

THE TUB BOAT

Newsletter of the Bude Canal & Harbour Society

No. 84

Summer 2018



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Events for 2018

- Sunday 29th July Bude Stratton Heritage Festival from 11am to 4pm. Tables booked in the Ivor Potter Hall at The Parkhouse Centre.
Saturday 11th August Coach trip to Falmouth. Fully booked.
Saturday 25th August Booked two tables in the marquee for the RNLI Table-Top sale which is open from 10am to after 4pm on the Castle Grounds.

Events for 2019

- 16th to 28th February Exhibition at the Heritage Centre, The Castle, Bude entitled "Bude Harbour & Canal – the early days". This is part of the celebrations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the start of building work on the Bude Canal on 23 July 1819.
- Sunday 24th February AGM at Bude Heritage Centre, The Castle, Bude
- Tuesday 23rd July A Commemorative Buffet has been provisionally booked at The Falcon Hotel including entertainment.
- Sunday 28th July Bude Stratton Heritage Festival including commemorative celebrations for the 200th Anniversary.

Contributions for the next edition of the Tub Boat should be sent as an e-mail attachment to walton50@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 15th September 2018

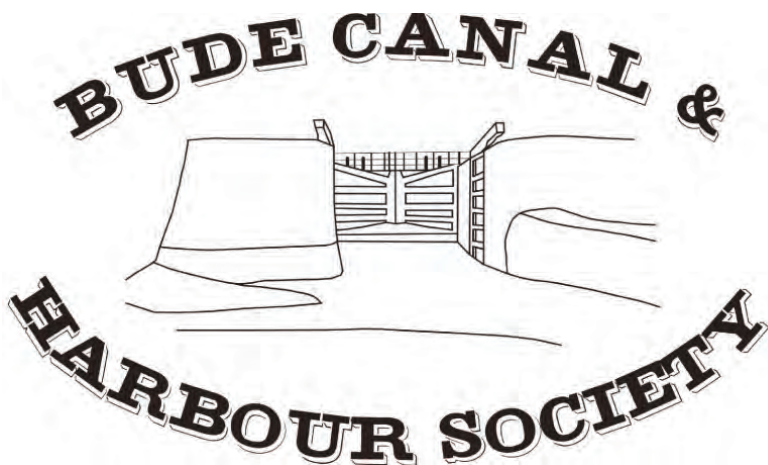
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	Membership Secretary	Mike Moore	
	Events Secretary	Betty Moore	
	Minuting Secretary	Vacancy	
	Other trustees	Lucille Opie,	Anne Longley

The Tub Boat Editor (non-trustee) Chris Walton

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.

We Support:





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Front Page; View out to sea from behind the Castle (Mike Moore)

“Creaks from the Chair”

You may not have noticed but the last issue of ‘The Tub Boat’ no 83 was delayed by several weeks. This was a mix of logistics and being sure that BCHS had a proper understanding of the new law in relation to Data Control. The General Data Protection Regulations, which came into force on 25th May 2018, required societies like BCHS to review how they kept and used data collected from our members, particularly personal e-mail addresses. The necessary updates have been done and, as always, if any member has any concerns about what information is kept by BCHS about them please make contact. The main thing to note is that BCHS does not collect or trade data with any other bodies or persons.

During May I did some filmed interviews for Cornwall Stress-free Television, an internet TV company based in Camelford. The final version of about 20 minutes (not all me) is now online for viewing, it is called ‘The ups and downs of Bude Canal’ and is about the use of the sea lock and inclined planes. DVD copies may be available at a later date and is yet to be confirmed. See <http://cornwallstressfreetelevision.com>

We continue to plan for the 2019 bi-centenary and hope to have a reasonable amount of events during that year to celebrate that anniversary.

Chris Jewell

Membership Report

We welcome the following new member who has joined the society since March:

Bob Weafer, Redditch

Unfortunately, we have recently lost a long established member. John Brown from Cheltenham passed away in May. The photo shows a young John on a boat, which we understand was the Ceres, moored in the lower wharf at Bude. John visited Bude many times and frequently attended the society’s AGMs with his wife. We extend our condolences to his family.

Although there have been a few more renewals some members have still not paid up for 2017/18. 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

Bude Canal Trust Report

Work in Progress from April 2018 to June 2018

April 2018

Clearing vegetation from the remaining support walls of the old accommodation bridge at Aldercott was carried out, If this part of the archaeological history is to be retained some stonework repair and re-pointing will be required.



A general tidy up was carried out around the area of Virworthy Wharf with removal of weed and replacement of stones under the spillway.



Several sections of the footpath between Virworthy Wharf and the Lower Tamar Lake have sunk and consequently collected large amount of rain water which has churned up into soft mud. The majority of this was removed and plans are in place to infill with new road scalping.



The last of the brash burning was carried out towards the middle of the month along the Puckland section and a large patch of Marsh Marigolds indicated the start of the arrival of spring



One of our volunteers walked with a group from the Lewdown History Soc. Who all appreciated the upkeep of the Aqueduct Trail



May 2018

Once again, initially under the high rainfall conditions a new leak has developed in the wharf area and is continuing despite the long spell of dry weather which is tending to indicate a new problem is in the bed of the basin rather than round the spillway.

Within all the investigation work that has occurred round the old adit from the site of the Wheel-pit at the top of the Incline Plane it was discovered that a small number of bats were using it as a winter roost and a gate is being manufacture to prevent further entry and make this a secure site.

Regular mowing is carried out along the footpath and on occasions we find cattle having escaped from neighbouring farmland.

It has been suggested by the land owners that this is being caused by walkers leaving the footpath gates open. If this is the case the installation of the new gates should prevent this in the future. On one occasion damage to the footpath hedges and retaining boundary banks by livestock still remains unexplained.



A large tree in the vicinity of Dunsdon Nature Reserve was removed after falling across the footpath

With the shortage of volunteers in the middle of the month due to conflicting appointments, no work was carried out but resumed into the first week of June.

June 2018

After ensuring there was no wildlife being affected, removal of tree stumps and old roots from the canal profile was completed along the now dried out Vealand section



Bude Canal Trust

Members will be aware that regular reports on the activities of Bude Canal Trust appear in The Tub Boat, and many will be aware of the role of the Trust and its objectives. However, there may be some members who do not appreciate that there are two societies with an interest in the Bude Canal and would like some further background information. Since the two societies are now working more closely together, with joint liaison meetings, it seems an appropriate time to describe Bude Canal Trust.

The Trust was formed in 1996 specifically to take ownership and responsibility for the Aqueduct section of the Canal, from Lower Tamar Lake to Burmsdon aqueduct over the River Tamar, a length of five miles. The Aqueduct section was that length that was taken over for water supply purposes in 1901, after the Canal had closed. It comprised the feeder arm of the canal from the reservoir (although the feeder arm was also used for navigation with a wharf at Virworthy) and part of the Holsworthy branch, including Vealand incline. After it ceased use for water supply it was acquired by the local authority who in turn eventually wanted to divest themselves of the length of old canal. That was when Bude Canal Trust was formed, as a charity, to take ownership of the Aqueduct section.

The five mile length of towpath is a designated public footpath and an excellent walk through remote countryside. Devon County Council therefore have some responsibility for the footpath itself but all the other maintenance, clearance of vegetation, restoration of historic structures, etc is carried out by BCT members on a voluntary basis.

BCT have an interest in the whole length of the canal but inevitably focus mainly on the section in their ownership. In a similar way BCHS has an interest in the whole length of the canal but tend to focus on the partly restored barge section and harbour, from the Sea Lock to Helebridge at Marhamchurch. Recognising this overlap the two societies are exploring ways of working more closely together, especially for the bi-centenary of the start of construction which occurs in July 2019.

BCT are doing a sterling job of maintaining a long stretch of old canal which requires much work and commitment, and further volunteers. Further information can be found on their website www.bude-canal-trust.co.uk and membership costs £15 per year.

Visit by the Lifton Local History Group

A conducted walk was organised for the Lifton Local History Group who visited the Bude Canal on 6 June. Here are a few pictures of the visit.



At the sea lock



At Upper Basin



At the Barge Workshop, Helebridge.



At the Barge Workshop, Helebridge.

Lifting the Boats

The local boats were lifted into the canal on 24 April ready to be locked out. However, I arrived too late to see the operation but here is a photograph of the crane being prepared to leave the site. It was a very miserable day! Mike Moore.

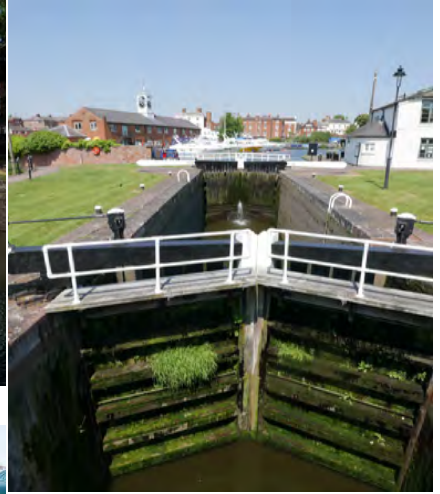


Visit to Stourport (Mike Moore)

Here are some photos which I took on a recent visit to the Midlands. These were taken at Stourport-upon-Severn where the Staffs & Worcester canal joins the River Severn. It is a fascinating location as there are two sets of locks - one set for narrow boats and another set for broad beam boats. The narrow locks consists of two pairs of staircase locks.



The lower gates of the top set of the broad locks



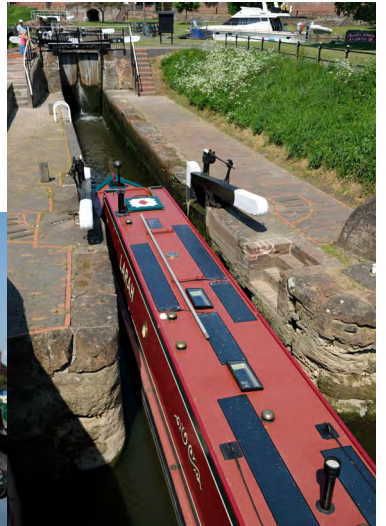
Overview of the lock chamber of the top set of the broad locks



A traditional narrow boat moored in the middle pound



Another traditional narrow boat moored in the upper level which links to the Staffs and Worcester Canal which meets the Trent & Mersey Canal just beyond Stafford



A narrow boat entering the lower set of narrow locks

Vandalism on the Canal

While visiting the Bude Canal at Helebridge recently, I noticed that the “No cycling” sign painted on the towpath as you leave the A39 underpass going towards Whalesborough, had been painted over as if to indicate that the restriction on cycling along the towpath had now been removed. I had also been informed that similar signs at Rodds Bridge had also been painted over in the same way and that the gate on the path leading up to Rodds Bridge from the Bude direction had been removed. I visited the relevant sites then travelled to Bude to check the situation approaching the towpath from the Bude direction and found that to be unaffected but I did notice some graffiti on the towpath near the junction with the multi-use trail.

The following photos show the areas affected.



Painted out sign at Rodds Bridge towards Bude with gate missing

Painted out sign at Whalesborough



Painted out sign at Rodds Bridge towards road with gate missing



Graffiti on the towpath from Bude towards the Bird Hide



Painted out sign at Rodds Bridge towards Whalesborough

In order to clarify the situation we sent a message to Gareth Cann, Cormac Senior Countryside Officer who is responsible for the maintenance of this section of the canal. His reply is shown below:

“Hello Mike,

Thank you for your email regarding the issues on the Bude Canal, I am aware of the problems and I have addressed your concerns below:

Signage

Over the past three years “No Cycling” signage has been either vandalised or removed at various points along the canal tow path. This has happened despite my best efforts to make the signage difficult to damage. As well as “No Cycling” signage, information regarding which activity providers are licensed to use canal has also been removed. I have spent a considerable amount of money out of our maintenance budget replacing this signage, somewhere in the region of £500 as well as the costs involved in labour and extra materials such as posts etc. As a last resort I decided to have “no cycling” signage painted on the tow path at the main access points, cost £250. This was left untouched for 10 days until it was painted over last Wednesday night by someone. I believe this continued vandalism is being undertaken by an adult (not children as has been suggested to me) who has a gripe about not being allowed to cycle on the tow path. It may be someone that I have told off for cycling on the tow path or just feels that they can do what they like. The vandalism has been premeditated and generally happens overnight. For example some signage was located on the rails of the accommodation bridge at Whalesborough, the rail was sawn through and the sign removed. The person responsible for this vandalism obviously doesn’t want to draw attention to themselves as the signage at the Bude end of the tow path is generally left untouched. I have reached the point where I do not know what to do next. CCTV has been suggested which may be an option but by law we have to

inform the public that it is in operation, it has to be well hidden and I would have to go to the expense of re-painting the signage with the possibility that we still wouldn't catch anyone painting it over. I have consulted Chris Monk the senior rights of way officer and he is aware of the issue as well. I am afraid that I am not going to spend any more public money replacing signage that gets removed or vandalised as it would open us up to criticism.

Rodd's Bridge Gate

The gate at Rodd's Bridge was smashed apart and thrown into the canal a few weeks ago. This took some force and again I don't believe it was children but an adult or adults possibly the same person damaging the signage. I believe that on social media people with mobility scooters were complaining about the gate blocking their route, but as you know it has been there for years and serves a purpose by stopping people walking straight onto the county road. Again may be someone has taken the law into their own hands!!! Myself and Chris have looked at various options such as self-closing gates which are DDA compliant, but due to the slope up to the gate it would be difficult to install a gate which was usable for people on mobility scooters. A new gate has been ordered for Rodd's Bridge and as soon as it arrives it will be installed.

Graffiti

The graffiti you informed me about is written in chalk and I will wash it off. It is similar to graffiti I have seen on pavements around the town. We have suffered with the recent spate of graffiti which has appeared all over the town and wherever possible I have cleaned it off. This isn't always easy as it depends on the surface it is sprayed onto and how porous it is. Luckily this seems to have abated for the time being.

Police

Whenever damage or vandalism occurs I report it to the police via the 101 number or via the website. Occasionally I am contacted by the local Bude police but recently despite being informed that I will be contacted it hasn't happened. I know it is classed as low level crime but it is still a real problem and costs money. I will try and contact them again. The Bude Canal is not the only site to suffer this sort of problem, in my new role I cover all of the Council owned sites and trails in East Cornwall and similar issues occur across all of them. I only have two members of staff covering the management of all of these sites and with dwindling resources and budgets and it is always a challenge to maintain them in a way that people have become accustomed to. Cornwall Council classes the canal as a regionally important site and as such always tries to keep it maintained to a high standard despite the ongoing budgetary pressures.

Sorry about the long email but I wanted to make it clear that I am doing all I can to resolve the issues you have mentioned. I would appreciate it if you could pass the information I have provided to concerned residents and members of the Bude Canal and Harbour Society. On a personal note I can assure you that not just having managed the canal for many years but also living in Bude I will do all I can to continue to maintain it to the highest standard possible.

Kind Regards, Gareth Cann, Cormac Senior Countryside Officer, Sites and Trails East Cornwall"

After receiving his reply, a meeting was arranged at Rodds Bridge with Gareth Cann, Cllr Peter La Broy, Cllr Simon Browning and trustees of the Bude Canal & Harbour Society to discuss the issues raised. (see photo below). However, the reply confirms that the painting out of the signs is not official and that cycling on the canal towpath is still prohibited. It also indicates the ongoing problems encountered by Cornwall Council and Cormac in maintaining this section of the canal but it also shows that they are committed to maintaining the canal to the highest standard possible. We have offered to help them wherever we can particularly during this period of increased vandalism.

If any of our members become aware of any further vandalism or have any issues or comments concerning the Barge Section of the canal, please send details to us using the contacts shown on the back page of this newsletter and we will forward the information to Gareth. Thank you.

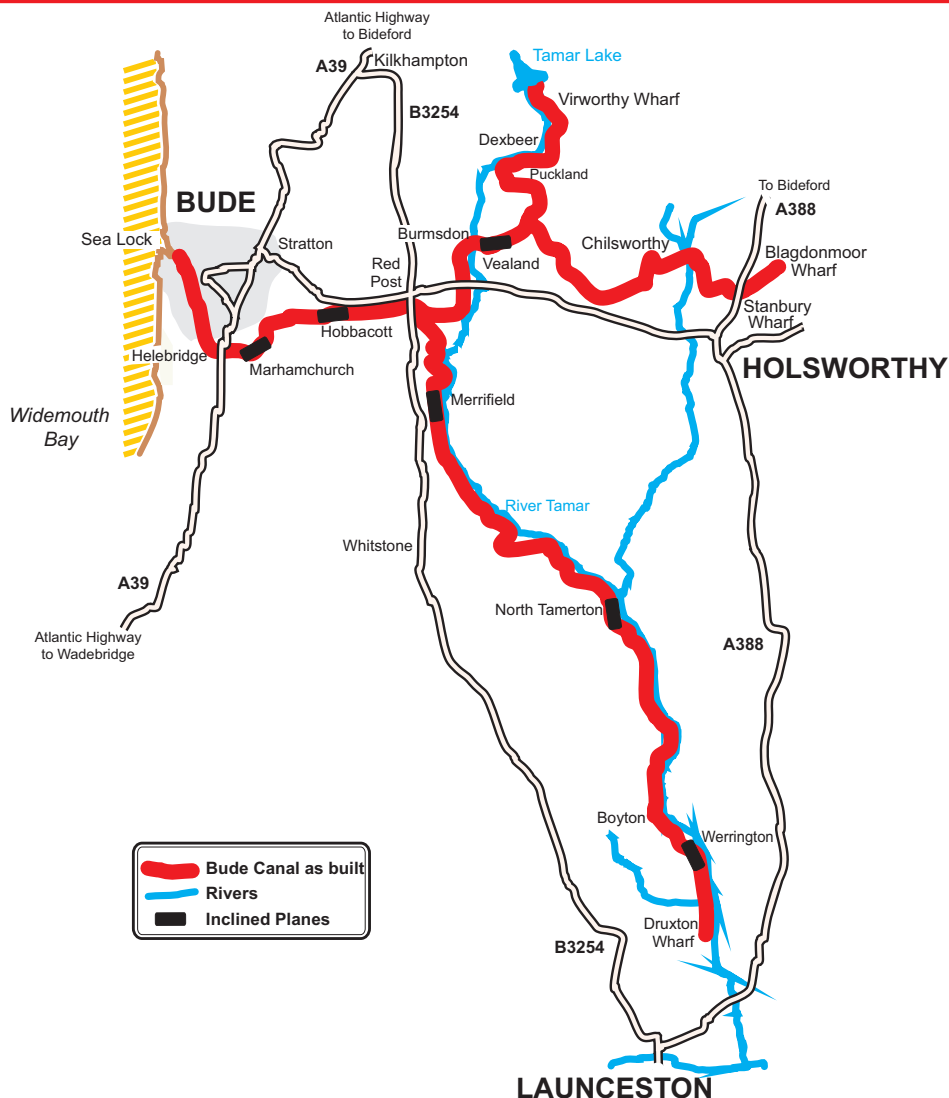
Mike Moore



Meeting - L-R, Cllr Peter La Broy (CC & BSTC), Chris Jewell (BCHS), Gareth Cann (Cormac), Betty Moore (BCHS), Cllr Simon Browning (BSTC) and Lucille Opie (BCHS)

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