

THE TUB BOAT

Newsletter of the Bude Canal & Harbour Society

No. 75

Spring 2016



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Forthcoming Events:

- Sunday 15th May Bude Motor Classic Show with BCHS Sales stall
- Saturday 18th June History Day in the Memorial Hall, Holsworthy organised by the Holsworthy History Society and the Devon History Society with displays and sales stand
- Saturday 25th June Annual coach trip to Tiverton for Museum and Horse-drawn Boat Trip to Sampford Peverell leaving Bude at 9am. Cost £23. Booking forms to be returned by 15th May.
- Sunday 24th July Bude Stratton Heritage Day with BCHS Sales stall
- Saturday 20th Aug Bude Carnival with BCHS Sales stall
- Saturday 27th Aug BCHS Sales stall in Marquee at RNLI Day

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

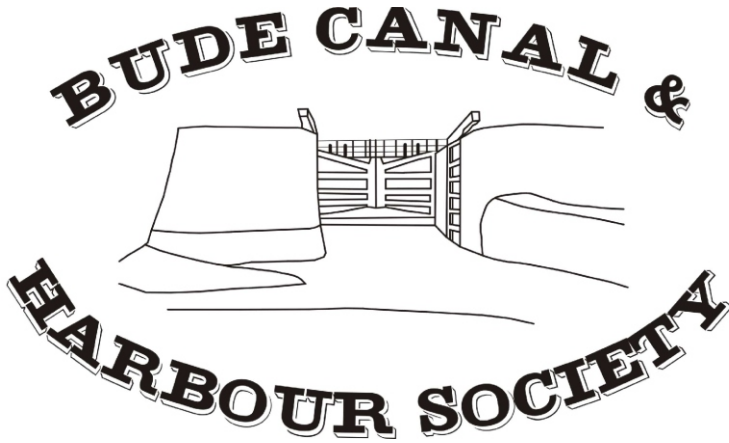
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Cover: Hay Incline leading up from the river Severn towards the Blists Hill Museum near Ironbridge, Staffordshire
 All Photos: Mike Moore(unless otherwise stated)

Creaks from the chair

Since the last edition we have moved into 2016, had a mild and wet winter, held our 2016 AGM and our Canal Exhibition, in conjunction with our friends Bude Canal Trust Ltd and Bude-Stratton and District Old Cornwall Society. I believe these events went well and both were held in the Willoughby Gallery of the Heritage Centre at the Castle, Bude, which is owned and run by Bude-Stratton Town Council. As the Society will not be using the facilities at the Falcon Hotel due to the need for a substantial commercial charge for our AGM event it is very likely that future AGMs will be held at this location again, with some modifications to the logistics of the event. I should say that the Falcon Hotel is still the venue for the Trustees monthly meetings and we are indebted to Mr and Mrs Browning, the owners, for their past generosity in allowing the AGM to be held on their premises ever since I became a Trustee in 1993.

In November 2015 Mrs Lesley Moores, our longstanding Town Council representative, resigned from the Town Council. However, she agreed to be a Trustee and was elected as such at the AGM. The new Town Council representative is Councillor Julia Bryson who is also a member of the Council's Heritage and Culture Committee, which is the Committee that our Society deals with on matters generally of mutual interest. On behalf of the Trustees and members I welcome Cllr Bryson and hope that we can continue to have a jointly beneficial relationship.

On other longstanding matters the situation with Cornwall Council remains the same; it is now five months since Trustees Mike Moore and myself asked at a public meeting, the leader of the Cornwall Council, Cllr John Pollard, questions about completion of the Canal Regeneration. We emphasised the need to formulate a project for the Bude Canal and Valley, which is an important part of the tourism infrastructure, by accessing EU funds allocated to Cornwall. Also, how in the recent past there has been no proper feedback from Cornwall Council. Cllr Pollard assured us that he would look at these matters and ensure that a reply from himself or an appropriate officer would be forthcoming. A suitable follow up enquiry is being formulated.

With regard to the Higher Wharf Action Group (HiWAG). There has been a meeting, the main concern of which was to sort out access to the monies being held. The problem appears to be an administrative matter with the Co-op Bank. Once this has been cleared the group agreed that they must consider their options in view of the stalemate that exists with our perceived vision for the Higher Wharf, Bude.

Finally some good news and thank-you's. As a result of BCHS taking part in the IWA's Restoration Raffle 2015, we recently received a cheque for £374 as our share of the profits. As previously stated this has been added to the ring-fenced monies held in Account 3 – Project Fund; additionally the Trustees have agreed to add £26 to make the sum of £400 to be transferred, making the total ring-fenced in this account up to £1900.



Rodds Bridge in 2002

This is earmarked to be used towards the replacement of Rodds Bridge to allow navigation to take place on the whole of the watered section between Bude and Helebridge. So, if you purchased Raffle tickets sent with your hard copy newsletter during mid 2015, thank you very much. The Trustees have agreed to partake in the 2016 Raffle which I hope you will be able to support.

Chris Jewell Chairman, BCHS

Membership Report

We welcome the following new members who have joined the society at our exhibition at the Castle in February:

Mike Johnson from Bude who had previously been a member from 2008 to 2011. Thank you for your additional generous donation.

Margaret Burch, Poughill

Valerie Cleaver, Bude (Life Member)

Although there have been a few more renewals some members have still not paid up for 2015/16.

Could members who have given us their e-mail addresses please remember to send any updates or amendments to members@bude-canal.co.uk so that we can continue to notify you when the newsletter is available on-line and for us to send any other notifications or booking forms etc.

Thank you for your assistance and for your continued support.

Mike Moore Treasurer & Membership Secretary

AGM 2016 Report

This year the AGM was held on the 21st February in the Willoughby Gallery at the Heritage Centre, The Castle, Bude. The meeting started at 2.30pm.

The Chairman welcomed members and guests. After the minutes of the 2015 AGM had been accepted and signed, the Chairman reported on certain matters that the Society hold as important

- i. The lack of progress in getting Cornwall Council to complete the Regeneration Project and the lack of response to questions raised in October 2015
- ii. The situation regarding HiWAG and the need for the group to consider its future this year
- iii. The good news of £374 received from IWA following BCHS's participation in their 2015 Restoration Raffle.

The Secretary then reported on the activities of the Society during the last year. The Charity Commission returns are now up to date after being in arrears and we have full access to their website again, and this year's returns will be straightforward. The Secretary summarised the year's activities including 12 Trustee meetings; sales stalls at various events; talks and visits for other groups; representation on HiWAG, BCT Partnership and BVMAG; the summer coach trip to Totnes and the River Dart; and the manning of the Barge Workshop at Helebridge on Sundays from the end of July until September. The Society has also been pressing BSTC to improve the display and interpretation of the artefacts at the Barge Workshop, and have identified a mills expert to assist with interpretation of the tide mill timbers recovered from the river. This is with the Council to progress. He also reported that the Society website is in the process of being updated and that this year's coach trip will be on 25th of June to Tiverton museum and a horse-drawn barge trip on the Grand Western Canal.

The Treasurer's report showed that the Society continues to be solvent. The balances in the accounts as at 31/12/2015 were

Account 1 – Working account	£1980.88	
Account 2 – Educational	£724.44	
Account 3 – Project	£2812.75	
Account 4 – Canal Day	£450.93	(this

account is static)

The accounts were accepted. The Inspector of Accounts was accepted as Leonard and Co, this being the Company who recently took over the Bude office of Crest Accountants.

The following Trustees were elected

Anne Longley, Stan Noakes as per three year rotation

Mike Moore, having been co-opted in 2015

Lesley Moores, election from nomination.

The business meeting then finished and was followed by refreshments and then a presentation 'Maritime Shortcuts', superbly given by Colin Vosper, a member and friend from Torquay. In short this was an observation of the desire to have trans-peninsula waterways in the south-west in the 1800s. Five were proposed including the Bude Canal but none were achieved. Additionally he highlighted the two more world famous such short cuts – the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal. An excellent presentation which was well received and appreciated.

PS. Any member who wishes to have a copy of the minutes of the 2015 AGM or the accounts for 2015 should make contact with the Society.

Chris Jewell

Bude Canal Trust WORK IN PROGRESS SINCE 18th. November 2015

all text and photos by Mike Degnan

On the last week in November we finished tidying up around the Virworthy Wharf area, cutting back the vegetation round the bridge, the roadside boundary wall and unloading bay. We also removed a rather dilapidated stile, which will be replaced by a new self closing and locking gate for easier access. Extra support was added to the latch post of the five bar gate as this had moved out of line with the closing mechanism.



Bridge & wall cleared

Unloading bay cleared

Latch post support

Survey and valuation reports were carried out on the Virworthy Wharf

building early in December in order to obtain updated insurance cover for this historical building.

Bad weather interfered with any work we had hoped to do until the second week of December when we found several branches overhanging the footpath between Puckland farm and Broomhill bridge. The day was spent removing these and others which due to the recent high winds were in a weakened condition.



Windblown branches



More branch damage

Into 2016, a dry day on the 6th January and a change of location back to Virworthy Filter Beds found a similar wind damage situation requiring removal of some smaller trees. This was followed by general tidying up and burning of brash. Has anyone else noticed the natural resident stag sculpture lurking in the bushes just off the footpath?



Broken trunk



Burning of brash

As with many of the bridges, the visible section either side of Dexbeer roadbridge tends to get heavily overgrown and silted up, some clearance work was started here but more is needed within the limits of hands on rather than with mechanical assistance. Unfortunately the lead-in walls were not rebuilt during the conversion from a working tub boat bridge to the current design and these are now in a very poor state or have totally disappeared. Among the first signs of spring with the snowdrops emerging, work has now been completed on the repair / rebuild of the stonework at Gadlock (Cradlock) bridge with others that are also in need of some TLC now in the pipeline.

Towards the end of January further work was carried out to maintain a

clear footpath between Gadlock (Cradlock) bridge and Wooda bridge and the hedgerow is probably in need of laying in sections in the near future.



Dexbeer roadbridge Repaired Gadlock bridge Potential hedge laying
February, yet another rare dry day encouraged us to trek our gear down from Vealand, beyond the Incline Plane where we found some very large branches precariously hanging down on the approach to the boardwalk. With some rope, a bit of ingenuity and some manual effort these were finally wrenched free without having to climb the trees.



Boardwalk section



Cutting up fallen branches

Although the canal profile offers a convenient walkway round past the picnic table and benches at the Filter Bed the line of the original towpath on top of the bank was reopened up to offer a choice of direction to follow.



Original towpath line



Last stump removal

Annual Coach Trip on Saturday 25th June 2016.

This year, for our annual outing, we have arranged a coach trip to Tiverton to visit the Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life followed by a boat trip on the Grand Western Canal. There may also be time to explore the town and have lunch before boarding the coach for the short trip to the canal basin. Here we will board the horse-drawn boat for our trip to Sampford Peverell where the coach will be waiting for us to return to Bude. The fare for the trip is £23 each excluding admission to the museum which is £3.50/£4.50 payable on the day. If you are interested in this trip could you please complete the enclosed booking form which gives a complete itinerary. The coach leaves Marhamchurch at 8.45am and Bude at 9.00am arriving back at about 7.30pm. For further information please contact me on 01288 361878 or e-mail bude.canal@gmail.com.

We look forward to a good day out on the 25th June.

Betty Moore Events Secretary

From recent editions of the Bude and Stratton Post

Interesting items from recent editions of the Bude & Stratton Post

Edition dated 28/01/16

31 January 1976 - Council workmen at Bude have this week been busily engaged on the erection of a set of navigational aids designed to help shipping enter safely the North Cornish Port. The aids will come into operation on Sunday. On Saturday, for the last time, the red flag - replaced with a red light at night - will be lowered from the flagpole on Efford Downs.

26 January 1946 - Bude-Stratton Urban Council are faced with the expenditure of £35,000 to make safe the Tamar Lake Reservoir dam - or with building a new reservoir at a cost of up to £60,000. They have decided on the latter course, but before deciding on the new site, are to meet ministry and county officials to see if they would wish to take surplus water from the reservoir.

Edition dated 18/02/16

21 February 1976 - Stored deep in the lower rooms of the Castle at Bude, home for many years of the former Bude-Stratton Urban Council, were ancient and historical documents relating to all kinds of council business. Among the many papers were some relating to Parliamentary Acts covering the Bude Canal and Harbour but all of these appear to have mysteriously vanished, Bude-Stratton Town Council was told on Friday.

19 February 1916 - The SS Nettleton went ashore in the early hours of Friday morning just north of Duckpool. When daylight arrived, Messrs

Frank Saunders and W Bullen took a line thrown from the ship and soon brought the crew of 20 ashore. They were taken to the cottage of Mr & Mrs W Heard and also to Mr Tape's cottage at Coombe Hill, where they were shown every kindness.

Happy to take up two committee posts

Jack-of-all-trades sprung to mind at the full meeting of Bude and Stratton Town Council when one councillor was elected on to not one but two outside groups. Under the 'appointment of members to outside bodies' section of the agenda, councillors at the Parkhouse Centre were to decide who should fill one vacancy on Bude Canal and Harbour Society, and another on the Coastal Assets Committee of Cornwall Council.

After some discussion, Cllr Julia Bryson said she was happy to sit on the first vacancy and she was duly elected. When it came to the second vacancy, without an influx of volunteers, Cllr Bryson said she would be happy to be the town council's representative on that committee as she already attends the meetings anyway. With that said, she was again duly elected with all members voting in favour.

Town honours the late Bryan Dudley Stamp

A memorial bench to honour Bryan Dudley Stamp for his many contributions to Bude has been erected. The town council's heritage and culture committee last year decided a memorial bench with Mr Dudley Stamp's name and plaque should be prepared.



After discussion, with former town councillors and people who knew Mr Dudley Stamp, the Castle's reading room has been renamed the Bryan Dudley Stamp Room with a plaque to show its new title. Mr Dudley Stamp's contributions to the town are many and varied, with his legacy prominent throughout Bude. He was elected to Bude-Stratton Town Council in 1979, and was chairman in both 1982 and 1983. He represented many of the council's committees, and attended his last

meeting on April 5, 1999. A member of the Bude Museum Committee, Mr Dudley Stamp was a key figure in guiding it from a small amateur folk exhibition to full registration and being recognised as the top local authority museum in North Cornwall. For this, he received a framed commendation from North Cornwall District Council in 1999 — 'Outstanding Service to the Bude-Stratton History Museum'. Following an initial meeting with Michael Gurney in 1989, he spearheaded the Goldsworthy Gurney Bi-Centenary Exhibition, eventually launched in 1993. It travelled widely, throughout Cornwall before going national and heading to Wales, where the exhibition was used to expand the story of Gurney and his steam carriage. Mr Dudley Stamp developed an excellent relationship with Peter and Michael Gurney, who donated various artifacts to the council, including the valuable model of the Gurney Steam Carriage, which was especially made.

Bryan's son Jonathon cutting the ribbon to name "The Bryan Dudley Stamp Reading Room" with ex-councillor Val Newman and the Chairman of the Heritage & Culture Committee of Bude Stratton Council, Cllr Allan Biggs.



This led to the restoring and renaming of the then council chamber, and eventually a Gurney Day. He was subsequently the person the BBC approached when they put together a programme based on Bude Light. Mr Dudley Stamp also wrote many books on Bude and Stratton, which the museum held, and he was often the first port of call for many researchers. He also organised celebrations to commemorate 100 years since the railway arrived in Bude, and the erection of a plaque in Bulleid Way — site of the old railway station — was one of his many ideas. Mr Dudley Stamp was very much involved with the return visits of the American Rangers stationed at Bude during the Second World War prior to D-Day. He also played an important role in the town council's D-Day and VJ-Day commemorations in 1994 and 1995. He was the inaugural chairman of the Bude Action Team, established in 1992, and through this was pivotal in the town council's purchase of the nationally important Stamford Hill battle

site — having been one of the driving forces behind the annual re-enactment of the Battle of Stamford Hill by the Sealed Knot for some years. For many years, Mr Dudley Stamp was a member — and later president — of the Bude Area Tourist Board and a member of the carnival committee, as well as a long-term member of Bude Canal Society, Canal and Harbour Society and Canal Trust.



Group photo at the new memorial bench (Back l to R Deputy Mayor of BSTC, Cllr Frank Partridge; ex-cllr Val Newman; Mayor of BSTC, Cllr Lea Deely; Chairman of BCHS Chris Jewell; Events Secretary BCHS Betty Moore; Sitting on bench, Jonathan & Gina Stamp

It was the renaming of the A39 — the Atlantic Highway — that probably gave Mr Dudley Stamp the most pride. A concept originally raised in 1988, he travelled far and wide to press his case, knowing the 'branding' would raise the profile of the A39 and the towns on it, as well as tempting people to use the coast road rather than the main trunk road. His hard work paid off in 2002, when an official opening ceremony was carried out by the then North Cornwall MP Paul Tyler. The heritage and culture committee last month heard an update on the bench and plaque from promotions, marketing and events manager Andrew Morgan: "The bench has now been completed, with the plaque on the bench too, and the separate plaque to go above the reading room — Bryan Dudley Stamp room — door is also ready. Now we just need to sort a date for the unveiling, and we'll do teas, coffees and biscuits in the café afterwards." The committee resolved to hold the official unveiling of the bench and renaming of the Castle's reading room at a date yet to be decided and Mr Morgan to contact the invitees. The town council's recreation committee last year

decided the bench was to be positioned on the right side of the Castle green if walking towards the Castle from Ergue-Gaberic Way.
N.B. The unveiling was at 11.00 on Wednesday 23/03/16 for invited guests.

BCHS Exhibition at the Castle Bude 26 February to 10 March 2016



Gerald Fry, Lucille Opie and Alan McIntosh at the recent BCHS exhibition



View from the North



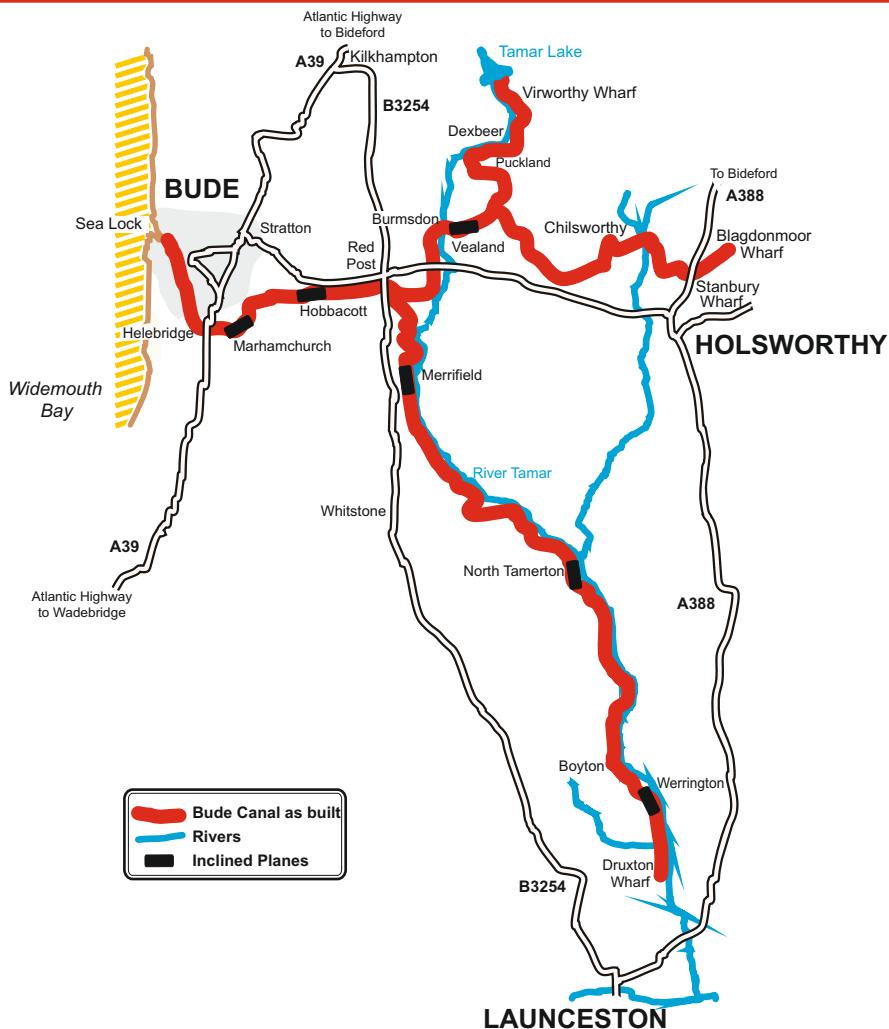
A wedding is always a very special occasion and marks the start of what will hopefully be a long and fruitful relationship. However, it also marks a significant change in relationship for the parents of the happy couple with their children. Many of you have known Craig our son and indeed Fiona our daughter since they were babes in arms attending Bude Canal Society functions. My how the photo above shows how they have grown up. Now with Craig living over 5000 miles away in California we can't just pop down the road to visit. This also means that editorship of the Tub Boat will be much more difficult with the need to be away for longer periods visiting the children either in America or France. So this is an initial request to see who else may be interested in taking the job on. I will not stop until a replacement has been found and will give a comprehensive handover to whoever comes forward. It can be a very rewarding position when the articles arrive before the deadline. It's also a vital means of keeping those members up to date who don't live in the Bude area. So if you're interested drop me an e-mail or even better send me an article as well.

Wishing you all the best in the forthcoming season. Do try to get out onto the canal and support as best you can the society's various activities that are coming up over the next few months.

Clive Horton Editor

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