

Chairman's Update

September 2022

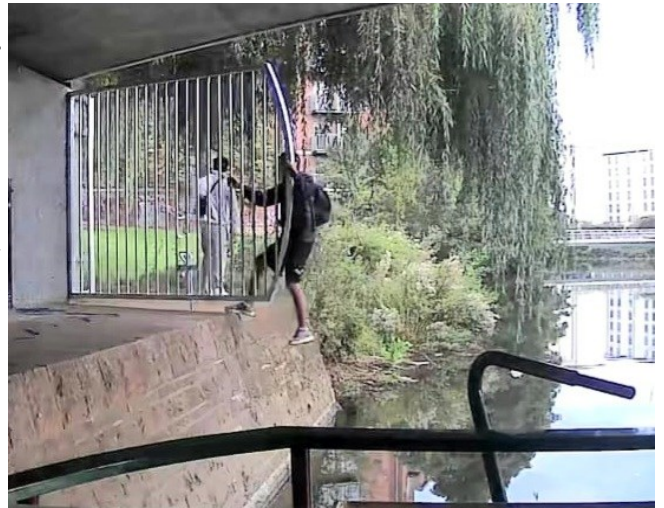
It's been a reasonably quiet September. This is of course a popular time for holidays—especially on boats. You can tell that because the rain seems to have returned. Given the canal closures due to lack of water I'm sure it is generally positive for boaters and gardeners are delighted. However it seems to have generally avoided the Riverboat trips. As the main driver I'm delighted with that.

However it is obvious that not everyone is on holiday. Our working parties have had to deal with torn down fencing at Draycott. We've had noisy kids making a nuisance of themselves at weekends by the café and trying to set fire to the outside bench for horseriders. And around the riverboat we've had directional signs torn down and intruders trying to get at our moored boat. It can be dispiriting, but thank heavens there are so many more people who support and encourage us.

The Derby Riverboat

As previously reported the Riverboat is now operating and as planned we have managed to get power connected up in mid month. It is a great relief not to be reliant on the sun. The trek to the open bank, chosen for it's inaccessibility by vandals, but involving a treacherous clamber across a wall, through brambles and down a steep bank is no more. Neither is the worry that the chains have been severed and the boat set loose. Although we have suffered "visitations" captured on our camera security and who have been frightened off by our alarm system. The Council are supposed to be adding further protection to the gate design, but it can't come quickly enough. Pity they didn't design it right first time round of course.

On a more positive note we now have three drivers with another three awaiting licensing and a good number of volunteers for cabin crew. We also have extra dates released on the booking engine <https://www.livetickets.org/whats-on/derby-river-boat-trips/> every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons until the end of October.



And the promised shirt sponsorship deal has materialised. Not only do we get crew shirts and driver fleeces, but also additional shirts for sale to adult and child passengers. You can see the shirts modelled by our volunteer crew.

We have been talking to the Museum of Making and hope to get a joint promotion with them and we've had some really excellent historical information from new volunteers David and Pauline. Wouldn't it be great if the Museums recognised canal heritage in Derby!

If anyone would like to experience it is a very tranquil experience until someone spots the resident pair of kingfishers flying. They are appearing regularly on the trips for those eagle eyed passengers. The river is edged by magnificent

trees and with autumn approaching we can already see the leaves changing colour. It's going to be spectacular.

Planning permission for the Phase 2 pontoon is expected to go to a planning committee meeting in November, but we have Council assurances it will be in place for the start of our activity next year. We have continued to have excellent relations with the Rowing Clubs and have offered to promote their clubs on the boat.

Working Parties

We've continued working to keep on top of the various sections under our active management.

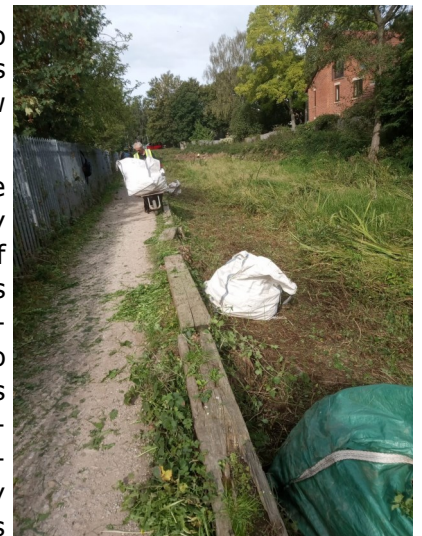


The pictures show further work tidying up at Borrowash. It's a substantial job to keep it under control. Not only this area, but also Spondon, Sandiacre and mending the broken vole fencing at Draycott and trimming the hedge along the Derby Road.



A concerted effort has also been made to give the Anglers Lane minions a haircut now that nesting is over.

Those of you who know the Spondon Bourne area may have seen the approach of Severn Trent equipment. This is designed to bore 250m underground and to install two 600mm diameter water pipes to feed the Celanese development. The drilling will go under



the Spondon length of canal and some land currently still owned by DCC. We have now achieved an agreement in principle that the pipes (which will be 8m and 13m below the surface) will not prevent canal restoration above them. At present there is a standard prevention of building 8m either side of any water pipes.

Cottages

The hitching rail is now proving popular with visitors, especially with the addition of wood chippings in the horse stand. Not such good news unfortunately that the trees on the café site have Ash Dieback. One will have to come down for safety reasons, but we are trying to save the other one. The site just won't be the same without the trees.

We are making progress with the Museum Room and have now installed skirting board and painted the doors, etc as appropriate. Don has commissioned a welder to restore the damaged range and fireplace ready for display and we are gathering the info for the story boards to be set up. We are indebted to the generosity from a long time member from Canada, who has donated a large sum to fund this work

At **Sandiacre Lock** progress continues slowly with a new suggestion from STW on how for to route pipes for residents nearby. Now we await the residents return from holiday to discuss it.

Events

We attended Shardlow Inland Port Festival on 10/11th September. Many thanks for the support of all who came. It was a great opportunity to catch up with a few members and put our case across. We were located in the open, by the trip boat from Nottingham (not as good as ours last year) and in the Clock Warehouse garden and shared with the IWA. We



Clock Warehouse garden and shared with the IWA. We put up the marquee in a rainstorm, but hopefully you can't tell from the picture, but it wasn't the best weather for such an event.

I think the most unusual element was the arrival of an old fire engine from Budleigh Salterton. It's a long way to come so no wonder it

was late.



Members Meetings

will be held at the Draycott Cottages, First Floor

Tues 27th Sept	7.30pm	Brian Dale	Railway Accidents and how to avoid them
Tues 25th Oct	7.30pm	Dave Savidge	Waterway Recovery work camps at Derby
Tues 22nd Nov	7.30pm	Barry Watson	The Agony and Ecstasy of a Canal Hotel Boater

We still don't have signed accounts as the accountants are struggling with illness, but an AGM will be arranged very soon, (hopefully as part of the October meeting) so watch this space.

I hope to see you soon.

Chris Madge