

THE TUB BOAT

Newsletter of the Bude Canal & Harbour Society

No. 87

Spring 2019



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Bi-centenary – 2019

The programme of events is as follows

- Saturday 1st June** Coach trip to Totnes including a trip on the River Dart to Dartmouth
Full details and booking form enclosed.
- Sunday 21st July** Bude Stratton Heritage Festival.
- Tuesday 23rd July** Commemorative Buffet with entertainment at The Falcon Hotel.
Bude to celebrate the exact anniversary of the start of work on
constructing the Bude Canal.
- Saturday 7th September** Guided walk visiting important sites on the Bude Canal
including the Launceston Branch.
- Wednesday 11th September** Joint presentation with The Bude Canal Trust at 6.30pm
in Room 1 at The Parkhouse Centre. No charge for visitors but donations requested.
- Saturday 14th September** Guided Walk visiting the Bude Aqueduct section of the
Bude Canal

Contributions for the next edition of the Tub Boat should be sent as an email attachment to Mike Moore (Tel: 01288 361878) at bude.canal@gmail.com to reach him by 15th June 2019

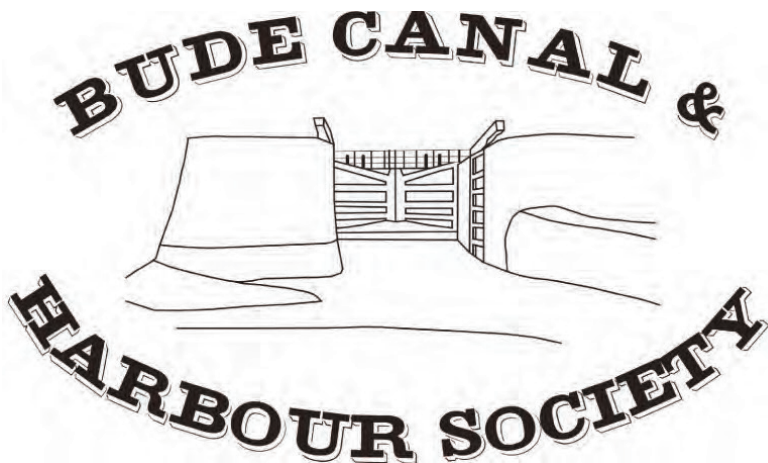
Trustees:	Chairman	Chris Jewell	
	Vice-Chairman	Lesley Moores	
	Secretary	Peter Daniel	
	Treasurer	Vacant	
	Membership Secretary	Vacant	
	Events Secretary	Betty Moore	
	Minuting Secretary	Vacancy	
	Other trustees	Lucille Opie,	Anne Longley
		Tony Philp (co-opted)	
	The Tub Boat Editor	(non-trustee) Chris 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.

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ASSOCIATION



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Front Page; Taken prior to the walk on the
morning of the AGM

“Creaks from the Chair”

Here we are in Bicentenary year, 2019. I am pleased to say that the new exhibition is now on display at the Castle and is being well received. It tells some of the story of how Bude Harbour and Canal developed and became the catalyst that created the town of Bude. Also the commemorative booklet about Bude Canal 1819-2019 has been printed and is in circulation. The next event this year will be the Bude Youth Theatre's musical play about the Bude Canal entitled 'Hidden Depths'. This will be performed at Budehaven School on 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th March. I look forward to seeing how the story of the Bude Canal has been interpreted as a musical play. On 6th April is the first guided tour of the tub boat canal, covering the canal from Helebridge to Druxton visiting certain interesting sites en route with lunch at the Countryman Inn, Langdon, near Launceston.

If you had attended the AGM on 24th February 2019 you would have heard me announce that we had hopefully filled the vacancy of Treasurer and Membership Secretary with a new Trustee, Mr Tony Philp. However, after further consideration, Mr Philp, whilst content to be a trustee, will not be filling this vacancy. So we are still seeking a Treasurer/Membership Secretary. Mike Moore is prepared to continue to cover these responsibilities for the time being as a non-Trustee. If you know of someone, or even yourself, who has some understanding of the use of digital technology in relation to accounting, BCHS would welcome their involvement in this important aspect of administration of our Society as a Trustee. Meanwhile, I welcome Mr Philp as a new Trustee and thank Mike Moore for his continued support.

Chris Jewell

Membership Report

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

Jacki Stephens, Seawell Road, Bude
John Eifler, Pickard Way, Bude
Tony and Patricia Philp, Pintail Close, Bude
Martin & Susan Smith, Goring
Alexander Johnston, Bridgerule

Thank you to those members who have renewed their membership and particularly to those who have given donations some of which have been very generous. Just a reminder that some members have still not given us consent to hold their contact details so that we can contact them by e-mail for marketing purposes such as to inform them about the availability of The Tub Boat on-line and to inform them of forthcoming events. 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 contact you. However, if you do not wish to receive any communications from us by e-mail please let us know so that we can remove your name from our circulation list. Thank you for your assistance and for your continued support.

Mike Moore Membership Secretary

Bude Canal Trust Report

WORK IN PROGRESS from Jan to March Spring 2019

January

The season for tidying up and burning the cut autumn brash and walking a selected section to survey work priorities. Reports were coming in of trees having been cut down on the far bank between Vealand Bridge and beyond the Incline Plane.



The boardwalk extension, south of the incline plane has had the anti slip mesh applied to the surface (Photo 2) and a delivery of twenty bags of road scalplings to Virworthy Wharf made the start of infilling the dips in the footpath that remained after scraping away the accumulated excess mud the previous spring, a priority.



Following the collapse of our trolley, just a few bags were transported by wheelbarrow to the deepest sunken area.



A start with the first bonfire of the winter.



After cleaning out the Wharf building our resident member in the adjacent cottage offered his assistance to transport all the remaining scalplings to the dips in the footpath with his mower and trailer giving the two volunteers time to level them out. More bags will be req'd to finish the work.

February



Unfortunately a complete shortage of volunteers to start the month and then down to just one volunteer who offered to walk the length of the footpath the following week searching for trees and branches blocking the safe passage of walkers. Two overhanging branches were removed between Brendon Bridge and DNR.



And the remaining brash at Vealand was burned. Five big fires in total, normally planned as a job to help keep warm but this year coincided with the hottest February days on record.

March

Continuing with brash burning on Puckland section subject to weather (Forecast_not looking good)

Annual General Meeting – 24th February 2019

AGM day was a beautiful bright sunny day, unseasonably warm but welcomed. The day's events started with a short visit to the Canal from the Sand Wharf up to just before the bird hide. The Chairman and a few members walked the route with areas of interest being highlighted and explained by the chairman, Chris Jewell. These included the sand trade, the railway branch line extension to the Wharf in 1907, the three Falcon Bridges, the Upper Basin, and the former premises that were once important to the functions of the Canal. The location of Stapleton's boat yard, and premises which used to be a timber sawmill for the boat yard, and a foundry for casting iron parts, such as wheels for canal tub boats, were also pointed out. It was a very pleasant little trip and a good start to the day.

On return to the Castle Heritage Centre at about 11am, the Willoughby Gallery was reconfigured to allow the presentation by Mr Ray Alexander, Chairman of the IWA – West Country Branch to take place. Mr Alexander's presentation was about the various waterway projects that are currently being progressed in the Branch area which covers Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset. These included works on the Rolle Canal, Stover Canal, River Parrett, and Bridgwater Docks. This was an interesting and informative presentation which shows what can be done when effective partnerships between authorities and communities are created. The presentation was well received and appreciated by the members present.

It was then time to reconfigure again to allow our lunchtime buffet to be served which was most timely welcomed and enjoyed by all. A smallish select band of diners had a pleasant break in the day's proceedings.

After lunch the room was set up for the AGM at 2.30pm, which started promptly.

The Chairman welcomed the members present and thanked them for their attendance. Last year's minutes were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman gave his report, the main points of which were

- A volunteer has come forward and will take on the position of Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary as from March 2019. He is Mr Tony Philp and is a resident of Bude. He and his wife have joined BCHS. He is most welcomed and will ensure that the Society can comply with its Constitution and Charity Commission requirements.

- In mid 2018 BCHS sent a reply to Cllr Paynter's letter re the future of Bude Canal querying comments made about the workings of the Canal. No reply has been received.

- The Chairman then highlighted events in relation to Bicentenary year and asked members to support them if possible, in particular the Celebration Buffet and Entertainment on 23rd July 2019 at the Falcon Hotel, which is anniversary day. This is a bookable event. BCHS also has a commemorative booklet and mug available to purchase. The new display about 'Bude Harbour and Canal – The Early Days' has been produced and is on display at the Heritage Centre until 28th February. This was mainly funded by a Cornwall Council Community grant of £500 supported by Cllr Peter LaBrooy.



- Bude Stratton Heritage Festival is on 21/7/2019, and BSTC is funding the transport costs for the two replica tub boats of Mr Wills to be brought to Bude for display on that day.
- The General Data Protection Regulations 2018 have been complied with but brought its own administrative complications in ensuring members refreshed their consent to use their email address.

- The Chairman thanked his fellow Trustees for their support and efforts during the past year. He also thanked Cllr S Browning, the BSTC representative on BCHS, for his contributions into our deliberations.

- The Chairman then addressed the meeting about a cash flow situation that BCHS has on its working account. This is due in part to reduced fundraising income but also the income from subscriptions was now not enough to support the Society's expenses for a whole year. The current range of subscriptions have not been increased for many years. The Trustees have decided to review this and as from September 2019 the subscriptions will be increased for all classes of membership, as follows;

- o Concession £5 up to £10
- o Full £10 up to £15
- o Family £15 up to £20
- o Corporate £20 up to £30
- o Life £120 up to £180

- There is, of course, some risk in that members may not respond to the increase and not renew but without this increase BCHS will have ongoing financial difficulties. To aid the income BCHS will only attend events where there is no table charge and will endeavour to run two coach trips this year which are usually well attended and make a good surplus. He added that he hoped members would support the increase and accept them to the benefit of the society.

The Secretary then gave his report which is reported elsewhere in this Tub Boat.

The Treasurer gave his report on the accounts and membership which is also reported elsewhere in this Tub Boat. The meeting continued with the accounts being approved by members and the appointment of the Inspector of Accounts. Leonard and Co were accepted again as Inspectors for 2019.

The election of Trustees followed. Three Trustees were resigning as per rota, Mike Moore, Lesley Moores and Anne Longley. Mike Moore was not seeking re-election. Lesley Moores and Anne Longley were accepted as Trustees for another three years as there are more vacancies than candidates.

The final business was questions from the floor. There were none forthcoming. The room was reconfigured again and the new display panels set up so that members could view them before the end of the AGM.

The Chairman presented Mike Moore with a card and a bicentenary mug as a token of thanks for his support and work whilst a Trustee.

By 4pm the Gallery was set up for the coming week's exhibition and members made their way home. All in all it was an interesting and varied day.

If any member would like a copy of the minutes or annual accounts please contact
01288 352298 or info@bude-canal.co.uk

Annual General Meeting pictures – 24th February 2019



AGM Secretary's Report

After the Chairman's report, the Secretary then reported on the routine activities of the Society during the last year. The Society started the year with 7 Trustees, two of which were re-elected at the 2018 AGM. At the March Trustee meeting Chris Jewell was elected as Chairman, Mike Moore as Treasurer, and Peter Daniel as Secretary. The Charity Commission returns were updated in May 2018 and are therefore up to date.

The Secretary summarised the year's activities including 12 Trustee meetings; sales stalls at a limited number of events; talks and visits for other groups; representation on BCT Partnership and BVMAG; and the manning of the Barge Workshop at Helebridge on Sundays from the beginning of July until September. There have also been regular meetings with Bude Canal Trust; this is a new arrangement of working together which has been beneficial, especially as we lead into the Bi-centenary year. The annual summer coach trip to Falmouth and Truro took place.

Anne Longley and Lesley Moores were due, on rotation, for re-election as Trustees and were duly elected. Mike Moore was also due for re-election but is standing down as a Trustee; at the end of the meeting he was thanked by the Chairman for all he had done for the Society and presented with a gift.



Peter Daniel Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The balances on the accounts at the end of each year were as follows:

	2017	2018
	£	£
Account 1 General Account	899	540
Account 2 Educational Fund	779	1089
Account 3 Project Fund	4,491	4,614
Account 4 Commemorative Events	451	3012
Account 5 Archive Project	728	631
TOTAL	7,348	9,886

The financial activities for 2018 followed a similar pattern to the previous years but there were some changes in both Income and Expenditure in Account 1 compared with 2017. Although we ran our coach trip, which we did not do in 2017, there was a reduction in our other fundraising activities. Some of these were cancelled as we were unable to get the help which is needed to set up our gazebo so we are now concentrating on table top sales which we can manage more easily.

The major change in 2018 is on Account 4 which is now being used for the Commemorative Events associated with the 200th Anniversary of the start of the building of the Bude Canal. The remaining balance of the grants received in 2018 which amounts to £2500 will be spent in 2019. Other than that, there were no other exceptional items to report.

The accounts for 2018 have been inspected and approved by Leonard & Co and a proposal to appoint them as the Inspector of Accounts for 2019 was passed at the AGM. Note for comparison purposes:

	2017	2018
	£	£
Total Income	2,377	5,619
Total Expenditure	2,191	3,081

Mike Moore, Hon. Treasurer

Members Subscriptions 2019/20

As mentioned in the AGM report in this issue, the Trustees have decided to raise the rates of subscriptions for all types of memberships as described.

- There are a number of members with an annual membership which is paid by Standing Order direct to BCHS on 1st September each year.
- As the rates of subscription are increasing for all membership classes, it will be necessary for members who pay by Standing Order to submit a new Standing Order to their bank via BCHS to ensure the new rates are implemented.
- In the next issue of The Tub Boat a Standing Order mandate form will be included to all current members who use these to renew their membership
- Please complete and return to BCHS at 4a The Crescent, Bude, so that they can be forwarded, after noting, to your bank etc.
- Please endeavour to do this by return of post.
- The Trustees hope that you will be able to continue to support BCHS by accepting the necessary increase in subscriptions which will allow BCHS to continue to function and do what we can to protect the Bude Canal.
Thank you.

Chris Jewell
Chairman - BCHS

The Exhibition – ‘Bude Harbour and Canal – The Early Days’

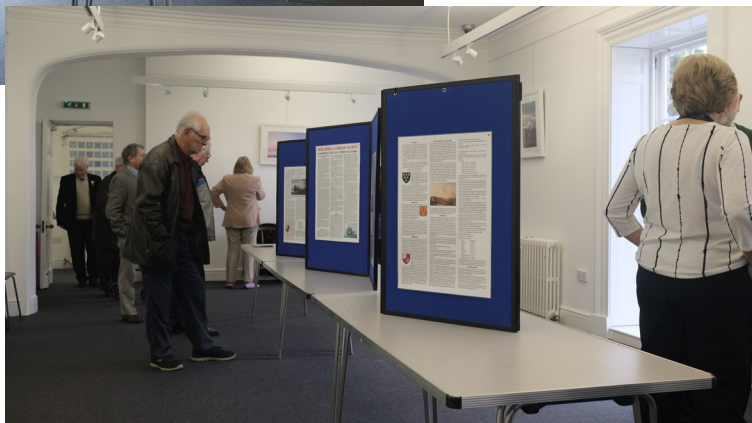
The exhibition ran from 16th February to 28th February 2019, 10am – 4pm at the Gallery, The Castle Heritage Centre, Bude.

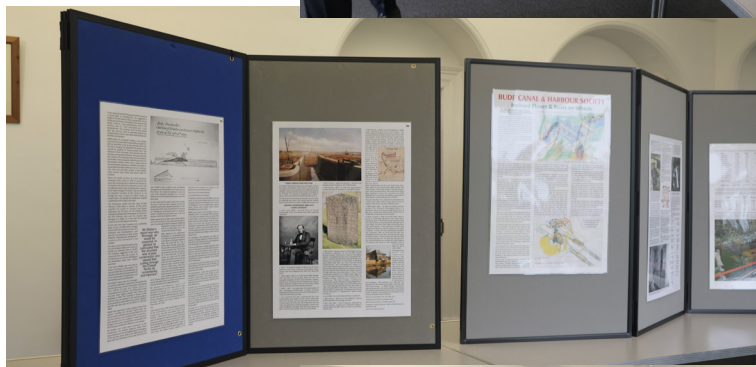
It was generally well received by those who visited and looked at this new display. Over the period approximately 500 people viewed it and of these 243 people gave it a more concentrated viewing, many of them looking at and reading all or most of the 16 new panels on display.

We have received comments that it should be permanently on display at the Heritage Centre, and that it should be converted into a booklet for publication. The Trustees have not decided as yet what could or should be done. In fact, on reflection, I have realised that in the section about ‘Interesting people c. 1800 -1850’ there are two notable persons who are deserving of a panel each. These are Sir Thomas Dyke Acland and Sir Goldsworthy Gurney, both of whom have strong connections to Bude and the Canal in their own right. This would make the total panels up to 18.

If you missed seeing the exhibition in February 2019 it will be on display for at least Heritage Day 21/7/2019 and probably at the celebration buffet on the evening of 23/7/2019 at the Falcon Hotel, Bude.

Chris Jewell







Bi-centenary Celebration Buffet – 23rd July 2019

The 23rd July 2019 is the anniversary day of the bicentenary of the start of construction of the Canal in 1819.

To mark this important event BCHS, with Bude Canal Trust, have organised an evening of celebration with a buffet and musical entertainment at the Falcon Hotel, Bude. There will be presentations of commemorative plaques to Bude Stratton Town Council and Holsworthy Town Council, by BCHS and BCT respectively, to mark this anniversary.

This event is pre-bookable via a booking form enclosed in this issue of the Tub Boat. The cost is £22 per person. The event is from 7pm to 11.30pm with the buffet being served at 8pm. It is smart casual dress. The cut off date for booking is 2nd July 2019. Entertainment will be provided by 'Cousin Jack' and 'Friggin Riffin'.

If you wish to come to this event please complete the booking form and return with your remittance to 4a The Crescent, Bude, EX 23 8LE by 2nd July 2019. Bookings will be confirmed by the issue of tickets of 1 per person. Please make cheques payable to Bude Canal and Harbour Society. Please note cheques will not be presented until the week before the event ie 16th July 2019.

If the Bude Canal plays a part in your life through, work, leisure or a simple appreciation of this important heritage feature constructed 200 years ago, it would be good if you came to this event to celebrate the 200th anniversary. Hope to see you there!

Chris Jewell

Bude Valley Management Advisory Group

At the recent meeting on the 18th March 2019 the main points of interest for the Canal & Harbour were as follows (since Sept 2018)

- i. Coppicing where necessary
- ii. Water Vole Survey. Numbers have levelled out and there are more natural predators in the area
- iii. Repairs to the woodwork on Whalesborough Accommodation Bridge
- iv. Repairs to inland locks will be done in May/June i.e. repointing, and fixing gate/chamber paddles
- v. Mr Don Martin, CC Environment Manager, is developing a brief to be able to seek funding re the erosion and condition of the banks. This needs to be ready for consideration by CC in the Autumn for capital funding.
- vi. Dredging. Upper basin only. Awaiting funds from CC's capital expenditure. Also a licence to work in areas where water voles present.
- vii. Planekeeper's Path remains closed with diversion. Gareth Cann is seeking sources of funding for this permissive path.
- viii. Sea Lock has had repointing done. Painting to be done.
- ix. End of Feb/early March – large holes in Breakwater have been repaired.
- x. The former route of the Sand Railway, now a walkway, has large interior voids. Works is in progress to fill the voids with special concrete and repoint the wall.
- xi. Sea Lock chamber to have sand removed from 1/4/19. Approximately 700 tons of sand which will be moved to mooring area. Storm chains will be taken off with a view to allowing boats to lock out from 25/4/19.
- xii. Harbour Master has had enquiries from boats to visit and lock in.

Chris Jewell

Work to stabilise canal bank at the rear of The Castle



Work on slipway & breakwater replacing damaged sections



Bude Stratton Town Council – Heritage & Culture Committee

At the meeting of this Committee on 14th March 2019

1. I expressed our thanks to the Castle Manager and his staff for their usual courtesy and help during the exhibition
2. Advised them that the Bideford Youth Pipe Band will be attending Heritage Day at our expense.
3. Reminded them that the Mayor would be invited to the Celebration Buffet on 23/7/19 as our guest and that there would be a presentation to BSTC made at that event.
4. The Heritage Development Officer, Mrs King, reported that the Facilities Manager had stated that the Barge Workshop should have water and toilet facilities provided for volunteers. He is happy that volunteers can open the premises throughout this summer as usual but stressed the long term plan for more adequate facilities will have to be looked at, especially if the workshop is to be opening for longer.
She also reported that BCHS volunteers have worked on the tide mill timbers to remove debris so that the carpentry marks are more visible. She is working on new interpretation which will be in place for the summer.

Chris Jewell

Remnants of the Tide Mill

Here you see photos of the timbers at the Barge Workshop, Helebridge which were cleaned up during a visit on 2 February. These timbers were originally recovered from the river near Nanny Moores Bridge in Bude and are thought to be from the original Tide Mill which was built nearby



Wheel & axle found by a resident in Morwenstow. Thought to be from an original truck used on the Sand Railway in Bude

Looking Back

Interesting extracts from "Looking Back" published in the Bude & Stratton Post.

6 October 1894

Owing to the closure of the canal, Marhamchurch villagers have to depend for their supplies of water on two wells. In the summer months these are inadequate to meet the demand on them. For some time efforts have been made to improve the existing supply. In aid of this a sale of useful and fancy articles was held in connection with the harvest festival on Tuesday.

1 October 1904

Bude Urban Council on Friday accepted the tender of Mr Herbert Stappleton, Bude, of £430 for constructing and hanging new outer lock gates.

26 January 1929

Stratton and Bude urban council have accepted a tender for £1,615 from Mr Parkhouse for the building of the new tearooms at Mentone Quarry. The council is also to build new conveniences under Grenville Terrace on the Sand Road, using the Government scheme of labour transfer from the distressed areas.

27 January 1979

A request by the lovers of naturism to frolic in the nude on beaches in North Cornwall is being taken seriously by district councillors. A move by the council's chairman to have the request killed at the very outset failed and he was appointed to meet the nudists to talk about their needs.

Sand is encroaching into the River Neet at Bude and is returning to its former channel. District councillors are worried that it could cause major problems if allowed to continue unchecked.

4 August 1990

Perfect weather conditions prevailed for the Bude Canal Society's first major public event at the Lower Wharf on Friday. Activities got under way with a flotilla of small boats coming up through the sea lock on the five o'clock tide to circle the Wharf. This was followed by an open air barn dance led by canalside resident Ron Mears.

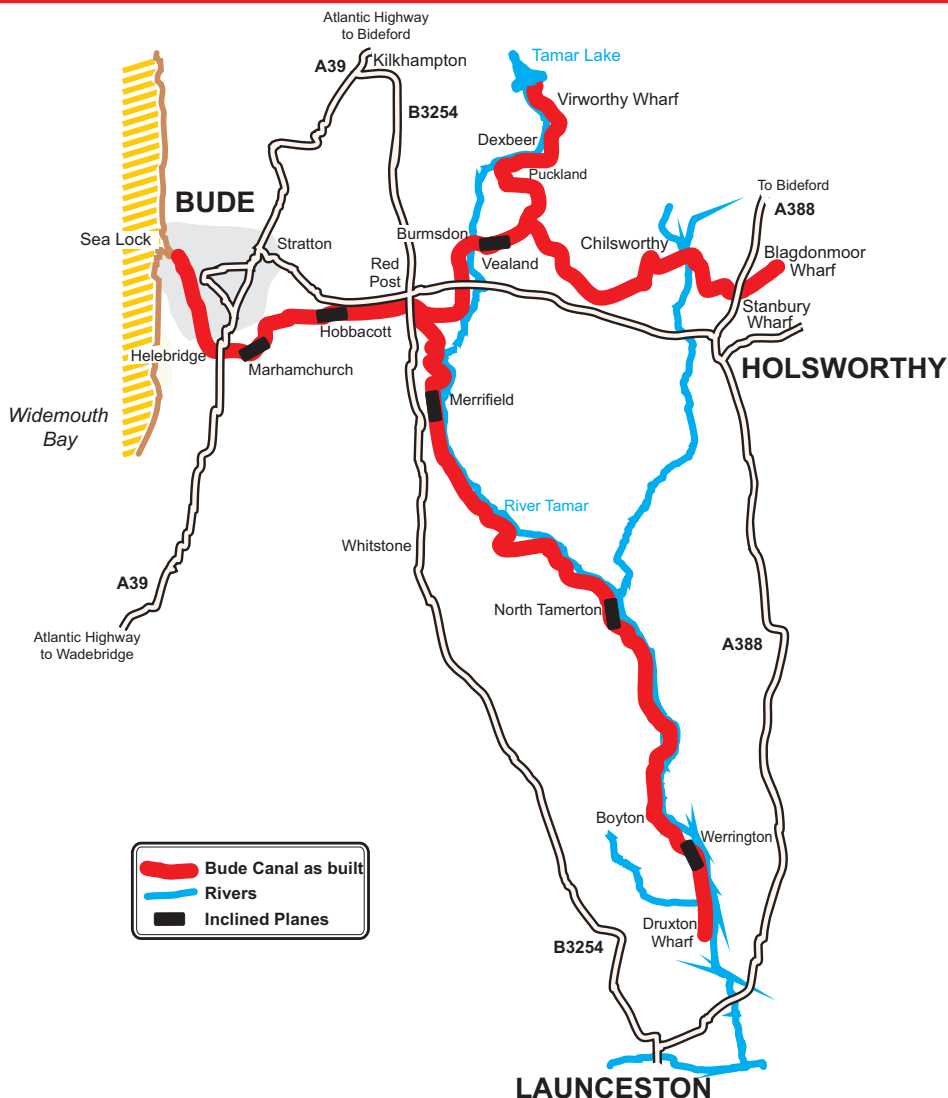
16 July 1992

An archer class patrol boat will be locking into Bude Canal later this month. HMS Dasher, a coastal training craft from Bristol University Squadron, is due to visit the town for three days from July 28.



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