

THE TUB BOAT

Newsletter of the Bude Canal & Harbour Society

No. 77

Autumn 2016



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Forthcoming Events: 2017

Friday 24 Feb to

Thursday 02 Mar Bude Canal Exhibition in the Willoughby Gallery, The Castle, Bude

Sunday 26 Feb

BCHS AGM Members Day in the Willoughby Gallery, The Castle, Bude. Meet at 10am for events followed by talk and slide show at 12 noon by Graham Wills about Pinkery Pond, a little known waterway development near Simonsbath on Exmoor.
Buffet lunch at 1pm. Formal AGM at 2.30pm

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 sent to Peter Daniel (contact details on back page) to reach the Editor by 1st December 2016.

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

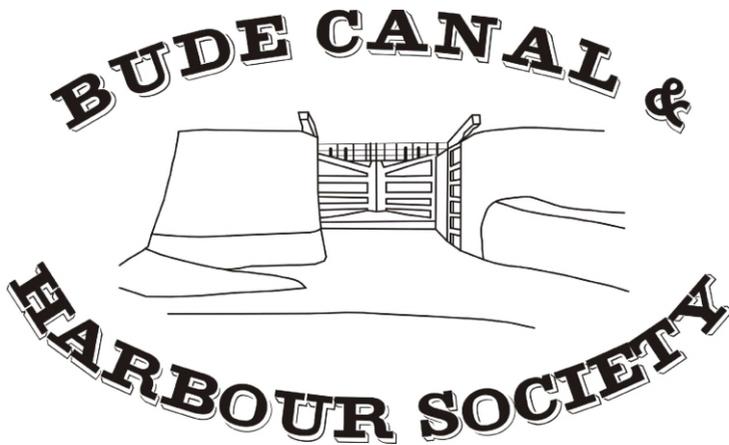
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Cover: Narrowboat Orbis
All Photos: Mike Moore (unless otherwise stated)

Creaks from the chair

First let me explain the reason for the 'STOP PRESS' item. This should have been included in the newsletter and was submitted in time to be included. However, through the mysteries of the internet it was not received by the editor at all. Anyway, further to that, BCHS have managed to get 'Bude Canal' included as an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting of the Bude Community Network Panel of Cornwall Council on Monday 17th October 2016. This panel comprises of Cornwall Council Ward Members plus a representative of the town and parish councils in their area. The aim is to try and ascertain what plan, if any, Cornwall Council has for the future of Bude Canal, in particular the questions of Rodds Bridge and the provision of a slipway/s. Relevant officers should be in attendance. We hope for clarity.

You will also see in this issue items about

- i. AGM 2017
- ii. IWA Restoration raffle 2016

With regard to the AGM the Trustees are keen to expand AGM day. We hope you will be able to support this new venture.

BCHS will be taking part in the IWA Restoration raffle 2016 which made the Society £380 in 2015 by a share in the profit. This year we will also be sending raffle tickets to the members who do not have a hard copy of the 'Tub Boat'. We hope you will support this raffle and help BCHS have a share in the profit whilst supporting the IWA.

Autumn is the time for subscription renewal. Your continued support and kind donations is very much appreciated and permits the Society to do what it can for the continuance of the Bude Canal.

Finally, our Editor, Clive Horton, is looking to retire because of family commitments. Thus BCHS are looking for someone to take on this responsibility to ensure the continuance of 'The Tub Boat'. If you are interested in doing that or know of someone who may be, please contact me via info@bude-canal.co.uk Thank you.

Chris Jewell Chairman

Membership Report

We welcome the following new members who have joined the society since June:

Mr & Mrs J. Dover, Bude who joined while visiting us at the Bude Stratton Heritage Day.

This means that we have only had two new members since the Canal Exhibition in February. Perhaps existing members could encourage their friends to join as the membership numbers have been declining yet again recently due to the failure of some more Standing Order payments which were due on 1st September. At this stage it is not clear whether these payments have been cancelled intentionally by members or whether there is a problem with their bank. It would be helpful if any member who has cancelled their Standing Order intentionally would let me know, otherwise I will be sending them a new Standing Order mandate to reinstate their earlier instruction.

As many of you will realise, this is the time of the year when I have to remind you that subscriptions were due on 1st September for all members except those who joined after 1st June this year. Renewal forms (where appropriate) are included with this newsletter. Members are encouraged to return the Standing Order Form to me as it is a more efficient method of payment for the society and avoids your renewal being overlooked. Membership cards will automatically be sent to members who have already completed Standing Order Mandates and whose payments have been received. Can I also remind those members who are taxpayers and who have not completed a Gift Aid declaration that they can obtain a copy from the website by downloading "The Way Forward".

Thank you for your continued support

Mike Moore Membership Secretary

Castle Heritage Centre, Bude

The Bude-Stratton Town Council has recently employed two new officers who will be responsible for the Castle, its operation and the heritage aspects of the collections held by BSTC.

They are Mr Mark Berridge, Heritage Centre Manager, and Mrs Janine King, the Heritage Development Officer. Mrs King is local to Bude having grown up in Bude and has now returned to Bude. I have had conversations with them about matters in common and hope that BCHS will be able to have a good working relationship with them.

Chris Jewell

Heritage Day 2016

Unfortunately the weather let the event down again and it rained almost all day, which was a great disappointment for all the groups that attended. Most of the groups were able to function within the Parkhouse Centre and the Ivor Potter Hall. BCHS were in Room 1 with Bude Canal Trust Ltd, just

as last year.



We can only hope that 2017 brings better weather. Our thanks to BSTC for holding the event which involves a lot of pre-planning and effort.

Chris Jewell

Update, Rodds Bridge

On 17th October 2016 the 'Bude Canal' is an agenda item for discussion at the Bude Community Network Panel, as a result of a request by BCHS for such a discussion. The aim is to find out 'if Cornwall Council has a plan for the future of the Canal?' CNPs are made up of the local Ward C.Cllrs and representatives from the town and parish councils in the defined area. BCHS has provided background information on the Bude Canal Regeneration Project and what has transpired since 1/4/2009 when Cornwall Council took over the Canal from sea Lock to Helebridge Basin. We await the meeting with interest.

Chris Jewell

Canal Visit

On Wednesday 27th July 2016 the 'Lewdown Past' local history group paid a visit to the Bude Canal. They were on a DIY visit but wanted to visit the Barge Workshop at Helebridge, Near Marhamchurch. I met them at the premises at about 11.45 am and let them in to see the tub boat and the many other exhibits kept in the building. I was able to explain various aspects of the canal and its operation. I left them about 12.45 pm as they ate their packed lunches and contemplated their DIY visit to the Hobbacott Inclined Plane.

Chris Jewell

Presentation

On Wednesday 3rd August 2016 Anne Longley, a BCHS Trustee and also the Co-ordinator of Archive Volunteers at the Castle Heritage Centre Archives, received a bouquet of flowers, a letter of thanks for her voluntary work at the Archives, and a framed photograph of Anne with BCHS Trustees and HRH Prince Charles when he and his wife visited the Castle Heritage in 2015. These were presented by Cllr Biggs, Chairman of BSTC's Heritage and Culture Committee. Anne will continue to work at the Archive Centre but will not be responsible to present reports on the Archive Centre and volunteers to the H&C Committee. This will be the responsibility of the Castle Manager and/or Heritage Development Officer, Mr Berridge or Mrs King respectively.

Well done, Anne.

Chris Jewell

Bude Canal Trust Report

WORK IN PROGRESS SINCE 18th. May.

25th May. We concentrated on clearing vegetation from the canal on either side of Dexbeer road Bridge and refurbishing the directional finger posts. The poor condition of the old stone lead in walls were exposed adding to the list of repair work needed to recreate the historical features of the canal system. The bridge itself, including the arch profile is not of the original design for the passage of Tub Boats but only to accommodate the flow of water to the Filter Beds for a piped drinking supply.



Dexbeer Road Bridge.

An attempt to keep on top of the ground clearance of the Filter Beds was beaten by the very fast growth when regular rain prevented us using the

mower.



Filter Beds

Into June and a temporary adjustment to the boardwalk approaching Burmsdon was needed to provide mower access through a very soft muddy section to keep the Permissive Path section open. Again this proved insufficient due to wet weather coinciding with our scheduled work days.



Boardwalk

The month continued with a fine dry day during the second week with some weed and sludge clearance north of Virworthy Bridge, a bird screen on the door to the Virworthy building



Bird Screen

and the start of contracted rebuilding of Broomhill accommodation bridge.



Crumbling wall

The footpath / adjoining land boundary fence has been gradually pushed over by brambles and other vegetation and work started to replace 50 broken fence posts.



Replacing Broken Fence Posts

At the end of 'Flaming June' ? the remaining stonework under the long since removed bridge at Lishaperhill was cleaned up to examine the level of actual deterioration that had occurred.

On into July with hopes for better weather, a walking survey discovered a number of trees and branches had been partially or fully blown down, with some blocking the footpath and others having fallen into the canal. Those blocking a clear footpath access were removed after being classified as urgent whilst the others, which if left, could root themselves again in the canal profile will be worked on at the end of the bird breeding season.



Overhanging branch to clear

After looking at the continuing repair work to Broomhill Bridge



Broomhill Bridge Repairs

the repairs to the fence at Virworthy were completed.

The remainder of July and into August was taken up clearing intrusive weed and rushes from the unloading pool at Virworthy, opening up areas of open water round the central strip.



Clearing Intrusive Reed And Rushes

The previously hidden pair of Moorhens and their four chicks were soon seen swimming and feeding quite unconcerned along with an eel.



Moorhen And Chicks

A combination of contracted and volunteer time was put to plugging the recurring leaks and reinforcing the bank either side of the sluice at Virworthy and the boardwalk below the Incline Plane was extended by DCC Footpath Management. To round the month off a group of ten walkers from the Holsworthy Hamlets trekked the full length from The Lower Tamar Lake through to the end of the Permissive Path. Thoroughly enjoyed the walk and appreciated the efforts of the Trust and its volunteers in maintaining this thread of tranquillity running through the Devon countryside.



Holsworthy Hamlets Walkers
All Text And Photos Mike Degnan

No fool like an old fool

About two years ago, I had a desire to put to sea in my 60ft cruiser narrow boat. The desire was spurred by three events; completing a trip down the tidal Thames into the estuary, reading the acclaimed book *Narrow Dog to Carcassonne*, and several articles on YouTube. The boat was as far as I could see, unsuitable in its present form: the front deck and rear deck were open to the elements. The cruiser stern had no shelter from the weather and was likely to be swamped, in pitching or rolling sea. The windows were also seen as vulnerable. The engine was inadequate as we had discovered on the tidal Thames. So began the transformation: We encased the foredeck with 4mm steel and welded a high bow to the gunwale, along with some extra bollards. The windows were covered with rectangular and outward protruding half boxes with portholes. The stern was next to be addressed. Having a liking for Dutch barges, I built a wheelhouse, and engine room, some 6.5 metres long. This was somewhat challenging, given the boat's lack of symmetry. No good datum point could be found; each side of the boat varied by as much as 30mm in height and length. As such the wheelhouse could not be fabricated elsewhere. We were moored to a (only just!) floating pontoon, and could not afford to dry dock the boat. Tenacity prevailed and the task was finally completed. I also had to fabricate a false floor inside to enable a clear view out of the windscreen. The air gap increased by 600mm, making it 2mtrs. The engine came off EBay, previously fitted to a Daf 45 truck 5.9ltrs and 160bhp. We purchased a new gear box, an industrial unit built in North Korea. The installation and marinisation I carried out myself. A new engine bed was also fabricated. My wife Vicki was gainfully employed refitting the boat. Having lost some twenty foot of living space the bedroom was moved to the bow, all the other accommodation was moved forward. Surprisingly the extra weight of the new installed engine/gearbox some 1400kg did not affect the trim of Orbis. A hydraulic steering system was sourced and installed.

During the build, I had read an article in "Towpath" about the Bude Canal in Cornwall, having both a Sea lock and a short navigable canal. This was to become our destination of choice.

Lee Bond Narrowboat Orbis

To be continued...

Update of work carried out at Whalesborough Lock



The work has now been completed. Gabions have been set into the bank to provide reinforcement and the level of the bank has been raised to avoid over-spilling. Matting has been laid over the top of the gabions which has been impregnated with wild flower seed mix. The seed has already germinated. This work will help to stabilise the bank and it supersedes the original plan which was to install a new spillway at this point. However the costs involved were prohibitive and this cheaper option was felt to be more appropriate.

Gareth Cann, Countryside Ranger, Cormac

AGM 2017 – 'Something different'

As you will know, traditionally, our AGM has been a business meeting followed by a speaker, usually now on a Sunday afternoon at the end of February. There is nothing wrong with that arrangement. However, for some time, I have felt that the Society should endeavour to expand the event to make it more of a day out for all of us.

Recently I discussed this with my fellow Trustees and it has been agreed to 'try something different' for our AGM in February 2017.

The plan is to have a day which will be held at the Castle Heritage Centre using the Richard Willoughby Gallery.

The probable day will be Sunday 26th February 2017 and the itinerary will

be along the following format

10am	Start. Coffee and introductions.
10.30	Members activities ie view archives? local walk? short presentation?
12 noon	Presentation by guest speaker
1pm	Soup and cold buffet lunch incl. tea/coffee (must book and pay)
2.30	AGM – Business meeting followed by refreshments and questions
3.45pm	Close
4pm	Disperse

The buffet lunch will need to be booked and paid for before the AGM. See the enclosed booking form. Please complete and return by 1st December 2016 with the appropriate remittance. The buffet lunch will be from 1pm until 2.30pm. Full details of times etc of the itinerary will be sent out with the AGM notice/papers with the Tub Boat issued in January.

The AGM will be held during the period of another exhibition put on by BCHS – 24th February to 2nd March 2017. This will help to ensure that BCHS has the sole use of the Gallery on Sunday 26th February 2017. We hope that you will engage with us in this 'new' venture and support the expanded AGM.

Chris Jewell

Coach trip to Tiverton Photo Report



View From The North



Then and now showing a horse pulling a sandtruck up from the beach.

Above is the first of what I hope will become a regular feature in future editions of the Tub Boat, where we look back at parts of the canal in former times and compare it with a current photograph.

Having a clear idea of where you are heading has always been important in my jobs as merchant navy deck officer, teacher and now tour guide but you always need to be prepared to adapt and innovate on your way to your ultimate goal. Therefore I'm delighted to see the proposed enhancement of the next AGM into a full day event. I will also be interested to hear the outcome of the October meeting on the future of the lower section of the canal controlled by Cornwall County Council.

Finally a suggestion. Is there any mileage in the society organising a pre Christmas meal with talk on the newly opened Barge Restaurant moored near the sea lock. If you think so then please make sure you let a committee member know.

Clive Horton Editor

