

# THE TUB BOAT

Newsletter of the Bude Canal & Harbour Society

No. 76

Summer 2016



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### Forthcoming Events:

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July Bude Stratton Heritage Day with BCHS Sales stall

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Aug Bude Carnival with BCHS Sales stall

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Aug BCHS Sales stall in Marquee at RNLI Day

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Contributions for the next edition of the Tub Boat should be sent as an e-mail attachment to [cshorton23@btinternet.com](mailto:cshorton23@btinternet.com) or copied onto a USB memory stick or CD and sent to Peter Daniel (contact details on back page) to reach the Editor by 1st September 2016.

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<b>Trustees:</b>	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,	Lesley Moores
	Membership Secretary	Mike Moore	
	The Tub Boat Editor	<i>Clive Horton (non-trustee)</i>	

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The views expressed by the contributors to this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Bude Canal & Harbour Society which does not accept responsibility for them.

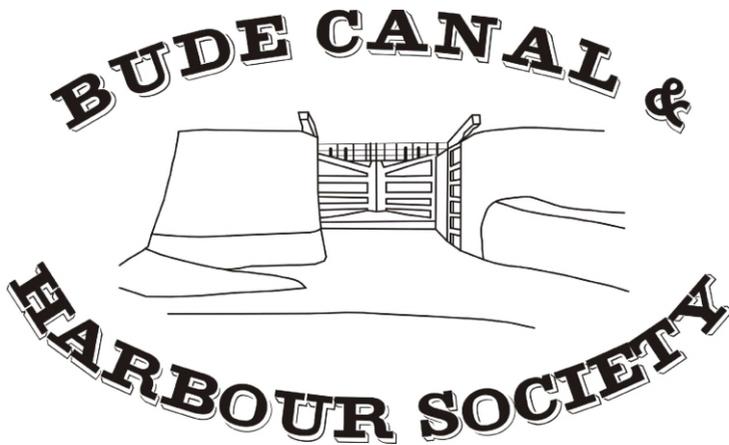
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Cover: Barrel Rock Bude

All Photos: Mike Moore(unless otherwise stated)

## Creaks from the chair

We are now in the second half of the year with the summer ahead of us. Hopefully it will be kind to us and ensure a good season for the tourist trade which is the 'life blood' of the local economy.

In this edition of The Tub Boat you will see reports about the continuing saga of Rodds Bridge.



We await Cornwall Council's response about a possible replacement. If the final result is a bridge that allows navigation on the Canal from Falcon Bridge to the A39 bridge at Helebridge this would raise another issue which has to be addressed sooner or later. That is a slipway above Falcon Bridge to allow the launch and recovery of visiting boats waiting to use this section of the Canal. Additionally the Cornwall Council would need to adopt a Boat Licensing system to ensure that all boats were safe to be used. Also the use of the Canal should be for all boats whatever their propulsion and not just electric motor boats. Any environmental issues would be covered by the Boat Licensing system.

So where to put a slipway? My own view is that the land at Higher Wharf, owned by Cornwall Council, is the best site for a slipway. 'HiWAG' have been trying to acquire and develop this site for continued use by the people of Bude and Stratton. Development of the site would include a slipway. Comments from Cornwall Council on this proposal include concern about ownership of the access road, use of the access road by vehicles towing boats, and the fair comment that any development would need to be maintained – which would be a problem as the HiWAG group of members have low incomes and the scheme was not intended to be a commercial activity. At the moment HiWAG is in limbo but sooner or later they will have to decide what to do with their scheme, one way or another.

Chris Jewell Chairman

### **Trustees**

I am sorry to say that one of our Trustees, Grahame Stockton, has resigned for personal reasons. We have a good complement of Trustees at present so this does not give any cause for concern in terms of Society governance. The Chairman and other Trustees would like to thank Grahame for his contribution as a Trustee and wish him well for the future.

Peter Daniel, Hon Sec (on behalf of the Trustees)

### **Membership Report**

There have been no new members join since the last Tub Boat was published and no members have left

Mike Moore Membership Secretary

## **. Country Landowners Association Visit**

On Thursday 7th April the Society hosted a visit of the CLA to the Bude Canal. The day started with a series of representations about the Bude Valley including the Bude Canal.



The first presentation was by Gareth Cann of Cormac Solutions who is the Ranger for the area known as Bude Valley, which is the area from Falcon Bridge to Marhamchurch but also includes other areas around Bude such as Tiscott Wood, sand dunes at Widemouth and Warbstow Bury, an important Iron Age earthwork site. Gareth spoke about his work in maintaining and conserving these sites bearing in mind all of the wildlife aspects. His work specifically includes the two miles of Canal in respect of banks, verges, towpaths, inland locks etc, and the Bude Marshes Local Nature Reserve.



This was followed by Alan Rowland of Bude Marsh and Valley Survey Group. Alan gave information regarding the species of birds, mammals, flora etc that can be found in the Valley area. The group does counts of species seen which are recorded and passed to a central register in Truro.



Following a short break I gave a shortened presentation on the Bude Canal concentrating mainly on the two miles from Bude to Helebridge with brief references to Inclined Planes and their machinery. This was followed by a lunch break. The group had 26 members of CLA plus Ms Sarah Fern the Events and Partnership manager based in Swindon.



At about 1.30pm we re-convened at the Sea Lock for the guided walk up the Canal to the layby above Castinghouse Cottage to view and discuss the Canal further.



On reaching the cottage there was the option to then drive to the Helebridge area to continue the visit. However, although the weather was dry and sunny there was a stiff north-westerly breeze off the sea which had quite a cooling effect which translated into only four CLA group members taking up this option. The four that did go to Helebridge only wanted to visit the Barge Workshop to view the Tub Boat and the other local heritage artefacts. They found the collection interesting and the location most agreeable, which it is. Overall another useful day for BCHS to show people the importance of the Canal in its heyday and how in the 21st century its importance in the tourism infrastructure should not be taken for granted.

Chris Jewell

# Audrey Wheatley's 90th Birthday Celebrations Photo Report



## Bude Motor & Classic Car Show



### From Recent Edition of The Bude & Stratton Post

THE Bude Valley Volunteers were hard at work last week, working alongside the canal on a beautiful sunny day.

However, good weather does work against the group sometimes with many people enjoying the weather either at home or on holiday so only four volunteers turned up to help Gareth Cann, the Wildlife Ranger.

The locks gates above Rodd's Bridge have to be regularly opened to ensure that all the woodwork remains wet.

If it dries out, the locks can deform and leak, so along with path edging work, the locks were opened.

This wets the woodwork and allows some of the debris that has accumulated upstream to drain away and clears the water.

The work is not arduous, but immensely rewarding making sure everything is neat, tidy and in working order.

Seeing newly bloomed Cuckoo Flowers, watching Swallows hawking along the river catching emergent mayflies and listening to vociferous Sedge Warblers establishing breeding territories is just a wonderful bonus for the volunteers.

The group welcome volunteers and anyone interested can contact Bude Valley Volunteers on [budevalleyvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:budevalleyvolunteers@gmail.com)

### **Box's Foundry Update**



Box's Foundry showing that work has not yet started following granting of planning permission for refurbishment as residential properties - see Tub Boat number 73.

**Mike Moore**

## **Tub Boat Letters**

Sometime ago BCHS purchased a box of 19th century letters, 76 in total, mainly about day-to-day matters relating to the Bude Canal. The letters were catalogued and put in acid-free pockets and stored in a proper archive acid-free box for safe storage.

Recently the Trustees discussed the future of these papers and agreed it would be appropriate to gift them to Bude and Stratton Town Council for inclusion in the Archives kept by the Council. This has now been done. These documents have the reference number Budex 2016.16, should anyone wish to look at the documents by prior arrangement with BSTC 01288 353576 or [office@budestratton.gov.uk](mailto:office@budestratton.gov.uk)

Chris Jewell

## **Bude Valley Management Advisory Group**

At the recent meeting of BVMAG the following items were of interest

- i. Water Voles. The re-introduction has been successful but has certain problems for the management of the canal and valley. The banks are riddled with the burrows of the voles and as the voles are protected no works can be done in those areas if it affects the habitat. This protection has affected the start of the new spillway above Whalesborough Lock, in that the subsequent loss of habitat will have to be replaced somehow somewhere. English Nature can issue permits but so far this has not been very productive. The main problem relates to the dredging of drainage ditches beside the canal, and in the valley.
- ii. Himalayan Balsam. Despite the use of a parasite 'rust' there is a severe problem with Himalayan Balsam. It now affects those reed beds which are drier and not so dense. Removal by hand before the flowers set is labour intensive and the presence of the water voles is not helpful.
- iii. Harbour Master's Report. The recent winter storms have caused significant damage to the Breakwater, there are three large holes to be repaired a.s.a.p. At the sea lock a large 'eye' for the storm chains was pulled out of a gate. The cogs for the gate paddles are to be replaced to prevent slippage when using the gate paddles.

The leak near the outer gate on the north pier requires the gate to be removed to allow an inspection of the structure so that remedial works can be carried out. The lock chamber needs to be dredged of sand to allow proper operation of the sea lock. There is now CCTV cover of the boats on wharf, lock and harbour, and the approach road, to improve security.

- iv. Licensing for Activity Providers. From 1/4/2016 a revised system comes into force following feedback and consultations. This has a full and intensive tender process. There is a fixed price for the tender. There are six commercial operators including two new operators, and in total 68 boats including the instructor's boats. The quiet zone is between Rodds Bridge Lock and Whalesborough Lock (Middle Pound). No activities, although it allows boats to pass through this area. Boats will be portered around the two locks. The scheme still retains a 'three strikes and out' policy for offending operators.
- v. Capital Funding for Canal and Locks. An application has been made for funding for works on the inland locks and dredging for most of the canal including Upper Basin. Depths have significantly reduced in some areas.

The next meeting is planned for Monday 19th September 2016.

## **Bude Canal Exhibition**

### **Bude Canal Exhibition at The Castle**

At the end of February we organised a joint exhibition with The Bude Canal Trust and the local branch of the Old Cornwall Society at The Castle Heritage Centre, Bude. It ran from 26th February until 10th March and was designed to celebrate the unique Bude Canal with its Sea Lock and inclined planes. Our display panels covered a description of the whole of the Bude Canal including its history, details of the inclines, the sand railway, the sea lock, the Regeneration Project and some recently discovered information about the Canal Engineer, George Casebourne. We also displayed the results of some recent research carried out by Alan McIntosh of the Old Cornwall Society on water mills built near the canal and the River Tamar.

The Bude Canal Trust's display covered the early history of the canal and

a detailed description of the five-mile section of the canal known as the "Aqueduct" running south from Lower Tamar Lake which is owned by the Trust. Other panels covered the restoration and maintenance work undertaken by a small group of volunteers led by Mike Degnan.

The display provided by the Bude, Stratton and District branch of the Old Cornwall Society concentrated on bridges over the River Tamar in the vicinity of the Bude Canal with photographs and maps. They also showed some photographs of old businesses in Bude and books of photographs of restoration work on the canal taken by Gerald Fry.

The exhibition was well attended by both locals and visitors to the area (over 450 in total) and many were very interested in the history of the canal and the work of the Society and the Trust. Thanks must go to Chris Jewell (BCHS), Mike Degnan (BCT) and Alan McIntosh (OCS) for producing the displays which received many compliments from visitors. We also wish to thank those members who manned the exhibition which meant that someone was available to greet visitors for virtually the whole of the two weeks. Particular thanks go to Mick Stanton who attended all day for most days.

I am sure that all three organisations benefitted from the exhibition in terms of raising the profile of the canal and its surroundings and I know that both the society and the trust gained new members as a direct result of the event. Thank you to all our visitors.

Mike Moore  
Membership Secretary

## **Help**

Please note the dates in our Events Diary when we will be attending with the society's gazebo and sales stall. We would appreciate more help from our members during these events, particularly setting up and taking down the gazebo and tables. If you feel that you can help, please either telephone 01288 361878 or e-mail [bude.canal@gmail.com](mailto:bude.canal@gmail.com)

Betty Moore  
Events Secretary

## View From The North



Structure one at Skara Brae, Orkney by Rosemary Horton

Some times it is important to take a step back from the current situation you are involved in and allow the myriad of clamouring voices all calling for action now to fade into the background. Then you may be able to view matters from a different perspective. Today's graffiti can become the futures archaeological conundrum. Change is the lifeblood on which innovation is founded. So three questions for you to ponder...

1. What can I do to promote an increase in membership of BCHS?
  2. How can I help with fundraising activities this summer?
  3. Am I willing to step forward and take over the editorship of the Tub Boat?
- If nobody new comes forward with positive answers to any of the above questions then what is our future?

Clive Horton Editor

