

The Packet



Issue 80

Spring 2016.

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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. Feel free to attend as ANY help or interest is always welcomed.

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Social Secretary: Position vacant, can you help?

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 shows the working party out in force at Sandiacre Lock.



Words From The Chair.

Welcome to the Spring 2016 edition of the Packet. The brighter weather and rebirth of wildlife of Spring sees us enter 2016 in a positive frame of mind, expecting to make a real impact this year.

Thank you to all those members who let me know you'd be happy to take the Packet electronically. Whilst our first attempts struggled to deal with the size of the file we have it organised now. Rather than cut down the content and particularly the pictures our IT gurus have set up a system to send you a link which won't get held up in spam filters, etc. This will give you access to the Packet which will be stored in a special Members secure area on our website. A month or so later we will open the Packet to website visitors in the area already set up for past Packets. This solution will also avoid the time critical download that upset a few of you last time.

So there's now no reason at all for other members to join the growing crowd and take the Packet electronically. Just send me the email address and membership name/number to chair@derbycanal.org.uk. This will also ensure you get the monthly updates and notices from me.

As always if you have any comments (good or bad) or suggestions regarding the Packet please send these **or any contributions/articles** to packet@derbycanal.org.uk



Restoration Developments

Development Group

The Group continues strongly with really positive inputs from the new members each with their own areas of expertise and interest. Unfortunately Steve Jeffery was hospitalised just before Christmas, but is now making a steady recovery and Mike Snaith has had to deal with a close bereavement. Our best wishes go to both of them and we look forward to having them back in action very soon.

Of course we also have a number of important contacts in businesses that can help with advice and supplies and we remain grateful to the assistance provided by Ove Arup, DHL, 3D Plant, East Midlands Demolition, Geldards and others, who give us their support to join the dedicated band on the Development Group.

With the work continuing apace as detailed below we are now looking to fill a gap in our team and looking for a marketing expert to join us. The word has gone out and we have a couple of leads already, but if you are the person who can provide the strategic insight to promoting the project effectively and particularly in the Derby area please let us know. As always the pay rate will be substantially below the living wage!



Water Supply

As I write this we still await a formal licence for water abstraction from the Environment Agency, although we have a verbal agreement that it is on its way. Celanese completed the documents required and were very helpful. We submitted these transfer documents together with a request to reduce the volume to 750m³ per day. Whilst this is substantially below what we would have liked it is both sufficient to get the canal operable (even if we may need some back pumping on hot days) and it is affordable for us at a cost of £4k p.a. We've obviously taken advice from the experts (BWB) on this.

It will be a relief to get this sorted and to receive the new licence – and no doubt the first bill – in the next few weeks.

We have also been in contact with our Trustee, Maggie Throup, MP for Erewash and she has promised to push on our behalf to get the charges reduced or waived.

Sandiacre Lock Excavation

We have made further progress on the Sandiacre site, especially with preparatory works. During March our working party was on site undertaking further clearance work and reclaiming the boundary alongside the lock. We investigated the original line at Land Registration and found that the encroachment was a bit more than 1.5m as first thought. When we discussed it further with Dave, the resident, he agreed we should work to the Land Registry plan.

As a result fence panels and posts, etc. were delivered and during March erected in Dave's garden plot up to the garage wall. This will give us room to get a balance beam installed, albeit probably cranked as soon as we are ready to water the lock. We were so grateful to Dave that we offered to do a bit of gardening and reorganising around the fence, but he would not hear of it. Thanks again Dave.

Having erected the fence we were able to scrub out the hedge, which ran right along the coping stone edge. So if you visit today you will see a wider expanse on the canal line and you may even be able to see the edges of the lock if you look carefully. We are now looking at the trees that now stand on our side of the fence to consider removing them, but that will need to wait until the autumn to avoid disturbing wildlife and may need experts to avoid the power line close by. We also need to look at other, albeit less restrictive, encroachment and talk to the respective property owners to look at reclaiming other critical areas.

All of this is good, but it is effectively being held up by our need to move forward with the spoil removal. It has become evident that we need to work with the Environment Agency to determine how to deal with the extracted material safely and we have started the process. We are hopeful that a meeting will give us clear direction and enable us to draw up our plan – Method Statement – and provide costs to enable us to raise funding.



With the extended period of contact with the Sandiacre locals we have re-established contact with a number of past members and interested parties, and they have continued to encourage us. It appears that the Erewash Canal and particularly Lock Cottage is a popular source of contacts for CRT, which is developing its list of "Friends". Eddy and their man have had a very positive contact and he is now promoting us as well as CRT – he's even joined as a member.

We also seem to have registered a hit with local Sandiacre groups and have been asked to give a number of talks locally. I gave a talk to a ladies group in the body of Sandiacre Methodist Church. As you might expect I'm not used to such a venue and it did seem strange to be there to talk about such earthly matters as Canals. However when



I couldn't get the projector to work I was in just the right place and I'm pleased to report that my prayers were answered, the projector sorted out and the talk was very well received. Our expectations to get the lock excavation completed in the summer is looking more ambitious, but we still have a fighting chance of doing so.

Derbyshire County Council Developments

Some of you may recall that a few years ago the County Council appointed a Canals Officer. Whilst the authority has a direct interest in the Chesterfield and the Cromford we were to be supported to the extent of about one day a week. Whilst we have had some support this has reduced over time and the position is now under threat in the latest round of cuts. We need to wait for this to be resolved and then look to see if we can establish direct links to key officers. We are fortunate to be supported by the two County Councillors that sit on the Trust Board, but it would be useful to augment this with officers as in the past.

As a result of the review we understand that the Authority may be looking to dispose of various pockets of land they currently hold, which cost them to maintain. We have two stretches in Derbyshire ownership, located from Lock Lane to Bostocks Lane in Sandiacre and between Station Road, Borrowash and the Ock Brook. They have already promised to transfer land they own to us when we are ready, but there now looks to be a potential saving for them by transferring title and maintenance responsibilities to us. Following a brief internal debate we have written the appropriate letter to the Authority requesting transfer and await their reply.



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Derby City Council

Discussions with the Council officers have continued in a positive vein. No solution to the impasse over the cost of new roads is evident yet, but we have moved matters on. The Regeneration department is working on plans for the whole river corridor within the city centre and we have been invited to put forward our ideas for riverside developments and outline opportunities that the canal development might contribute. As we speak Mike Wood is beavering away on plans showing possible moorings outside the Council House, the river lock and developments around the Bass' Recreation Ground and the northern bank opposite Pride Park. It's a big job and we are very grateful for all the effort that Mike is putting in to move the project along.

As part of the overall project the Council has put us in touch with development consultants working with them on the overall scheme. We will get a free session for guidance on the approach and pulling together costs and benefits for a business plan as soon as we are ready.

Other than that we are coming close to local elections, which has an impact on workloads and progress within the Council and so we look forward to our next meeting after the elections in June and the catch up with Martin Rawson. We have had good support to date from Councillors and particularly from Mark Tittley who has actively promoted us to the governing group and generally supported our cause. Obviously Derby tends to swing between parties so we are starting to consider how we might deal with a change in the Council that will disturb the relationships we have worked hard to build up.



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European Bid

The basics of the bid have been worked on by the ex CRT consultant and the case put before the EU “Contacts” in the UK. They have responded reasonably positively to the joint approach including the Anderton Lift (CRT), the Falkirk Wheel (Scottish Canals) and the city of Zoetermeer in Holland. The EU Contact has told us we need to spread the bid more widely. In a recent conference call it was apparent that much enthusiasm exists in the other partners and they are now pushing to involve the other country (probably in Belgium or Germany) that we need. Once the appropriate team is together we expect to be a minor partner benefiting from a small portion of the total bid with a consequential minimal cost involved in bid writing, management, etc.

Developing Broader Contacts

We met with John Forkin of **Marketing Derby** in January as planned and had some very forthright advice to get our “marketing material” updated to promote the project more effectively. So with this advice we have been looking at extending the very effective impact of the Derby Arm animation, undertaken for us by a canal supporter, Duncan Hewitt. It is apparent that we need to get more proactive in putting across our ideas for the city centre. The animation of the Derby Arm (available on the website) has been very effective in explaining the idea and exciting people. We are therefore looking at how we might repeat that success. Perhaps we could produce an animation flying up the river to show the developments Mike is currently developing? If we can get it done as well as the existing one we would get more recognition and support from the development groups in the city. We are currently investigating how to take this forward and would welcome any offers of help or contacts.

Mike Wingfield is still working with **Rolls Royce**, his employer and has suggested their students could help us on various projects including a fully functional model of the Arm for display in the city (perhaps at the Silk Mill), an updated design for a lift bridge for busy crossings and a working model of a lock to use in demonstrations to the public and particularly schoolchildren at Sandiacre when we excavate.

We are about to meet a second group of students from the **University of Derby** – this time undergraduates –who have been working on financial models for the Derby Arm. We are also hopeful that we can complete the marketing projects promised a few months ago, but which have not yet been commissioned.

In March we attended the **CRT/IWA** National Restoration Project Managers Review Group. We have been invited along with up to 10 of the most innovative restoration projects. We were delighted to be numbered alongside the Chesterfield, Wilts and Berks and Cotswold Trusts and gained a lot from the discussion and mixing with other enthusiastic volunteers and professionals. We now expect to be classified as a restoration of regional importance, therefore appearing high up the pecking order for access to CRT/IWA expertise and support. We were also involved in the discussion for dowries required to transfer canals for maintenance to CRT when complete. CRT are setting down guidelines for the amount of income required for maintenance to allow restorations to ensure they look at establishing income streams to hand over with the canal responsibilities. Examples would be access licence income for marinas, or concession income on Derby Arm and river boat activities. Our involvement in this group was due in no small part to submission of a very lengthy report on our restoration (a lengthy and comprehensive IWAC type survey), which was completed by Treasurer Chris Rees FitzPatrick.

Society News

Events

We are planning to visit a number of key events this year and would love to meet existing or prospective members and supporters there. Everyone is welcomed and there's always something to do to suit any type of skill or interest, so don't be bashful and come and help.

The programme for the coming year includes

Breaston Gala. Monday 2nd May It's a bank holiday and usually features bright sunshine to start us off. This event is always well supported by the village.



Chesterfield National Trailboat Festival Sunday 29th May This also takes place on a bank holiday weekend for three days, but we plan to support them on the Sunday only and are trying to arrange for our "trailboat" to be there as well as our stall and boards. The only certainty with this is that I am sure we will need assistance from sailors to prevent embarrassment with the boat's first outing. Amusement is guaranteed!

Spirit of Chellaston Saturday 18th June. We missed this event last year to go to Long Eaton Carnival to promote the Sandiacre work, but are delighted to be back at Chellaston. We bear no ill feelings after being placed next to the funeral directors even though we had two enquiries for canal boat shaped coffins from short sighted visitors. This will give us a chance to explain why we've "allowed" developers to build a road across the canal line.

Spondon Day Saturday 25th June from midday. Details are still being worked on, but we aim to be in the craft show in the village hall and possibly in a marquee on the street.

Friends of Hayworth Park (Sandiacre) Saturday 9th July. This is a small affair, but actively promoted by the residents who were most supportive of our plans for work at Sandiacre.

Trent Lock Carnival Sat 13th/Sun 14th August. This is sponsored by CRT and by the Erewash Society and we'll be attending with our boards and merchandise to spread the word.

Swarkestone Lock Through Sun 28th/Mon 29th Aug. We are planning a two day fund raiser helping boats through Swarkestone Lock. We have the support of Swarkestone Boat Club so will have plenty of tea and toilets. Great fun and camaraderie for any boat owning members . Come and join us.

You will also see the advert for a repeat of the Barn Dance held at the Canal Turn late last year. Whilst it wasn't without its challenges everyone who attended had such a great time we had to organise another one. However this time we will be moving to Spondon Village Hall in Sitwell Street. We will provide a buffet style meal in the price (we have already assembled a professional team of members!) and a pay bar will be provided. The band – Speed the Plough – said they were so impressed by our dancing that they've agreed to come again. Please support us and get your tickets early to help us with catering, etc.



Publicity

Eddy has been sending regular updates on our working parties, which are normally covered in the Derby Telegraph, the local DE72 magazines, and others. We get very good coverage and I'm sure that contributes to the growing numbers on the working parties.



Eileen is charged with publicising our meetings in the local and waterways press. We normally get an insert in Waterways World and when they missed us out early in the year she phoned them up to tell them off. As a result we are now in every month and readers of WW will have noticed the three page spread on the Derby restoration. I met Bobby Cowling a few times as he researched the article and was impressed by his interest in the project and understanding of the challenges. I thought the article and his editorial was good reading, sympathetic and accurate. For those who missed it you'll find it in the April edition.

I reported in the last Packet that we'd received a reprint of our free leaflet, sponsored by a few local businesses. Having taken 10,000 copies we are already considering a reprint. Never have I seen such industry as David Savidge distributing leaflets and display stands. They must now be everywhere, but if you spot a likely place let me know quickly and we'll get some delivered. It has been designed as a walking/cycling guide so hopefully will be retained for a while by those who pick them up.

Emma continues to keep our website up to date and to drive facebook likes (230) and twitter followers (383). Please continue to support our efforts on social media.



Monthly Meeting Programme

Thanks to Anne and Eileen for the organisation of the monthly meetings. This year to date we have had very entertaining speakers talking about local history including Derby Slums, Gruesome early medical remedies (The Plague Doctor) and Derby in the 1950s. In February we were delighted to have an in depth talk on the Anderton Boat Lift and the various developments and restorations through its life to date. Our programme going forward includes:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 24 th May | Rosemary Gibson – The Grantham Canal (currently restoring locks through HLF grants). |
| 28 th June | Annual Canal Walk – Looking at Sandiacre and the proposed lock excavation |
| 26 th July | Stuart Smith (Midland Railway, Butterley) – Notable Railway Accidents. He's promised it won't be too gory! |
| 27 th Sept | John Williamson – Boating in Burgundy |
| 25 th Oct | AGM |

So, as you can see, the programme is varied and I hope has things that will appeal to a wide audience. We always welcome new guests to meetings, but charge £3 on the door and promise to make you welcome if you could be tempted to join us.

Just to remind you - meetings are at 8pm on the fourth Tuesday each month at the Wilmot Arms in Borrowash, so why not come and see us. They have some good beer and excellent food too!

If you know of a speaker you'd like us to add then let the committee know.



Skills for Hire!

David has also been appointed as our Health and Safety Manager and he's really brought us up to speed on requirements to stay within the law, our insurance requirements and most importantly to keep our members safe.

As you'll note from the Working Parties Update we have a lot to do, but have suffered from one of our key chainsaw operators having to retire through arthritis. Obviously we need to have formally qualified people to deal with some key elements, so I offered to be trained in his place. I went on an intensive week long course to deal with use of chain saws for tree felling, hedge laying, etc. I'm still not sure how I got through the assessment, but I did.

So we are now building up a reservoir of talents, with the most important being Eddy's qualification on Japanese Knotweed spraying and control. The Environment Agency has recognised Eddy's expertise and authorised him in certain areas already. So we have now secured paying contracts for hedge laying, tree clearance and knotweed spraying. Any income we receive we can then use to support the charity's activities and further the restoration. We have a number of patches of Knotweed on the canal line, much of which has spread from neighbouring areas. We offer to control the area and our charges reflect the fact that we don't pay our volunteers and have a vested interest in improving our habitats. If you are aware of any residents or bodies that need some advice or help feel free to refer them to Eddy at coordinator@derbycanal.org.uk



Eddy has talked about the growth in volunteer numbers, but with our increased visibility we have other opportunities presenting themselves. Celanese have asked if we have any projects that their employees can work on with us. As the weather has refilled the winding hole we will aim to get them involved in that as soon as the weather lets us on site. With the



availability of more bodies we have asked Derby City whether we can recover the line from the winding hole at Spondon to Spondon Bourne (beyond the Wimpey estate). We have a green light to do so and the local Parks department will support us if we aim to recover the hedges along the edge of the path and clear back the encroaching brambles, etc where it narrows the canal line. At present we have a stretch where Heras fencing has been erected on our line by a neighbouring land owner. If we can clarify the line it will prevent encroachment and help us to promote the restoration. This area is also one which has substantial Knotweed that needs to be treated urgently to prevent serious problems for us in later years. Whilst this is a major project for us I think it moves us forward significantly and is a challenge we relish, particularly if we have access to extra volunteers through Celanese and others.

Thanks for your continued support.

Chris



Dreaming

Chris and I recently did something very exciting - we bought a share in a canal boat. Now that we are nearly retired, it suddenly looks possible to spend four weeks of the year afloat!

So, we had our first week away at the end of September. Now, the weather wasn't brilliant, and the route was very local, but it was fantastic! Every time I get on a boat, I remember why it is such a great idea to restore the Derby and Sandiacre canal. It is just so relaxing to chug along, it's impossible to rush and there is plenty of time to look



at the wildlife, admire people's gardens and meet other people, not just fellow boaters, but walkers and cyclists as well.

It was lovely to drive through Rugeley - of all places - in the sunshine, and even pleasant to follow the A38 to Burton in the rain. There's no doubt that water attracts all sorts and we met people from as far away as Canada and New Zealand - they had come all this way because they don't have the chance to do this at home.

I can't wait to sail into Derby, moor up by the Derby Arm and take in a football match at Pride Park. Let's hope my dream comes true soon!

These are some photos from the holiday, including the boat we should have bought!!

Anne



Wine article.

Derbyshire would not immediately jump to mind as a wine-producing region of the world. However, over the last few years' wine production has increase and produced some very drinkable wines, which would stand up against wines from the rest of the world.

The oldest vineyard in the county is at Renishaw Hall at Chesterfield, on the banks of the Chesterfield Canal. Not quite the Rhone Valley of France!!

Sir Reresby Sitwell planted the vineyard in 1972, where he wanted to create a similar vineyard to the one, which surrounds his estate in Tuscany, Italy. Until 1986, Renishaw Hall vineyard was the most northerly vineyard in the world at 53° 18' north, although the Romans had vineyards in York.



Kieron Atkinson, winemaker, vineyard tenant and co-founder of the English Wine Project, makes the wines. The English Wine Project is a company specializing in the sale of English wines and giving advice to various vineyards around the country. At Renishaw, Kieron grows 3 grape varieties. The original white grapes are Madeline Angevine and Seyval Blanc, and he has now added red Rondo grape vines. The total number of vines now number over 3,000.

Renishaw Hall collected a Bronze Medal for their 2012 Madeline Angevine still white wine in the United Kingdom Vineyard Association awards. Kieron has also managed to get a Commended Medal from Decanter World Wine Awards in 2013 for his 2011 Seyval Blanc sparkling wine.

The most southerly vineyard in Derbyshire is Sealwood Cottage Vineyard, in Linton near Swadlincote, South Derbyshire, in the Heart of the National Forest. The vineyard, first planted in 2008 by retired farmer John Goodhall and his wife Elizabeth, now has over 4,000 vines. Growing the same grape varieties as at Renishaw Hall, with the addition of white Ortega grapes and red Regent grape. The 2010 crop impressed them into making their first vintage of wine. They have now started making a sparkling wine.

However, the most unlikely vineyard in Derbyshire is at Brackenfield, near Alfreton. Duncan Mercer and Barry Lewis of Amber Valley Wines, first planted the 'warm' slopes of a field by the main road to Matlock in 2012, Their first crop in 2014 created 2 wines from their vines, a white and a pink wine. The vines are made up of Phoenix, Solaris, Seyval Blanc and Bacchus for the white wine and the red grape varieties of Rondo, Pinot Noir Precoce and Triomphe. Their 2015 vintage has not been as good as the first vintage in 2014, due to the mixed weather and lack of sunshine. However, they are still expecting to make wine this year.

All of these vineyards offer tours and tasting of the wines. Check on their websites to find out when you can visit the vineyards. As well as buying the wines direct from the vineyard, their wines can also be purchased at most farm shops and artisan food shops in the county. Shops like Croots in Duffield, Chatsworth Farm Shop, Brown and Green in Derby Garden Centre, Little Eaton and Fresh Basil in Belper stock the wines.

You may have noticed, that the grape varieties that are used at the above vineyards are not the ones that you normally see on a wine bottle. The usual varieties of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot and Shiraz do not like the climate or soil of England. However, special varieties have been developed in France and Germany, which like the colder wetter climates of northern Europe. These varieties have also been found to like the English climate and soil conditions, and have been successfully been grown for a number of years in the south of England and Wales. Some of our most successful vineyards make exceptional wines, that rival any French still or sparkling wine and have even beaten them in blind tastings.

I would therefore recommend that the next time you are looking or tasting any wine, give wines grown and made in England and Wales a try. You will be surprised at the taste and quality of the wines. They cannot compete with the wine lakes of France, Spain and Australia on price, but its good to give our local industries a chance.

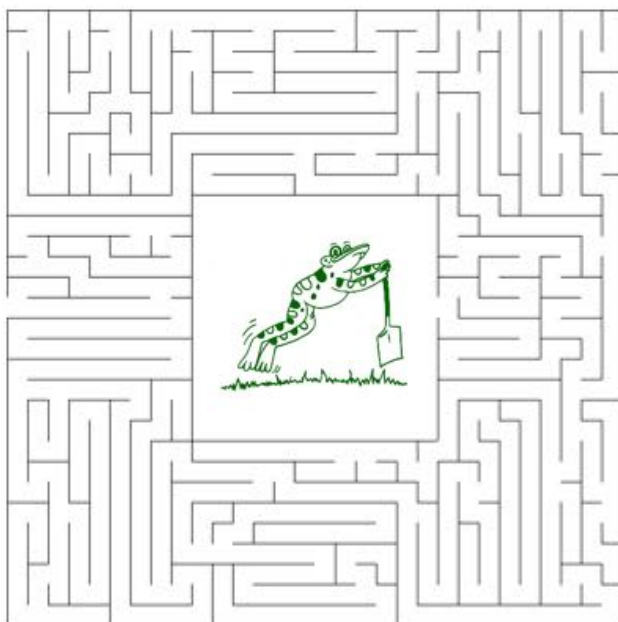
David Savidge



Hard Sudoku

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

Help the Derby Canal Frog Exit the Maze...





Barn Dance at Spondon Village Hall

Saturday 23rd July from 7.30pm

Do-si-do and Strip the Willow with Derby's very own Ceilidh Band "Speed the Plough"

Tickets £10.00

Including a Buffet at Half Time

Bar Available

Spondon Village Hall, Sitwell St, Spondon, Derby,
DE21 7FG

For Tickets contact Chris Madge
chair@derbycanal.org.uk
or 01332 840502



@Derby_Canal www.derbycanal.org.uk



/derbycanal.org.uk

Don't get knotted - get Eddy

Japanese Knotweed, an ornamental garden plant that was introduced into Britain in the mid-nineteenth century, however since then it has become widespread in the wild and is causing serious problems by displacing native flora and causing serious structural damage to property.

This plant can reach over 3m in height in just one year and spreads not by seed but by rhizomes that can reach 7m from the parent plant and go down 3m in depth.

It has now reached such levels as to make it an offence under section 14(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to "plant or otherwise cause to grow wild" any plant listed in Schedule 9, Part 11. This includes Japanese Knotweed.

Treatment involves various methods, including spraying by a licensed operator who has to undertake various levels of training. Our canal has certain areas where this problem plant has been identified and we now have a fully trained member who can address this issue.

Spraying is an expensive business these days so having someone on board will mitigate these costs going forward. We are also open to any requests for treating areas at agreed costs, for more details please contact Eddy at coordinator@derbycanal.org



Picture shows some of the Knotweed in all its glory at Draycott last year.

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Canal Holiday, 1980

In 1980, my wife and six friends and I hired a canal boat from Gordon's Pleasure Cruisers at Napton junction on the Oxford Canal. The boat was a 70 foot steel hull with a fiberglass section that could be slid open so you could enjoy the sunshine and the name of the boat was the Norton Navigator.

We were taken down to the first set of locks about a quarter of a mile away and shown how to use them as none of us had ever done a lock before. One of the other lads and I had been on the Norfolk Broads but never on the canals. We set off, enjoying the fantastic weather and stopping at all the pubs on the way (that's one thing about the Oxford Canal, there are plenty of pubs). One day we stopped at a pub in Upper Heyford for lunch. We all sat outside in the sunshine eating and drinking and generally having a good time until a bird flew over and, would you believe, it pooped on my head, which everybody thought was highly amusing. Napkins out, and I cleaned up my bald patch and carried on drinking. We must have been there for about another three-quarters of an hour when lo and behold I got pooped on again. This time the rest of my so-called friends were rolling around on the floor in great hilarity; as was pointed out to me once is supposed to be very lucky, twice, who knows.

The following day we were cruising along with a friend of mine at the helm who had done the Fastnet yacht race with his brother several years on the trot so one would think we were in good hands. Geoff and I were sitting in the bow having a drink and the girls were lying on the roof sunbathing. As it approaches the outskirts of Banbury, the canal goes around a tight left-hand bend with a cottage and a garden that comes right down to the canal side. There was a man in the garden digging and, as we got closer to the corner, I could see that we weren't going to get round it. Sure enough, we hit the bank and the bow of the boat slid out of the water and up into the man's garden, much to his surprise. Geoff and I jumped off the boat and pushed it back into the water as my mate on the tiller put the engine into full reverse and we went backwards up the canal at some speed. After reversing several hundred yards, he then put the engine into forward and we set off again. This time we passed the point where we had previously hit the bank but hit it again about 10 feet further on with the man leaning on his spade not looking very pleased as we slid up into his garden again.

Geoff and I jumped off once more, and pushed the boat back into the water so we are now going backwards again up the canal. I rushed off up the gunnel as fast as I could to find out what the problem was. When I got there I found out that my friend had got two of his fingers stuck up the hollow tiller tube, with the result that to get round the corner he would have to go overboard to get the tiller far enough over. We had to stop the boat, moor up and use Fairy liquid to get his fingers out and so ended another day. Moral to story...don't stick your fingers where they don't belong!!!

I'll finish the story next time.

Captain Brandywine.



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Retail and Trade Suppliers of Canal and Narrow Boat Equipment

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My Garden

What a fabulous start to the Spring with wonderful weather at last returning. The garden is now drying out and the trees are greening up.

My dwarf pear tree is in full bloom; hopefully this is going to provide lots of lovely juicy conference pears, although I did have to spray it early on due to some of the fruit not swelling up so well last year.

The two rhubarb crowns that sit in a little shade are doing well and I am looking forward to those first sticks with some nice thick custard, before my other half pinches them for his rhubarb wine. Normally I force the rhubarb with a couple of old buckets but it seems to have done better with the warm Winter and the extra light that comes with April.

It will be soon time to sow the beetroot seeds come the 1st of May, although last year germination was not all that good, a friend suggested last week that maybe the birds had eaten the seeds, this year I shall lay some fleece across the area and keep my fingers crossed.

The 2' by 16' raised beds are now ready for the tomatoes, runner beans and raspberries, these should do well facing south, a good measure of worm compost has also been added which should help matters along.

The outdoor toms and the ones for the hanging baskets are coming on nicely, still being protected from any late frost, these sit on my shed shelf along with the leeks and dwarf beans, the dwarf beans have had to have two sowings due to a poor uptake from the seeds on the initial planting.

Grandson has done is bit by planting the carrot seeds in our 24" plastic pot, rescued from a skip two years ago, the pot, not the Grandson.

Still to be planted are the broad beans, lettuce and parsnips.

Finger crossed for a succesfull growing season.

Linda





www.derbycanal.org.uk

WE'RE DIGGING BACK TO DERBY



DERBY AND SANDIACRE CANAL TRUST

Working Parties

Well at last Spring has finally arrived, much to the delight of the Working Party members who seem to think that I am personally responsible for the cold, wind, snow and hail that accompanies each working party that I organise!

Not that it is doing much to put them off, we are now attracting upwards of 16 helpers on some Sundays and numbers are defiantly up on last year. To date I



have managed to record nearly 300 hours of donated time given to us to help maintain the canal stretch, this time does not include the week given up by Chris, our Chairman, who donated a week of his "spare" time to attend a chain-saw course and the other members of the committee that support my work in running the working parties.

We started this year at Draycott, we have another 450 metres of hedge to lay, it should only take two to three years. Five weeks of hard work, in what was sometimes doubtful weather, has seen us clear quite a lot of the area, and subject to next year's hedge laying, we may even finish a year in advance. The entire area was tidied up for the wildlife to settle back into at the end of March. We will return when the nesting season is over.

Work moved over to Sandiacre Bottom Lock in March with the aim to restore an agreed fence onto the original canal line, this will enable us to carry out the excavation of the lock later this year.

April will see the team move over to Borrowash to help the local residents that do so much to maintain their own "back garden", it is a real help to the local community and of course to the Canal Society and Trust. Depending on water levels we will be aiming to tidy up the Bottom Lock, inside and out, and reduce the number of saplings on the bank.



Full details of future working parties are available on our web site, just bring a flask and a smile! www.derbycanal.org.uk

Eddy



The Route of the Derby Canal 3.



Going east from B & Q Spondon the line follows the original route, passing the winding hole below The Canal Turn pub, under Rainbow (Station Road) bridge, over Angler's lane where the arch which once carried electricity cables from Spondon power station and then past a new development of houses on the left.

The green space that you walk along is reserved for the canal.

The line then crosses Ellis Brook, the boundary of Derby City and Erewash Councils, and then passes under the restored Ullicker's Bridge and, after a couple of bends, straightens out along the "new" late 1830s line to Station Road Borrowash.

If you look to the right across the railway, the old line is discernible as a curving embankment, bypassed when the railway was built in the late 1830s. There was also a lock approx 2/3rds of the way along, and the space encircled by the embankment was Borrowash Station and yard. The original line curved back just before Station Road bridge.

We then come to Borrowash bottom lock (also known as Stoneycross Lock), cross over the Ockbrook and open country to Draycott, where the Trust has built a railway flood relief scheme to Hopwell Road, and will convert it to a full canal outline.

From Hopwell Road the old line is followed under the Peak District to Leicester aqueduct, and then to the Navigation Inn, Breaston which was situated opposite a winding hole now forming a back garden.

Fundraising Initiatives



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