

Derby and Sandiacre Canal Society

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday October 28th 2014 at the Wilmot Arms, Borrowash

Present: 33 members

- 1. Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed members
- 2. Apologies:** Mike Bardill, Norman Stainthorp and Tony Cashmore

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2013 AGM:

These were agreed as a true record, proposed by Eddy Case, seconded by Ian Bowley, carried unanimously

- 4. Matters arising:** None

5. Update from the Trust

Chris Madge reported that the year had started with high hopes for the outcome of the HLF bid, which was unfortunately turned down, wanting better proof of costs and involvement of the community. The Fund have suggested there would be a good chance of securing a smaller application of around £60,000 for the Trust to engage the community in investigating the state and requirements/costs of restoration of the Sandiacre locks.

The Canal and River Trust open day was very positive, they now ally themselves with the IWA and with societies. Chris ReesFitzPatrick is representing us at a meeting on Thursday to understand how we can work more closely with the CRT

The Trustees held a planning day in August, this looked at funding, building up relationships with local councillors and politicians, and how to work more effectively with them.

He spoke about D2N2, which deals with the funding infrastructure projects in Derbyshire and Notts, Chris and David Hayes are speaking to councillor/officers who have influence over this at a meeting next week.

The CRT have managed to change the proposed route of HS2 around Fradley to minimise the impact on the canal system in that area. There is now a possibility of the HS2 route going near to Breaston, but this hit the press only a week ago and no understanding of plans yet exist.

The Trust is looking at securing water rights, working with Celanese and BWB. This will also develop our relationship with the Environment Agency, which will be necessary if we are to develop the river link.

It has been announced early today that the road through to infinity Park has been started, Chris Madge and David will raise this at next Monday's meeting with derby City Council – it should be good news for us.

A large pile of rubbish has been put in the winding hole at Spondon by Fletchers, who are the new owners of the Moon pub. Again this will be taken up with the Council who seemed to have authorised it.

The proposed development in Spondon near Anglers Lane has been reactivated, and the developer is working with members of the Trust to deliver the first section of the canal in water as part of the development.

Chris welcomed Paul Turner to the meeting. Paul explained that the Trust had considered how to simplify the arrangements between the Society and Trust, The two organisations exist to deal with requirements of the Charities Commission and to improve the position with VAT. When development occurs the current structure will work much better than just one body. After debate with David Hayes it was agreed that any member would be welcome to attend the open Trust meetings at Long Eaton every three months.

Treasurers Report

Chris ReesFitzPatrick explained that the total income to March was just £45 down on the previous year, but donations to the society were down by £500. He said that we do get donations of time, postage, materials etc, these are not specifically recorded.

There have been fewer participants in the monthly draw, the meeting income was down by £50 over the year, merchandise sales have gone up, mostly under Paul Birtles's auspices. The expenditure was lower by £1,700 on last year, the cost of monthly meetings is up, because average speakers' fees have risen and the cost of the Packet has risen because it is now in colour. The society continues to support the Trust, the committee had voted to donate back £998 to the Trust as the Society shows a healthy cash reserve of £3049. Chris said that the society is in a stable position at present with income exceeding expenditure so far this year.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Chris, seconded by Ian Bowley and carried unanimously

6. Working Parties

Eddy gave an illustrated presentation of The Year in Pictures, with photographs of working parties and events showing the progress made and enjoyment by all. Everyone was asked to participate whenever they could. Literally "the more the merrier!"

7. Events, merchandise and programme

Anne spoke about the events, outlined the speakers for 2015 and thanked Paul Birtles for producing cards of the programme. We now have new mugs showing the Derby Arm and maps of the canal route, and adult and children's T shirts for sale, as well as Christmas cards and Christmas gift membership packs.

8. Chairman's report

The Chairman reported that membership now stands at 710, down slightly from 720 last year.

The Society has been trying to work with local communities more over the last year including joint working parties with locals at Borrowwash, linking with the Draycott scarecrow event and attending the Christmas Fair next month, attending our first Sandiacre fair with Councillors and having a better and successful presence at the Spirit of Chellaston fair and with our annual walk.

John Wain who spoke to us last year as an early Derby canal restorer has now published an account of his experiences, but is in poor health. In February 2014 we lost Jeff Howe, who had been actively involved for many years and had been pushing the Sandiacre section in the last few years.

The Heritage booklet and Derby Canal book are both selling well, and giving us good publicity. We are in the process of revising and reprinting the free leaflet showing the route and are looking to get sponsors, especially businesses along the route.

Brian Burke is planning a boat gathering in Shardlow next summer, and we have already been promised the support of Long Eaton Rotary to run the event.

Chris said he was grateful for his strong committee, he thanked Chris ReesFitzPatrick for his good support, and how he gets involved in many things.

He thanked Eddy for organising the working parties with Ian and Scott, Anne for the programme, Eileen for the publicity and Elizabeth for organising the raffle. He thanked Doug for continuing to produce the Packet as well as the Heritage booklet and the work on the new leaflet, and David and Derek for organising the walk and for their continuing involvement in the Trust development Group.

Chris thanked Brian and the Swarkestone boat club for their support with the lock through, and Don for his very generous support this year with postage and sales through Chaddesden Post Office.

He also thanked David for his help at events and particularly at Crick, working party members, including Nick, John, Peter, Mike, Keith, Lee, Andrew, Nigel, Paul and Paul, Phil and Jean and distributors for the Packet that worked so quickly to get them distributed before the AGM.

9. Election of Officers

Chairman	Chris Madge
Vice chairman	Paul Birtles
Treasurer	Chris ReesFitzpatrick
Secretary	Anne Madge
Membership	Roger Ashmead
Committee members	Eddy Case
	Eileen Holland
	Scott Birkhead
	Ian Bowley

Proposed by Roger Ashmead

Seconded by Alan Jeffreys

Carried unanimously

10. The Kate Birtles Award

Paul presented this to Eddy for his work on the working parties, publicity and merchandise this year

11. Any other Business

None

The meeting closed at 10.05pm