

Derby & Sandiacre Canal Society

Annual General Meeting – 8.00pm Tuesday 22 October 2013 at the Wilmot Arms, Borrowash

Present: 34 members

1. Welcome: The chairman welcomed members.

2. Apologies: Dick Broomfield

3. Acceptance of minutes of the 2012 AGM: These were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters arising: None

5. Chairman's report

Chris Madge thanked each of the Society Committee members for their work during the year. In particular he noted Doug Flack's contribution in publishing The Packet, the Calendar and the updated book, The Derby Canal, complete with ISBN number.

He then went on to discuss the work done by the Joint Development Committee, a mix of Trustees and Society members. He covered the various activities and projects that have been and are ongoing:

- The application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the Sandiacre section. At this point Paul Turner paid tribute to the work relating to Sandiacre that Jeff Howe has done. Paul asked that we record our best wishes to Jeff who is now seriously ill.
- Negotiations about the construction of a bridge on the new T12 road over the canal at Chellaston and the save-guarding of the restoration of the canal.
- Discussions and presentations to the planners in South Derbyshire regarding housing developments at Swarkestone and the potential for associated canal facilities.
- The Derby Arm for which a new video has been produced to assist in marketing the project with the city council, developers and funders. Mike Wood described the various scenes displayed in the film and described the potential of the Derby Arm to the viability of the whole canal.
- Negotiations about water extraction rights from the River Derwent with BWB Consulting, the Environment Agency and Celanese.
- Links with Derby University including discussions with the Vice Chancellor, marketing studies and engineering student case studies on the Derby Arm.
- Lobbying the Local Enterprise Partnership, D2N2, to fund projects in Derbyshire as well as in Nottinghamshire.

6. Treasurer's Report

Chris ReesFitzPatrick started by reminding people about two fund raising schemes that have been introduced during the year:

- The Give as You Live scheme in which thousands of companies donate a small percentage of their takings to your chosen charity. Members can sign on via the canal website.
- Recycling of printer cartridges and mobile phones using envelopes distributed with the Packet. Over thirty members have started using this facility.

He then talked through his written report for the financial year April 2012 to March 2013. Income was £5,532, expenditure £5,834 and cash and bank balances £1,706. No questions were asked and the report was accepted.

A proposal to increase Individual, Family and Concessionary subscriptions to £15, £20 and £8 respectively was agreed. It was also agreed to increase the attendance fee for non-members at Society meetings to £3.

7. Membership

Chris Grimoldby reported a steady level of membership with losses and gains balancing out. Most new members were recruited at the outdoor events. The membership now stands at 720.

8. Working Party

Scott Birkhead reported on three sites at which work had been done:

- Spondon - where all the trees in the winding hole have been felled and most of the roots removed. Material has been excavated to expose the stonework edge of the hole; this material was heavily contaminated and will have to be removed from site.
- Draycott - where access for maintenance has been improved and part of the hedge has being laid. Hedge-laying is due to restart this autumn.
- Borrowash - where a team of local residents led by Nigel Dagley has been cutting down willow and bramble growth and mowing the grass. Security around the Bottom Lock has been improved.

It was suggested that as well as the telephone message that is sent just before each event, an email is sent out about a week before to all members with email. This was agreed.

9. Outdoor events

Paul Birtles gave a report on the events that had been attended starting with Breaston Gala and ending with a campaign at the Navigation, Breaston aimed at securing its future as a pub. He reported a profit of £1,259 from sales and donations.

10. Society meetings

Anne Madge described the varied programme of speakers that had given talks through the year. She said that the 2014 programme had been confirmed and that printed cards were available giving the details.

11. Election of officers and Committee members

The posts were filled as follows:

Chairman:	Chris Madge
Vice-chairman:	Paul Birtles
Treasurer:	Chris ReesFitzPatrick
Secretary:	} Chris Grimoldby
Membership Sec:}	
Committee members:	Doug Flack
	Eileen Holland
	Anne Madge
	Scott Birkhead
	Ian Bowley
	Eddie Case

12. The Kate Birtles Award

Paul Birtles presented the award to Mike Wood for his work on the Derby Arm, the T12 bridge negotiations and other projects.

13. AOB

- Eddie Case suggested we run an event similar to one run by DWT involving a brewery.
- Nigel Dagley spoke about the desirability of working with tertiary education bodies to progress design issues on the canal restoration. Mike Wood spoke about the work done by Derby University students on the Derby Arm.
- Notice was given of the work that will occur on Sandiacre Lock on the Erewash canal on Sunday 26 January.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Following the meeting John Wain talked about trying to save the Derby Canal in the 1960s and later.