

The Packet

Issue 89 Autumn, 2020.



Suggested Donation £1

Contact the Committee.

The committee meets on the second Monday of each month at the Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott, Derbyshire, DE72 3PS at 7:30pm. Thanks Mark and staff for provision of facilities.

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Secretary:	Anne Madge.
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Treasurer:	Derek Troughton.
Working Parties:	Keith Johnson
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Website:	Andrew Baird.
Research:	Chris ReesFitzpatrick.

Front Cover: The Canal at Spondon, Ready for a Boat.

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2020 Update.

To say the least 2020 has been a strange year and it isn't finished with us yet. The Trust & Society were all set to launch various projects such as the Trip Boat, complete others such as the Cottages and then bang, thanks to Covid 19, it was all put on hold while the hospitals' ICU wards were full of Covid patients. For 4 months there was nothing done and much of the World just stopped – and is still stopped.

Things didn't start to get going again until late June when working parties were allowed, David Savidge drew up a safe working practice for all to sign and things then continued apace until recently, with lots of progress on the cottages, the trip boat, Borrowash and Sandiacre all to report. Just now the progress has nearly stopped again as the virus has made a comeback – not to the April levels, but enough to restrict gatherings in Erewash in particular so as not to overwhelm the ICU wards. This has caused the Trust to suspend operations where the group of volunteers would either exceed the rule of 6, or where contact with the public could not be avoided e.g. working on the towpath at Borrowash where the 2m distancing rule could not be maintained.

In the background there is progress on planning in various forms, firstly for the trip boat operations and the secondly canal itself.

You might find this edition a bit thinner than has been the case in the past. I'm not one like a daily paper writer who can produce reams of column inches when a few sentences will do. I

could fill the magazine with additional historical articles but I believe that our membership is more interested in progress than lots of history. That's not to say that one article from the archive isn't welcome, far from it, but I hope we all want to see progress rather than just be reviewing the history.

So read on, I hope you'll find this edition informative and if there is something you'd like to write for the next edition feel free to send it to info@DerbyCanal.org.uk or in writing to Roger Ashmead, 172, Sancroft Road, Spondon, Derby DE21 7LD. Photos are always welcome with your article.

Chairman's Report.

April to late June there was no Society activity. That isn't to say nothing was being done but there are no nice pictures of folks in Hi-Viz jackets mowing grass, building walls etc. to show. The pubs were closed so we could not have the monthly meetings either. The committees set about meeting on Zoom so there was continuing discussion about various topics while enduring lock-down.

June, and for some the end of the lock-down was in sight, subject to official guidance, everyone behaving correctly, following the rules and using common sense. That meant after a lot of hard work, and with thanks to David Savidge, we managed to restart working parties at the cottages under strict controls.

We even attracted the attention of BBC Radio Derby who came on site to interview Chris Madge regarding the progress to date.

Our trip boat has had its solar panels fitted so this will be a true "green" boat when launched in the spring next year. Follow us on Twitter/Facebook/Web page and press, we really are attracting attention.

Our own member's meetings continued to be on hold at present but we did manage to update and social media we have also managed to produce the latest edition of the Packet – thank you Roger and Doug. Most have gone out via electronic means to reduce social contact and it seems to be working well, if you missed it please look on our web page under Organisation/Publications.

David Savidge was interviewed at Spondon, regarding the amazing work being done on site there to restore our first stretch back into water, see pictures below.

Leading to a nice stretch of canal.



At the time it was thought that David had moved into one of the homes on site, he spent so much time there. The picture below is an example of the junk that has been sorted from the excavated infill. There was a lot of metal but little, if anything, in the way of archaeological interest, save for a few bottles.



August, the Covid 19 outbreak seemed to be going along for some extended time, with much talking of the lock-down and the restrictions that this has imposed.

On the trip boat, Anne Madge and many others were busy on the internal work to make this great project a success and promote the water front in Derby.

Talking of lockdown and restrictions, we still managed to carry out a lot of working parties to

help keep a green corridor into Derby, nature never sleeps and weeds keep growing. However, July and August the heroic team of extreme gardeners were given a task to clear some serious scrub at Spondon to allow a ground radar unit to be brought so as to identify the position of the actual canal wall. Following on from this David Savidge and his intrepid time team dug some test pits and found at least one site with original stonework in place.

Eddy Case has also been busy at Draycott to keep the banks of the canal clear so that we can locate precisely the location of our little furry friends, the water voles, to ensure the safe relocation whilst the dig out goes ahead in the spring of next year. This has produced an additional cost to the dig out of £50k, but they are a protected species and need looking after. Have you ever thought of sponsoring a vole? It will ensure that we manage to trap them safely, re-house them on a temporary basis and then return them back to the restored canal, it will also allow Eddy as nominated vole master to check them twice a day, you will even be able to name them and we will send you pictures of each one – any offers of assistance would be appreciated at whatever level.



Work was also planned at Sandiacre lock to discover the actual construction of the lock structure; this will involve an internal scaffold for safe working and an assessment of the state of the lock walls and the work need to ensure the safe moving of the sewage/water pipes to enable full restoration. Work here was started in mid-August.

Gary Harding digging behind the lock wall at Sandiacre.



The request for pledges to dig out Draycott have resulted in a massive response, thank you all. As ever there always is still time to donate. The first section of the dig out is going to happen in November at the western end and will include a water vole proof temporary home. By all accounts the they are like prisoners of war & like tunnelling so they can get back to their original home site! Hence the additional expense of a buried vole proof wall to keep them in! (Quite how that works with the water I will be interested to see when it is built). The work at the cottages has moved on in leaps and bounds, Don Olivant and Derek Troughton had nearly finished the "Great Wall of Draycott", behind the cottages. Having once visited the actual Great Wall I can see certain similarities!



Plus, stud walling and ceilings have gone in, not to mention flights of stairs, electrics, out buildings, the car park area etc. The cottages team have put in some serious effort.





A team of CRT volunteers came along to help too!





And the new facilities have to be checked out for comfort by Scott.

September – it felt like “here we go again” with the Corona virus infection rate rising and the increased lock-down restrictions. Working parties were still ongoing in accordance with the new rules that were effective from Monday, the 14th of September. We duly restricted groups to a maximum of 6 people, well-spaced apart so as to continue the hedge cutting that started this month. Here’s a rare picture of me working with, nearly, full PPE. (where were your ear defenders Eddy?)

Work was also ongoing at Sandiacre to check the state of the lock walls, but the more that Gary and David dug, with various helpers, the more issues it seemed to raise. However, we will overcome any obstacles in due course.

The Trust AGM was held on the 16th of September, via the wonderful WWW. The Society AGM will be held in the same way, please see the formal advice notice elsewhere in this edition.

Please remember to let us know if you obtain an e-mail address, or change your email address, this is so important to keep you all in touch.

The trip boat has been named ‘Outram’ after the original Engineer of the canal Benjamin Outram. Our thanks to David Savidge for coming up with the winning entry to the naming competition. Work has been ongoing on the kitchen fit out and the electricals that are needed. We are also looking at crew being trained by the Chesterfield restoration group, all ready for a hopeful launch prior to the winter floods/high water.





Outram at Long Eaton.

An additional thought, we are only a few weeks away from Christmas, if you are stuck for a Christmas present idea, why not give a membership for a year or even life? Details from Gary Haring the membership secretary.

October.

And the Corona virus rolls on though the restrictions hadn't quite stopped us early on. There's been plenty of hedge cutting at Draycott and clearing the ground at Borrowash west of the top lock so the tractor/mower can get easy access to keep things neat and tidy and make the job faster for next year. Chris Shaw has joined us recently and has been really helpful owning a large 4x4 with a winch. That has been really useful in pulling out small saplings from undesirable positions. Plus, he has a very large trailer that has been used to transport various materials.



For the Trust tractor a small battery-operated pressure washer has been procured, with a 90 degree nozzle, so the radiator can be flushed from the rear to ensure it doesn't block with grass seeds and dust, so saving another radiator.

The tractor has also been used with the chipper fitted to clear materials cut from the thicket near Ullicker's bridge once they were pulled out with the winch. It's almost possible to see the bridge now from the east side. A couple of small trees to cut and the line through will be clear.



Working parties did continue well into October. After a full review of the health and safety issues involved, we managed to get all the hedges at Draycott finished and a lot of work at Borrowash completed, but then, alas, with the Covid outbreak increasing again it was decided to stop all gardening teams until things improve.

Work at the cottages continued with a very limited team all working under tight restrictions. The picture above shows the new retaining wall next to the main road.



Plus, insulation has gone into the roof.

And to remind everyone where they started and where they are now: -



Finally, at this time of year, we normally start to think of the societies AGM, this year due to the current ongoing health situation we are not able to all meet up, however the recent AGM for the Trust held via Zoom worked extremely well, so we are proposing to use the same system for the Society. One of the main items that will be raised is the formal amalgamation of the Society into the Trust. As agreed last year we are all now members of the Trust. Most of the existing society committee sit somewhere within the Trust as shown below and the Society committee meetings are attended by several Trust directors which represents a duplication of time & effort. Thus, the amalgamation, which is backed by the Society Committee is proposed. There is a formal notice for the meeting, plus a proxy voting form that may be used, elsewhere in this edition if any member is unable to attend the meeting for any reason.

Those marked * will join existing subcommittees as a result of the merger. The working Parties Subcommittee will be a new grouping encompassing half of the current Society Committee. All but one of the existing Society Committee will attend two or more Trust subcommittees.

As and when we are able, we will attend shows and events, the monthly meeting will resume, you will still have to suffer my updates, the only thing to change will be a reduction in the number of virtual meetings that people are asked to attend.

The AGM will be held on Zoom at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th November, if you would like to receive an invitation please email Chris at research@derbycanal.org.uk because numbers are limited to 100 attendees.

Existing Society Committee	Trust Board	Development Group	Governance & Finance	Communications & Events	Engineering Group	Working Parties
Eddy Case (Chairman)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
David Savidge (Vice Chairman)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Baird (Webmaster)		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Gary Harding (Membership)				<input type="checkbox"/> *		<input type="checkbox"/>
Anne Madge (Secretary)		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Derek Troughton (Treasurer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Roger Ashmead				<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eileen Holland				<input type="checkbox"/> *		
Keith Johnson						<input type="checkbox"/>
Chris ReesFitzPatrick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Membership.

Relatively quiet on the membership front, the numbers are steady with 715 members and groups. As ever the membership loses a few and gains a few each month with the website currently being the main gateway used to join.

There are several types of membership available – Annual or Friend. Annual membership, for new members, is £15 with a joint, or family, membership a snip at £20. Life membership is £200. Payment is by any means from cash to BACS & everything in between. Friend membership is paid monthly by standing order and starts at £2/month but any number above that may be specified. Existing members could switch between the two if they so wish, just contact the membership secretary and it can be arranged.

There is also the Group and Corporate memberships. The former pays £25/annum and Corporate groups who would pay £50/annum. We have 5 of the former but none of the latter.

As ever a few more memberships would always be good and we also offer the gift membership for £20 so why not consider that for a friend or family member when stuck for a

present ide, it represents great value for the year including the book the Heritage of the Derby Canal and free entry to two monthly meetings.

There has been a small change to the membership in that after the recent Trust AGM you are now a member of both the Trust and Society. It doesn't change how you pay, or how much you pay, but it does give access and voting rights at the Trust AGM so step up and have your say at the two AGMs each year. The Trust board will continue to interact with bodies such as the Local Authorities and direct operations with the 'doing' being carried out under the Society umbrella. For the main part it is a money arrangement with the Trust being liable to present annual accounts while the Society does not.

The winds of change are also blowing and there may be a change of membership secretary at the AGM. I'm not leaving as such but will become part of the Trust Engineering team so watch this space for news on that elsewhere in the magazine.

Roger Ashmead,

Membership Secretary.

The Outram, aka the Trip Boat.

It's been longer coming than anybody had hoped but that hasn't stopped the crew working very hard with the build.



The interior is all nicely panelled, seats, tables and a kitchen, have been put in and it has a composting toilet. Launch is anticipated in 2021 Covid restrictions allowing.



Working within the Covid 19 restrictions.

Since the last issue of 'The Packet' earlier in the year, we have had a strange summer and we thought things would be behind us and we were heading for a 'new' normal way of living. How wrong we were.

After the initial lock down, the Trust and Society moved all their committee meeting on line and we cancelled all working parties on both the gardening and the cottages along with the Society monthly meetings.

When the easing of the restrictions occurred in June, we looked at all aspects of our operations and working parties. It was felt that for the safety of our volunteers we would continue to hold all committee meetings on-line. We also looked at the working parties both on site and in the cottages, with regard to the restrictions and ensuring the safety of the volunteers.

As the building and construction industry, followed by factories, had been able to return to work, we looked at how we could return to working at the cottages. This would enable us to continue the work to catch up and get them ready for some contractors to come to site. With hand sanitizing, gloves, social distancing and face masks in use, we felt that we could safely return to working and keep our volunteers safe.

With the Gardening Working Parties, we started with a few trial working parties, to see if we could work safely on site. These showed that we were able to work safely, we returned to the twice a week working parties. We ensured that hand sanitizer and gloves were used and that volunteers came with their own tools for the job and any shared equipment, from the Trust, was cleaned before and after use. We planned the work on site to ensure that the volunteers could socially distance while working. These new working party rules proved successful and the size of the parties has grown over the last few months. We expected that some of our volunteers would be in the 'at risk' group and understood that they did not want to return to the working parties.

Unfortunately, due to the spike in the number of people contracting the virus in October, and Erewash, where the sections from Sandiacre to Spondon are situated, was put into Tier 2 of the Governments restrictions, we have again reviewed the working parties both on site and at the cottages.

Building sites have been allowed to continue working in line with the original restrictions imposed after the lock down in June. We have therefore allowed our cottage volunteers to continue to work, as they are working in teams of 2 in their own little 'bubble' on specific tasks in different parts of the building, and we have also limited the number of volunteers on site to 6. We have also reinforced the use of hand sanitizers and face masks.

We have stopped work on our Gardening parties, once the Tier 2 restriction came into play. The sites, we had planned to work at over the next few weeks, have limited space to work and the general public would be walking through the middle of our volunteers group. We felt this was not safe for both our volunteers or the general public.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will be over the 'spike' and we can return back to the 'new' normal way of working.

At all times the Trust will review the restrictions and ensure the safety of our volunteers on all our sites.

David Savidge,
H&S Director.

20TH October, 2020.

Notice of the AGM of the Derby & Sandiacre Canal Society.

This meeting will take place on **Tuesday 24th November at 7.30 pm via a Zoom, internet, meeting.**

If you can join the Zoom meeting please send an email to research@derbycanal.org.uk to register for the meeting & be sent the relevant link to use on the day. We do this only because the Zoom session is limited to 100 people.

Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Adoption of the minutes of the 2019 AGM
- 4) Matters Arising
- 5) Treasurers Report
- 6) Report from the Chairman of the Society
- 7) Proposal to Amalgamate the Society with the Trust.
- 8) Election of officers to the Society

a) if 7) is agreed by the membership then it is proposed that all current committee members will remain in office until the end of the Societies financial year end in April 2021.

b) if 7) not agreed to amalgamate the Trust and Society then the vote would be for officers to be in place for a year.

9) Kate Birtles Award

10) AOB

If you cannot join the Zoom meeting then you are invited to vote by post using the form below. Please remember to fill in your name and membership number in returning the form.

Derby & Sandiacre Canal Society AGM 2020

Proxy Vote form: –

Please return to the Secretary – Mrs Ann Madge **to arrive by the 23rd November latest**

To: - 62 Broadway, Duffield, Derby DE56 4BU

Member Name/s

Membership number/s

agree with the amalgamation of the Society into the Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust

Yes..... No.....

Please circle your preference

Whichever way you vote above then then please continue below: -

I wish to vote for the following people for the committee of the Derby & Sandiacre Canal Society.

I understand that if the proposal to amalgamate the Trust and Society is carried then this committee will only serve until April 2021.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|----|
| 1) Chairman – Eddy Case | Yes | No |
| 2) Vice Chairman – David Savidge | Yes | No |
| 3) Treasurer – Derek Troughton | Yes | No |
| 4) Secretary – Anne Madge | Yes | No |
| 5) Committee Members as below: – | Yes | No |

Roger Ashmead, Andrew Baird, Gary Harding, Jackie Harding, Eileen Holland, Keith Johnson, Chris ReesFitzPatrick.

We look forward to receiving your responses in due course.

Anne Madge – Secretary, Derby & Sandiacre Canal Society.

Obituary – Derek Hathaway.

Derek Hathaway, a well-known Spondon man who was key to a number of major projects in the suburb has died at the age of 72.

Derek Hathaway helped form both the [Spondon Community Association](#) (SCA) and Village Improvement Committee (VIC) during his time living in the area.

One of his biggest achievements was helping to raise money for a new Village Hall to be built in Sitwell Street in the early 1980s. The venue has since hosted hundreds of events and has been used by thousands of locals.

Mr Hathaway sadly died suddenly and unexpectedly at the [Royal Derby Hospital](#) on Saturday, September 12

Now, Anita Hayes, secretary of the SCA and VIC, has paid tribute to the man she started working with back in the mid-1970s. Mr Hathaway continued to be a trustee of the SCA into his 70s, and Ms Hayes says she will miss listening to the help and advice he gave at meetings. She said: "I have known Derek for many years, both personally and by working with him on projects to make Spondon a better place for residents and visitors. "We started working together in 1976 when the old Village Hall in Sitwell Street was demolished".

Setting up a new Spondon Community Association enabled us to work with many people to raise money for the new Village Hall, which opened in 1981. "In spite of adverse comments about its architectural 'merits' it has been a huge success, and over the years has provided a venue for many thousands of people." Out of this success, Mr Hathaway helped to form the Village Improvement Committee in 2001. He raised thousands of pounds for numerous worthwhile projects, before going on to write four books on the history of Spondon.

Ms Hayes added: "As a committee of the SCA we were able to access grants, out of which Derek raised many thousands of pounds for our projects. "Probably our greatest triumph was winning the national Britain in Bloom competition for the Best Urban Community in 2005. Other projects included turning the old graveyard in Chapel Street into a sensory garden, working on Spondon's parks with the council and getting a topograph installed on Dale Road Park in 2013. "Not many parks have a piece of sculpture designed by Rolls-Royce graduate apprentices and University of Derby art students".

In 2011, he helped to form the Spondon Archive publications group. "Together with the Historical Society we have now published 14 books on the history of Spondon. Derek has written four of those". The group will really miss his input into their work; there's nothing like four pages of corrections to make you wonder if you should publish the book at all! However, Derek has left one book nearly finished which is the History of Spondon Hospital 1914-1919. It will be our pleasure to publish this as a tribute to his work with the group.

Mr Hathaway's final project grew out of a comment he made at a meeting that more trees should be planted in Spondon. It was typical of Derek that he should pick this up and run with it. "'Trees for Spondon' are now planning to plant 1400 saplings on some of the parks and green spaces. This will be a great memorial to Derek, showing his determination to make the world a better place", Ms Hayes added.

Mr Hathaway was a much-loved husband of Anne, father to Helen and Martin, grandfather of Jack, Henry, Annmarie and Peter, and friend to many.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions a private service was held at Trent Valley Crematorium, Aston-on-Trent on Tuesday, September 29 at 11.30am. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

From the Archives – 2007.

The Saga of the Long Horse Bridge at Derwentmouth.

In the Winter 2006 'Packet' I published an article on the Long Horse bridge written by Phil. Thompson, which gave details of the plan to rebuild it on a new site further upstream from the original. The purpose of which was to save costs as the river Trent is much narrower there and would obviate the need for piers in the river, resulting in a shorter, cheaper bridge.

The bridge was supposed to have been completed by late summer, 2005 and it is now Autumn, 2006 with no work having been done.

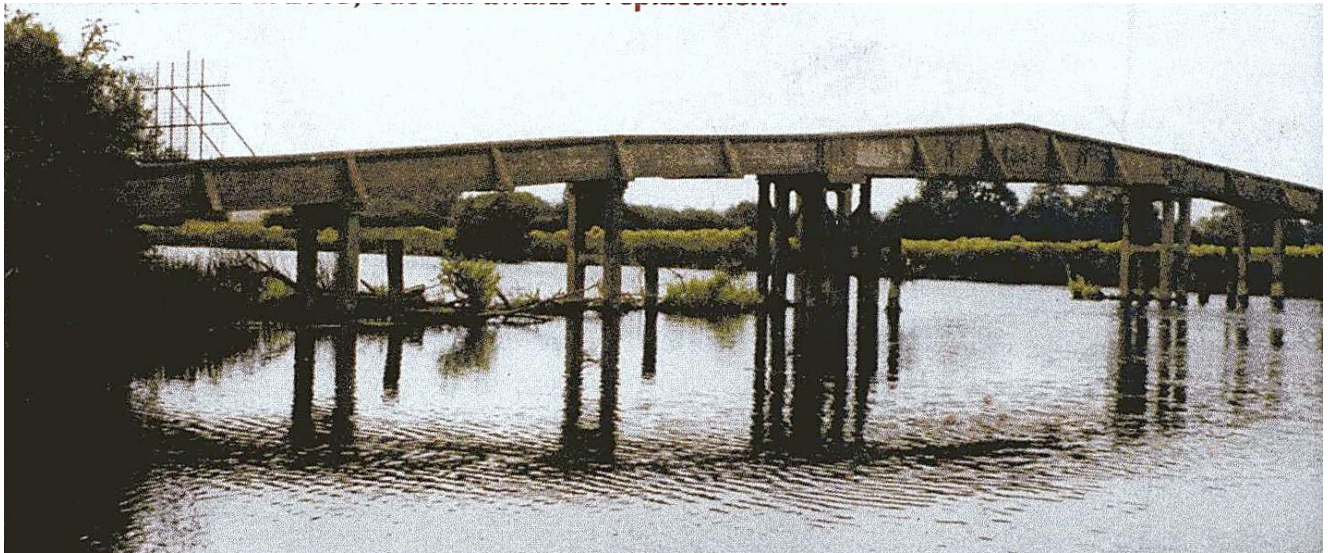
Taking a coach party to the Heritage Museum at Shardlow the other day, I noticed an article from the Derby Telegraph stuck to the door which gave the latest, at the 15th of August, and decided on a little investigation.

The concrete bridge was closed in 2001 and demolished in April, 2003, after being declared structurally unsafe by British Waterways (BW). Earlier wooden structures had been destroyed by floods and ice floes (!). Built in either 1934 or 1936 depending on your source (perhaps it took 2 years to build) it was as the name implies, a tow path bridge to enable horses to cross the Trent below Derwentmouth lock on the Trent & Mersey canal.

It had become an essential link between Shardlow and Sawley and was a feature of the Mid-Shires Way which is a long distance footpath from Stockport to Aylesbury. This path crosses the Derby canal between Draycott and Breaston.

Then came the question of replacement of a BW structure with a footpath on it for which the responsibility lies with Derbyshire County Council (DCC).

Being strapped for cash BW sought partners to finance a new bridge as a like for like replacement would cost at least £1.2 million, money that they could ill afford.



The Old Long Horse Bridge.

A couple of months after demolition of the old bridge BW told the User Group that a new bridge would be built 140 metres upstream of the old one, as the river is much narrower there and would not need river piers, reducing the cost to £870,000, since re-costed at £943,000.

Reaching this stage had been delayed due to DCC wanting a bridleway bridge and finding the extra cash for a new, wider bridge. BW had threatened to erect a pedestrian only bridge if a decision was not forthcoming from the council.

Nothing was then heard until February, 2005 when BW stated that “ agreement has now been reached with DCC. BW are designing and building the bridge, which will then be taken over by the County Council who are part funding the project. It proposed to be a 140ft span bow string truss steel bridge, approx. 140m upstream (*I wish they would use either old or new money, not both*) of the old location. DCC are leading the planning permission, and will arrange the necessary footpath diversion. The bridge should be on site in July, 2005, and completed by Christmas. The bridge will be able to accommodate the future bridleway (from Nottingham westwards) aspired to by the DCC”

It would appear that no consultation had taken place and that the statement was of *fait accompli*.

BW justify their position saying that it would almost halve the span, improve navigational safety and reduce the cost by 25%.

The scheme as it stood raised a number of issues such as:

Where are the detailed plans or forecast of usage? Observations suggested that the previous bridge would have been adequate for many times the number of people using it even though it was a popular route.

It was not until May last year that DCC made the plans public showing, as expected, a new bridge 140m upstream using a bowstring girder design which would prevent use by horse drawn boats, even though it would be a bridleway!

The vertical hangers from which the deck is suspended would be in the way.

Why they insisted on a bowstring design given the problem I don't know, there are many suitable suspension designs which would span the river at Derwentmouth without piers, be wide enough and allow passage of horse drawn or bow hauled boats.

The new bridge deck would be about 12ft 6” wide instead of the original 4ft or so. This is to accommodate horses and to comply with Disability Access Regulations.

Objections were raised when the planning application was made, on the grounds of loss of original function i.e. a tow path bridge for horses which also prevented bow haulage of a boat by any means from the river to the safety of the canal.

Those of us who have seen the rivers rise rapidly at this point will appreciate this. Not only that but the bridge was part of the historically significant village of Shardlow and views were expressed to the effect that if BW/DCC wanted a bridge upstream that's ok, but a bridge should be built at the original site for historical and heritage reasons.

The problem is, as usual, money and quite simply there is not enough money available for a bridge to new standards. Up-to-date savings are £470,000 from the shortening of the bridge span.

That would seem to be the end of it but.....

The proposal has not been welcomed by some residents in Shardlow because of the planned width of the bridge.

A resident said the planned 12ft 6” width, compared to the width of the old bridge, could encourage misuse of the bridge and that the current proposal is 12ft 6” wide, which is excessive and likely to lead to anti-social use by vehicles, a replica of the old bridge should be built at the original location. He added that the new bridge will be a lot wider and it will be an eyesore.

Another resident said the bridge and the surrounding paths were a popular tourist spot but since the bridge was demolished, people using the Trans-Pennine Bridleway had been forced to use a long diversion. It's about time we had it back and it's something which has

affected 1,000s of people. It used to provide a lovely walk from Sawley to Shardlow and people would also cycle the route. I'm just annoyed because it will be moved along the river and it won't be a continuation of the tow path.

A spokesman for BW said the bridge would be used by pedestrians and cyclists (no mention of horses). He said "The County Council is currently in the process of trying to buy the land which will enable access to construct the bridge. BW will contribute £663,000 towards the cost and the CC will put forward the rest of the money. If everything goes to plan, work to rebuild the bridge could start in April (2007) and it should take 6 months.

Most of the latter comments are through the Telegraph article and a couple of residents responded:

1. Who did BW consult before removing a vital part of a 200 year old public footpath? This bridge is shown as part of the Heritage Way. BW had ample time to replace this bridge but did not do so. What has DCC to do with this bridge? Why are they dictating what use this bridge is designed for i.e. pedestrians, cyclists and horses?



Has anyone done a risk assessment of such a plan?

Cyclists use canal towpaths and expect everyone to move out of their way when they ring their bell. If a horse panics in an enclosed space the chance of injury or death is very real. If a rider is thrown over the parapet death is very possible.

Will the Council and BW be legally responsible, after all, it is their bridge? If the bridge is enclosed, the chances of panic in a horse is increased. Who will stop the motorbike cowboys from using this new bridleway and bridge?

Where is the bridleway from Shardlow to Derwentmouth?

Who owns the land you propose to build on?

You don't own the river bank on the Sawley side, that belongs to Pride of Derby A.C. This bridge is part of our heritage. It should be rebuilt on the original site. That bridge could be built in 6 months, but you are taking the cheap option.

Put the long horse bridge back!

2. Thank goodness the long horse bridge in Shardlow is going to be replaced. As for the complaints about the width and position of the bridge, I am sure designers will be able to install points which preclude the use of vehicles and a 140m displacement is hardly a long way – certainly no inconvenience when compared with not having a bridge at all!

Shardlow is proud of its heritage and takes great care to ensure that any development is designed to fit in and the pictures of the new house in Wilne Lane and the extension to the Salt Warehouse show what can be done.



The new house is the one in the left centre of the picture.

The new extension to the Salt Warehouse is on the right hand end where the ladder and workman are.



It's a rock and a hard place for BW, their budget has been cut again due to late payment of Rural Funds by DEFRA and BW didn't have much money to start with to cater for this sort of event. A series of slips on the Pennine canals in the last couple of years has just about drained their emergency funds.

A final thought, because of landownership issues on the Sawley side of the river, a Transport & Works Act has been required, with its compulsory purchase powers and we know that it can take more than a year to obtain and that the cost would be in the region of half a million pounds – the difference between the cost of siting the bridge at the original location and the new location?

Doug Flack.



The New Bridge.

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Fallen Oak Tree at Sandiacre Cleared by DSCT.

A fallen oak tree was found to be blocking the canal line in Sandiacre. With our experienced tree-fellers at hand the DSCT volunteers made quick work of it, clearing the path to allow locals to enjoy the atypically good summer weather! Enjoy pictures from the day.

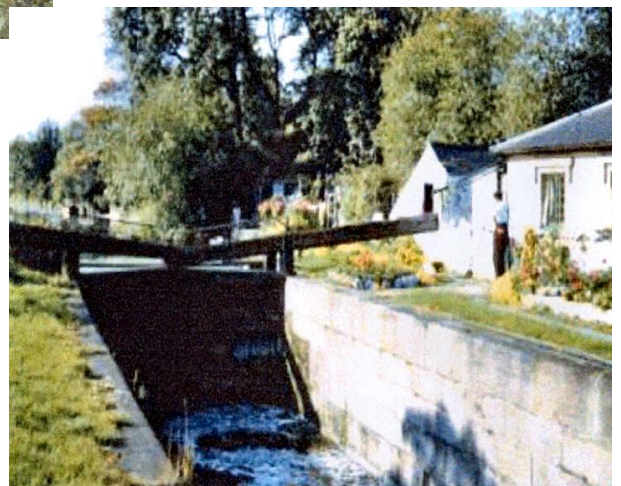


Sandiacre Bottom Lock Uncovered.



The left hand wall is stone but the other is brick as money was tight at the time.

Borrowwash Top Lock is basically brick but stone lined except for the invert, again for financial reasons. When the Midland Counties Railway diverted the canal at Borrowwash they had to provide a replacement lock of good standard which to the Canal Company meant solid stone but, the Railway Company's meaning was brick. There was a discussion between the respective Engineers as to 'why should we build such a grand lock for you when the existing one is in such a dilapidated state'.



A compromise was reached whereby 9 layers of bricks were to be used and the sidewalls lined with stone.

Excavations may reveal something e.g. were 9 layers built?

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