

STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK

NEWSLETTER number 8 - NOVEMBER 2009

Firstly, I would like to say welcome to ALL the new members that have joined since the last newsletter.

A presentation was given to the Staffs & Worcs Canal Society on 8th June at their Monthly meetings just prior to the A.G.M. which ensured a good audience, and, one that know their canals.

Ivor & I attended a meeting at the Council Offices in Stafford on August 13th with Roger Gatensbury, Economic Regeneration Manager and representatives from Planning and Tourism, another SRL presentation was given and warmly received, CD's of the presentation were offered and they were accepted for future reference.

The SRL held a walk on Sunday 13th September (three in fact)(our guides were David Jones at 10am, Norman Cooper at Noon & Patricia & Bob Bowden at 2pm) from Stafford to Baswich along the Sow and up to the Staffs & Worcs Canal where the Link branches off, and every guided walk was to capacity. Drinks were provided by the canal before the walkers boarded narrow boats courtesy of "Anglo-Welsh", "Teddesley Boat Company Ltd" and Ivor Hinds family with "Red Deer" en-route to Stafford Boat Club for more drinks and hospitality where a bus was waiting to return the walkers to Stafford, courtesy of "Arriva". Also supporting our cause was P&J Travel with a mini-bus at Baswich.

Many hours of work were put into this day and the sun shone down to complete a very nice day. There are too many people to name for putting an enormous effort into making this day a success but be aware your efforts were so successful, the Chairman wants to do it again next year.

Prior to this walk a mini-dig took place to uncover brickwork at the basin and the entrance to the aqueduct, also the Lock house, and on the day all these were well signposted. We also have found what we believe to be the brickwork/foundations of the Lock and further digging will take place when we have been given permission and have Insurance to cover.

Perhaps a Digging Work party can take place in 2010 so watch this space.

Next year, 2010 the Commodore of the Wolverhampton Boat Club Carol Baker is contemplating going to Tixall for her Commodores Cruise and discussions are taking place for the boaters on this cruise to moor at Baswich and walk the Link into Stafford Town and maybe do some light shopping and perhaps a lunchtime

meal and a drink, before they continue their journey. This indeed will replicate what the Link is all about (without the Boats)

Also this year 2009 the SRL went to the I.W.A. festival of boats and on the Sunday gave yet another presentation (Edition 4, that means slowly we change each edition hoping that the presentation gets better with every edition) To begin with the audience was poor, being mainly made up of SRL members (that doesn't sound right to me) but, slowly the audience increased in size to a point where there was standing room only and a circle listening from outside by the door. But, it was the quality of audience that was so encouraging with blue shirted I.W.A. members to the fore asking the right sort of restoration questions and getting from Ivor our Chairman, the answers to those far reaching questions. (I have just booked the same slot for next years I.W.A. festival to be held at Beale Park and was pleasantly surprised to be asked if the SRL would do a further slot if asked.) Also in 2010 the SRL is planning to have a presence on the field with a Marquee to be manned by our members. If you fancy an hour or so you will be made most welcome, drinks and other comforts will be available as we hope to have electricity in the Marquee.

I would just like to mention that nearly all members have renewed their subscriptions this year (currently they run from April 1st to the following March 31st) but if you have forgotten, please contact Bob with some money as our continued progress in this restoration is costing more with such items as publicity leaflets, Insurance and I.W.A. corporate member fees etc. The SRL has been very fortunate this past year to recruit some new members to the committee, Stella Machin filling a very important role as Secretary, Joe Lockwood going into funding and John Mountfort currently spending day upon day sorting out the Community interest Company and who's expertise in taking Stafford Boat Club forward is legendary and without doubt their roles with the SRL can only increase momentum.

I am sure I have forgotten to say something but for the moment I cannot remember what it is, but, then, there is the next newsletter hopefully coming to you in the Spring of 2010.

Thank you ALL for your continued support, you are really appreciated and I tell you, this LINK is going to happen.

Norman Cooper

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