**Derby and Sandiacre Canal Society**

**Annual General Meeting – Tuesday October 27th 2015 at the Wilmot Arms, Borrowash**

**Present:**  34 members

1. **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed members

1. **Apologies**

Paul Turner, Emma Keeling, Dave and Carol Eley, Gloria Brandon and John West.

1. **Adoption of the Minutes of the 2014 AGM**

They were agreed as a true record, proposed by Ian Bowley, seconded by Linda Edson, carried unanimously

1. **Matters Arising**

None

1. **Update from the Trust**

Chellaston – Chris explained that the Trust had decided not to oppose the building of the new road. The initial undertaking by Derby City Council to commit to a bridge in a legal agreement was reduced after two years of negotiation to a written, but not legally binding, letter from the Chief Executive to

* support the restoration and particularly the Derby Arm
* to build the new bridge as soon as we have funds to get past the bridge and they can raise the £4m required for the bridge to be built to plans already agreed
* provide a grant of £60,000 for the restoration in the Derby area
* commit to a working partnership with regular meetings between the Trust and the Regeneration Office of DCC.
* Feature the Derby Arm in the City Plan for 2030

The meetings since then have been productive and include a presentation to the Labour Group running the Council and support in promoting the Arm to developers at Chaddesden Triangle. Councillors have seen the beneficial impact on Droitwich of restoring their canal and the potential impact for Derby of the restoration and the Arm development. The study by W S Atkins predicted it would create 3000 jobs, the Arm should attract 500.000 visitors a year, and the Droitwich provided a return of £7 for every £1 invested.

The Council are therefore considering making available significant funds to support the restoration.

The Trust has joined Marketing Derby, a group to support the development of the city. He has had meetings with local universities, with the aim of getting students and young people involved with projects and providing free “consultancy” and studies.

At Sandiacre we applied for £1.5m lottery money, but were turned down with advice to do a small project involving the local community, to check the costs and prove our capability to manage funds. So Sandiacre bottom lock will be dug out, and we have engaged a consultant to write the bid for us. We now have planning permission from Erewash Borough Council, have received positive results from community surveys at local events, including children drawing canal related pictures. We plan to invite the Waterways Recovery Group and ECPDA to assist the excavation in spring 2016. After much thought we plan to leave the lock open and fence it to keep it safe rather than replace the soil.

Celanese have now agreed we can have the whole of their licence if we provide some publicity. We are negotiating with the Environment Agency on costs. Celanese have offered to sponsor the completion of the winding hole at Spondon and we have offered to name it after them.

He invited society members to attend trust meetings and get involved – details are on the website.

1. **Treasurers Report**

Income - no grants received by the Society this year

Meeting income (entrance fees and raffle) up by £300 due to increased attendance, but the costs of meetings have risen disproportionately as speakers are more expensive. Merchandise sales and other show income has reduced by £290, (the previous year benefited from remarkable sales of glass lanterns). Advertising revenue and speaker receipts have increased by £500 following tighter control and more interest in or speakers.

Expenditure – Draw payments include £140 overdue from previous year. Packet and publishing costs cover two editions of the Packet, the heritage booklet and flyers. Postage for the Packet is donated to us, approx. £100 per edition.

The Trust has received £90.20 for ink cartridges and mobile phones, and £260.02 from Every Click , Give as you Live from just 35 supporters. Chris reported on social media hits and campaigns by Emma during the year. Thank you to all the supporters.

Total income for the Society in the year exceeded expenditure by a little over £800 allowing us to have a good positive balance to support Trust activities if required.

1. **Other Reports**

Eddy presented slides of the year’s working parties and shows attended.

Ian presented excerpts from the Laurence Hogg film and it was agreed to play it in full with sound later next year.

Chris thanked Paul Birtles, who is stepping down from the Vice Chair at this AGM. His management of the events and merchandise over the years has been tremendous, often supported by his extended family in large numbers. The crafting of the boat has made an immense difference to our impact, as evidenced at Long Eaton Carnival recently. Paul has offered to continue to help on an adhoc basis.

1. **Election of Officers**

The following officers and members were appointed without opposition.

Chairman Chris Madge

Vice chairman Eddy Case

Treasurer Chris ReesFitzpatrick

Secretary Anne Madge

Membership Roger Ashmead

Media Emma Keeling

Committee members Ian Bowley, Scott Birkhead, Eileen Holland, Keith Taylor

Chris welcomed Keith on to the committee.

1. **The Kate Birtles Award**

Paul presented this to Chris Rees Fitzpatrick in recognition for many hours of work supporting the Trust on the Development Group and as an active member of the Society committee attending shows, working parties and supporting Emma’s social media and website development. All of this in addition to acting as Treasurer for both orgnaisations.

1. **AOB**

The raffle was drawn.

Spot the Kingfisher was drawn

The meeting closed at 10.25 pm