

THE TUB BOAT

Newsletter of the Bude Canal & Harbour Society

No. 72

Summer 2015



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Forthcoming Events:

Fri/Sat 26th/27th June "Leading Lights of Bude" at St Michael's Church, Bude.
Exhibition of display panel on George Casebourne

Sunday 26th July Bude Stratton Heritage Day with gazebo on the Barnhouse green

Saturday 8th August Annual Coach trip to Dartmouth for boat trip on River Dart to Totnes. £22 per person. Fully booked but we have started a "Reserved List" if we have any cancellations

Saturday 15th August Bude Carnival-gazebo in Castle grounds (weather permitting).

Saturday 29th August Tables in RNLI Marquee for RNLI weekend

Monday 1st September Deadline for articles for inclusion in Tub Boat No 73 to reach the editor Clive Horton
cshorton23@btinternet.com

Contributions for the next edition of the Tub Boat should be sent as an e-mail attachment to cshorton23@btinternet.com or copied onto a USB memory stick or CD and send to Mike Moore (Tel: 01288 361878) to reach him by 1st September 2015.

Trustees:	Chairman	Chris Jewell
	Vice-Chairman	Stan Noakes
	Secretary	Peter Daniel
	Treasurer	Mike Moore
	Events Secretary	Betty Moore
	Minuting Secretary	Jill White
	Other trustees	Lucille Opie , Anne Longley Grahame Stockton ,
	Membership Secretary	Mike Moore
	The Tub Boat Editor	Clive Horton (<i>non-trustee</i>)

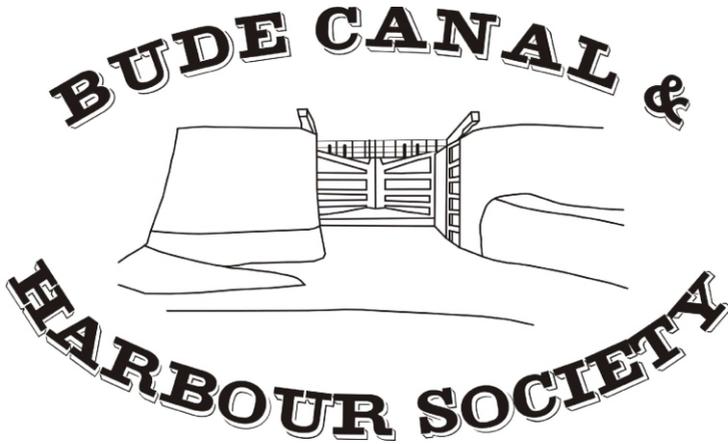
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Cover: Qualie in Bude Sea Lock
All Photos: Mike Moore(unless otherwise stated)

Creaks from a newly filled Chair

Since the AGM when the new Trustees were elected and executive posts were taken up, further talks between the Trustees have taken place and a new Trustee has been co-opted. Mike Moore, the membership Secretary is now a Trustee. This has allowed further changes to take place with agreements between the Trustees. I am therefore pleased to announce that with effect from Wednesday 27th May 2015, I have been elected as Chairman and Mike Moore has been elected as the Hon. Treasurer. This is all good news as we have now filled the officer positions on the committee which are now as follows:-

Chairman, Chris Jewell

Vice Chairman, Stan Noakes

Hon. Secretary, Peter Daniel

Hon. Treasurer & Membership Secretary, Mike Moore

I wish to thank Anne Longley for stepping into the role of Acting Chairman over the last few years to enable the committee to function effectively. I am also grateful to all the new Trustees who have joined during the last twelve months which brings the total number up to nine which is three more than the minimum required according to our constitution. However, it would be most useful to increase this number to nearer the maximum of fifteen which would allow us to spread responsibilities. Thus, if you are over 18 years of age, of a trustworthy disposition, live locally, have an interest in the past and future of the Bude Canal and would like to be considered as a Trustee of our society then please make contact with me on 01288 352298 or e-mail bude.canal@gmail.com .

Thank you.

Chris Jewell Chairman

Membership Report

Unfortunately we have received no further renewals since the last edition of the Tub Boat but we have recruited one new member, Colin Vosper, who was introduced by Chris Jewell. Colin, who lives in Torquay, recently visited the Bude Canal to do some research to enhance the presentations which he gives on the history of canals both in the UK and abroad. We hope to be able to make arrangements for Colin to make a presentation at our next AGM in February 2016. As this is our first new member since

Grahame Stockton joined in October last year , perhaps existing members could encourage their friends to join as the membership numbers have been declining recently due to an increase in the number of members not renewing.

Unfortunately we have recently lost another of our long-standing members. Joy Yeates passed away on 28th April. Joy, along with Jean Hall, had been a long time member and supporter of the IWA serving as a member of the West Country Branch committee for many years and as Treasurer before handing the role over to me in 1995. Joy has always been there to support Jean when presenting her slide shows and they have both attended shows with their sales stall over many years. Joy had also been a member of the Bude Canal Society and then the Bude Canal & Harbour Society from the early days and has attended many society events over the years. Joy will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by many in the waterways fraternity. We pass on our condolences to Jean and Joy's family.

As you will have read in the "Creaks from a New Chair", I have now taken over the role of Treasurer from Chris Jewell and I look forward to continuing the good work which Chris has done since I was last Treasurer which was in the very early days of the society. I will give a financial report in the next edition of the Tub Boat.

Mike Moore
Membership Secretary & Treasurer

Annual Coach Trip

We have received an excellent response in terms of bookings for the Coach trip to Dartmouth, although the majority of booking have come from non-members. The coach is almost full and we have already received requests for the remaining seats. If anyone is still interested in coming please let me know and I will put your name on the reserve list and advise you if we receive any cancellations. My contact details are tel. 01288 361878 or e-mail bude.canal@gmail.com.

We look forward to a good day out on the 8th August.

Betty Moore
Events Secretary

Bude Canal Trust Report

WORK IN PROGRESS SINCE LAST TUB BOAT REPORT

4th March. saw the start of a busy quarter with just a small group of volunteers busy removing some small trees and vegetation from the canal profile at the far end of the Vealand section, completely opening up the view of the now barely distinguishable site of the small diverting weir. On the far bank, all the brambles were cut back to ground level to expose the concrete entrance construction to the now, demolished filter-beds.



The concrete entrance structure

11th & 18th March. For the following two weeks we moved on to just beyond the picnic table and seats in order to remove all the vegetation from the footpath bank, to the right of its current accepted route within the canal profile.

Moving on again to the short, but heavily overgrown section of the canal profile at the head of the Incline Plane which, after clearing, provided a clear direct site line down to the next lower level of the canal. It is this area where we are still hopeful of eventually locating the site of the former wheelpit.

Clearing towpath on RH bank



Cleared view down incline plane



Wind blown branches

Recent rough weather had brought down several larger branches along

the continuing section to Burmsdon which were removed before clearing the dry canal profile of numerous and varying types of saplings on the approach to the start of the Permissive Path at Burmsdon.



Clearing approach to Tamar Bridge

25th. March. On a day of really nice weather we cleared out the profile of what, most of our visitors expect to see when looking for the “Aqueduct”, the section of the canal built to carry its various cargoes over the river Tamar, now with the provided H&S feature of the fencing on either side, a luxury not seemed necessary in the days of both sensible workers and horses. The wild daffodils again made a fine display just beyond Burmsdon Bridge with Bluebells to follow in May.

1st & 8th April. Moving on into the next month, a section between Cape Horn towards the remains of Aldercott Bridge was cleared back revealing a large leaking sink hole in the base of the canal which will require several barrow loads of clay to plug and seal.

A concrete water level control feature was also re-exposed to divert excess water back into the stoned culvert at Cape Horn.



Concrete water level control



Bank reinforcement netting

Strong plastic netting was secured over the recently created bank reinforcing structure on the approach to the above culvert to help prevent

any further undermining storm water flow that had been experienced over several earlier years.

15th April. The remains of Blackthorn along the Virworthy Wharf to The Mill were collected into piles ready for burning at a later date



Previously cut Blackthorn



First of the seasons mowing

Late in April the first of the seasons footpath mowing took place along the full length of the canal with a continuation of cutting new overhanging growth from the canal bank top.

Into May and following concerns raised from Burmsdon Farm, new notices were strategically placed, requesting respectful consideration to livestock plus reminding visitors walking the last sections from Vealand Bridge and the Permissive Path that there are no points of exit onto adjacent privately owned land.



Two of the new notices

During the remainder of the month, new sapling growth encroaching on the footpath from the hedge has been trimmed back between Dexbeer and Virworthy Mill.

All photos and text: Mike Degnan

Boyton Bridge Wharf

The Bude canal, built between 1819 – 1825, had a main line that went to Blagdon Moor, nr Holsworthy and two branches. The feeder arm from the reservoir and the Launceston Branch or arm that went to the southern terminus at Druyton nr Launceston. The Launceston branch turned right at Red Post off the main line and travelled down the Cornish side of the River Tamar Valley. Along this branch there were three inclined planes and five public wharves where sand, coal and other goods were stored and distributed by traders who operated on all of the system or localised sections. The basin and wharf are down the hill from Boyton village and sits above the River Tamar. The traders who used the wharf were Captain King, Mr Gubbins, Mr Ham and Mr Adams, although Mr Gubbins used this wharf substantially more than all the other traders put together. However



, by April 1841, the traders were reduced to two new trading companies – BC Trading Co and James and Co, who both traded on the whole system. Traders would stockpile sand on the wharves or wharf they used. Wharves had areas allocated to each trader to use. Boyton Bridge wharf was 1,176 square yards in total. During the period April 1836 to March 1838, the total tonnage of sand delivered to this wharf was 5,147 tons or 41,176 seams. A seam was the basic measure of sand and equalled $2\frac{1}{2}$ hundred weight or 286 lbs = 127.28 kilograms.

Each wharf was controlled by a company official, known as a wharfinger, who usually lived adjacent to the wharf in a company house or cottage. In 1881, it was Isaac Pooley who was the Great-Great-Great Grandfather of the current owner of the basin/wharf and a length of disused canal, Mr

Andrew Dinner. Mr Dinner lives nearby overlooking the basin and also own about 5 acres of adjacent land.

In 1912, the basin, canal and land were acquired by his family and has remained in their ownership ever since.



About three years ago, Andrew Dinner did some excavation work on the basin, re-routed some land drainage, put in an overflow and re-watered the basin and the short section of canal. He maintains a short land bridge to access his land, but a 12" pipe carries water to the rest of the canal section. He would like to replace the land bridge with an actual bridge, so that the whole length of the canal after the basin is fully in water.

Mr Dinner has discussed what he would like to do at this location, such as interpretation possible public access. He has been given advice and sources of assistance regarding funding.

Chris Jewell

Facts and figures re-trading courtesy of Bude Stratton Town Council's archive centre at Bude.

George Casebourne 1801 – 1876 Canal Engineer



 Born 1801 at Hemel Hempstead, Herts

 1832 became resident Engineer for the Bude Harbour and Canal

Company succeeding James GREEN who had designed and built the Canal for BHCC

✍ September 1837 married Jametta HANKER at Stratton

✍ 1838 – 1842 supervised the construction of the redesigned Breakwater in Bude Harbour following the destruction of the first Breakwater on 24th and 25th February 1838

✍ As engineer he was responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Canal's structures from the harbour and the sea lock, all of the six inclined planes and the two inland locks plus the 35½ miles of waterway including towpaths, wharfs and other buildings, all barges and tub boats owned by BHCC and the sand railway infrastructure at Bude

✍ 1841 Census shown as resident in Stratton

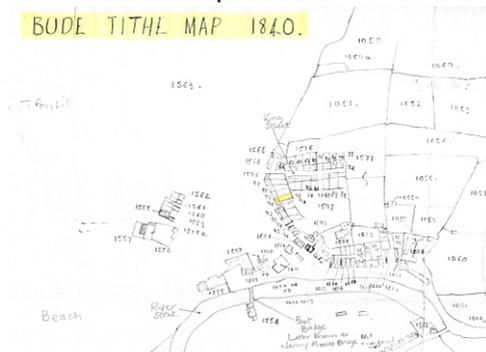
✍ 1845 Wife died.

✍ 1851 Census shown as Civil Engineer living in Stratton, a widower.

✍ June 1860 married Hannah Ross in Liverpool

✍ 1861 Census shown as a Civil Engineer married and living at Sea View Cottage Stratton

✍ 1871 Census shown as a Civil Engineer on Bude Canal, married living at 5 Sea View, Stratton. Sea View Cottages are believed to have been what is now the lower part of Lansdown Road on the south side. Examination of the Bude Tithe Map 1840 and the index of properties



identify a plot of land (no.1590 being a house and garden covering an area of 8 perches) being owned by the Feoffees of the Parish and occupied by George CASEBOURNE. These premises were, and still are, in the line of houses now known as Lansdown Road. It is the fifth house down from the junction with King Street. At this time there were no buildings on the opposite side of the road so the view to the north-west would have been

unobstructed and the sea would have been seen clearly so the houses were aptly named "Sea View Terrace" which later became "Garden Terrace" and is now Lansdown Road.

The section of the Tithe Map displayed shows the property (no.1590) highlighted. The house has now been converted to a shop called "New Moon" - see photograph below.



The term "Feoffee" is an ancient title and relates to a Trustee who holds a fief (or fee), that is to say an estate in land for the use of a beneficial owner.

1876 24th August died at Stratton

The Bude Canal, with its ingenious devices, the water powered inclined planes which allowed the Canal to traverse the hilly terrains of North Cornwall and West Devon but were also a source of expense due to breakdowns and mishaps. The weather also affected the operation of the system by drought, excessive rain and severe frosts. In 1841 George Casebourne experimented with an iceboat pulled by two horses at a speed of 4 mph which broke up the ice of several inches depth, thus aiding the movement of tub boats and barges on the waterway.

As well as his responsibilities to the BHCC, Mr Casebourne was involved in trading on the Canal, mainly as a sole operator until 1875 when he had a partner, a Mr Burrow until his death the following year.

When he died in 1876 he and his wife owned a house at Helebridge adjacent to the Canal Basin. Sometime prior to 1876 this house had been built and may have been occupied by the Casebournes at some stage.

In the early part of 1877 Mrs Casebourne offered this house to be purchased by the Canal Company. In May 1877 Mrs Casebourne

accepted the company's offer of £170 and the sale was completed by 13th June 1877. At that time the Canal Company issued a 'notice to quit' by Lady Day 1878 to a tenant, Mr Burrow. The premises were later let at a rent of £8.10s per annum by the Canal company. As far as is known this house still exists on the towpath side of Helebridge Basin by the 2 mile marker and is occupied today.



References: Census returns, 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871
'The Bude Canal' by Helen Harris and Monica Ellis
Bude Harbour and Canal Co. Committee minutes 1877

Photograph: George Casebourne – Museum of English Rural Life at Reading University.

Inland Waterways Association Waterways Restoration Raffle

Enclosed with this issue of the Tub Boat is a book of five tickets for the IWA Waterways Restoration Raffle for 2015. We have entered the society's name on the counterfoils as the beneficiary enabling us to receive a proportion of the proceeds after the draw in December. Although we did not distribute any raffle books last year, we received £100 from the IWA as a result of being nominated as the beneficiary on the tickets sold. This amount was credited to our Project Fund to be used in relation to achieving navigation on the Barge Section of the Bude Canal. Any proceeds received as a result of this year's raffle will also be credited to

the Project Fund.

We would appreciate your support for this raffle which will benefit both the IWA and BCHS by buying tickets yourself or selling them and returning the counterfoils with your payment direct to the IWA as instructed on the ticket. If you do not receive a printed copy of the Tub Boat and would like some raffle tickets or require additional books, please contact us at info@bude-canal.co.uk or tel. 01288 352298. Please support this initiative. Thank you.

Chris Jewell.

Canal Poem

Our Canal, unique as it is locked to the sea
Was opened in eighteen twenty-three.
For two miles it meanders to the inclined plane,
A feat of engineering the Victorians rightly claim.
Navigable only to Marhamchurch today
There's beauty and wildlife enough on display
For locals and visitors, and when time for leisure
Boating, fishing and walking give much pleasure.

Stand on the beach and watch the mighty Atlantic
Smash against the Breakwater, with waves gigantic.
It has mastered the sea for near two hundred years,
To give shelter to ships and calm mariners fears.
Admire the construction of the massive sea lock,
Watch the gates open that allow ships to dock.
Vessels can be admitted of forty tons or more
And have rudders as long as ten feet at their core.

Think of all those who had the vision to start,
Think of the men who, over the years played their part.
Smeaton Edyvean Leach;- Fulton & Green too
Were the engineers responsible to name but a few.
Those men had the innovative engineering skills
Needed to open a waterway to the hills
With locks 'n inclined planes of inspirational design
That would leave the sea level far behind.
To be continued ... Lucille Opie

View from the North



Well we have experienced here in Orkney the wettest Spring since records began back in 1829 and farmers are only just getting the last of the cattle out into the fields from their winter byres. Yet on the other side of the world Sacramento in California is going into its 14th year of drought and has experienced what will probably be its last spell of rain until October. Temperature here is 12c whilst there it's 40c. However, one of the joys of technology is that webcams and skype allow us all to be part of the same global family. Maybe it will soon be possible for BCHS members from all parts to join in with meetings, AGMs and events using technologies like these.

Back in 1990 when I first joined the committee of what was then the Bude Canal Society a leaflet was proposed to be called "The Way Forward" in which we looked forward to what the canal may be like in 2020. Now 25 years later my task for any free moments I get this summer(if it ever properly arrives!!) will be to try and dig out my draft copy and see just where we are up to with just five years to go.

I will report back in due course and wish you all success with whatever summer activities you plan to get up to.

Clive Horton
Editor

