

STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK

(A Community Interest Company)

NEWSLETTER Number 18

DECEMBER 2012

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Patron:- The Lord Stafford, DL, FRAGS

President:- David Kidney

Vice President:- Jeremy Lefroy MP

Objective: To promote the restoration of the historic river and canal waterway linking the county town of Stafford to the national waterways network for the benefit of the community and all interested groups.

January 2014

Welcome to all our readers! This, the first newsletter of 2014, is my first as the new editor. I must thank Norman for all his previous editions and for his help in making the change-over a smooth transition. I will take just a few lines to 'introduce' myself. John, my husband, is the current membership secretary and by his gentle persuasion - or was it coercion - I became a life member of SRL last year in my own right. I love writing and already produce a little newsletter for our land-based community. However, computing I am still learning, so such things as inserting photos into newsletters might take a while. I love boating and also walking so interest in SRL is at least two-fold. I'm also involved with local Baswich community groups so anything that benefits Baswich, which SRL does, is also of interest. I hope to make the newsletters informative and to keep people abreast of work parties and other 'happenings' as well as perhaps inspiring members to become pro-active! That's me and my vision. Please do let me know if you want anything included or if you don't like anything I write! I'm not adverse to criticism. My email is veerose@hotmail.co.uk and should emails end up in my junk box if you put 'SRL newsletter' in the subject box I'll open them!

Chairmans Report.

I would like to thank on behalf of all the officers and members of the Stafford Riverway Link Norman Cooper for his work producing the newsletters since they began. He is still a

lifelong Member and attends workparties whenever he and his wife Barbara can. We look forward to their continuing participation as the project progresses.

I would also like to welcome Vee as our new newsletter editor and producer who has been a staunch supporter and workparty helper (See photo on website). We look forward to a long association with Vee in helping the project forward.

We are still looking for volunteers of all sorts to help with fund raising, workparties and anyone with specific expertise in construction, planning, environmental issues, bio-diversity, engineering and various other functions.

For those of you who are not aware, we are working closely with a group set up to promote the regeneration of Waterways and all the benefits they can bring. The Group is called:- Staffordshire Waterways Group. I will give further information on this in the next Newsletter.

We need to maintain the area we can currently access, although we cannot as yet start building works for the basin and with regards to this, we would be most grateful for anyone who can spare an hour or two on our workparty days.

I would like to conclude by thanking all our supporters and look forward to seeing some of you at the next workparty.

Ivor Hind (Chairperson)

Dec. 1st 2013 Work Party

What a great end to the 2013 season! 14 volunteers turned up including some who weren't SRL members. One, at least, had seen the notice near to the site with details on so such 'advertising' obviously pays. John and I had taken Thistledown along quite early in order to provide refreshments and a loo. By 9.40 a.m. there were already a few folk gathered and yet the advertised start time was 10.00a.m. How's that for enthusiasm? The main jobs tackled were mending the barbed-wire fence which the cattle had loosened, re-clearing 'the site' and burning the dead scrub etc, weed-killing and planting a few trees within the hedge. As well as tightening the existing wires on the fence two more strands were added for most of the fencing with just a small amount left to do because the wire ran out.

The end result should, not only deter the cattle but also make it look as if, once again, SRL means business. If you're reading this and feel tempted to come along next time, you'll be made most welcome. There was a nice feeling of camaraderie, hot drinks on request and even chocolate biscuits courtesy of Ivor, our chairman. Glorious sunshine was an added bonus!

I understand that our historian, David Jones, has some interesting information. Future issues should, hopefully, include some contributions from him.

Finally, our next work party will be on Sunday 16th February, 9.30 a.m. – 12.00/12.30 ish. Thistledown should be there providing a loo and hot drinks. We hope to see you and if you could email myself or the membership secretary to let us know, we'd be grateful!

Best wishes, Vee.