold the last 2 years running baby carrots have bloomed and were very tasty.

A wormery has pride of place on the back patio and supplies us with compost and lots of thick black liquid which we dilute 10 parts water to one part worm poo. I'm still not 100% sure what properties worm poo has, but a small tin in the kitchen supplies it with potato peelings, tea leaves and dry bread, we also put shredded paper into each layer of the wormery and purchase worm treats and anti-acid pellets to give a good balance to the end product.

I haven't a garden compost bin as I find we don't always have enough roughage to fill a reasonable sized compost bin, I find small amounts go soggy and smelly, so we do use our brown bin to recycle garden rubbish and if a trip to the local tip is required they sell bags of the recycled garden waste for a very reasonable price.

So 2016 I hope to get my partner to construct a 2ft x16ft raised bed on the back garden side fence facing south, and am going to plant the raspberries , tomatoes and runner beans in it to see if this makes a difference to growth, especially if this summer doesn't come up to scratch .

I love the size of my garden, it is just manageable and has given us last year=

Tomatoes, beetroot, dwarf beans, runner beans, broad beans, raspberries, pears, lettuce, rhubarb, leeks, courgettes and carrots.

Although not in huge quantities, enough to keep the freezer happy, so it can't be bad.



Working parties

First, a Happy New Year to all our readers, I hope you all have a great one!

The run up to the last season of the year brought even more helpers to our cause, I now have over 20 regular helpers who turn out as and when they can in all weathers to assist in a variety of jobs to help keep the canal route clear and available for recreational use, all of this time is recorded and will be used for future use as donated time regarding fund matching.

It is not just the time and exercise that you get out of joining us, along with any free logs that you can use at home, but it could also be a major "credit" via matched funding to us in the long run to getting water back in situ.

Full details of working parties are always published on our web site, turn up with a smile, good gloves, flask, and a decent pair of shoes/boots.

I last left you in June after a very busy month; July was a steady month with general maintenance over various sections that needed a touch of TLC to keep various footpaths clear.

August is normally a holiday for the working parties, not any more, we attended the Winding Hole at Spondon that has now been cleared by the new owners of the Canal Turn public house to assess the damage caused by diggers running over the retaining walls, thank fully not too much damage has been inflicted and we have plans to get a digger on site in the Spring when dry to level the ground and get a decent area under water. We also staged a "test" dig at Sandiacre to locate the tops of the canal lock walls.

September saw the team back at Spondon to expose the actual walls of the canal, once again thanks to the massive support we managed to locate quite a good stretch on intact walls and have a good idea of where to target future working parties.

September/October saw a couple of varied months, working with the great team at Borrowash who never seem to stop, clearing a local footbridge that had become seriously overgrown. We also attended at Draycott to clear land ready for the ongoing onslaught on the Japanese Knotweed this Spring.

November was spent in Draycott clearing the years of brambles that have accumulated near to the Hopwell road end, this will enable us use the tractor when we cut the grass in that area and this will save a lot of man hours this year.

We also managed to cut the existing hedge by tractor with the help of a very kind donation from the Draycott Village Fund, once again saving a lot of man hours that we managed to divert elsewhere.

December saw the team at Sandiacre with the tops of the lock being discovered and a return visit later with a digger to obtain the soil samples needed for the proposed dig out in the spring.

Our last working party of the year was at Draycott where we started to clear access for the next section of hedge that needs to be laid. There is only 450 metres on this stretch, so should only take a couple of Autumn/Winter parties!

Work has now resumed on what promises to be a very busy year, we have a record number of helpers turning out each time and we may even be able to hold separate working parties on different locations at the same time.

Thanks to everyone for the hard work done in the last year, I look forward to meeting old and new faces in 2016. Full details are available on our web page along with the reports from each event.

Eddy



Retail and Trade Suppliers of Canal and Narrow Boat Equipment

Midland Changers has been established for over 35 years and is the market leader in the supply of equipment for inland waterways craft. We have four well stocked showrooms based in Preston Brook (Warrington), Braunston (Davertry), Penkridge (Staffordshire) and Willington (Derbyshire).



Porta Potti.
QUBE



THETFORD
Loving leisure



THETFORD
Loving leisure



Fundraising Initiatives

A dense collage of numerous UK retail brand logos, including Tesco, Amazon, Sainsbury's, Next, Asda, M&S, John Lewis, and many others.

Derby Canal Company Dapol 00 wagon.

Buy early for Christmas 2016! We have approximately 20 left, so please don't miss out.



Just £12 each, if you wish to order one (or more) please contact Chris Rees-FitzPatrick. Local delivery can be arranged otherwise £5 will cover packaging and postage for up to 3 wagons.



Providing NHS Services



Pharmacies
(B J Wilson Ltd)
Delivering Healthcare to the Local Community



Prescription Medication & Management Service

Discuss your health or medicine problems with our pharmacists in confidence;

Unsure of your medicines?

- Free Medicine Use Reviews—
Are your medicines right for you?
Do you understand what they are for?

New Medicines service

Do you understand what they are for and how to take them?

Speak to our local pharmacy or our domiciliary care department
01332 380732



Free prescription service

Our pharmacies can check your next supply
with you, order, collect and deliver

Other services include:

- Stop Smoking –Advice & Support
- Emergency Hormonal Contraception
- Minor Ailments—Advice and Treatment
- Service to Care Homes

For late opening hours telephone your local branch or our office at 01332 348545

Wilsons pharmacy online at: www.bjwilsonltd.co.uk

Shop on-line at: www.wilsonspharmacyonline.co.uk