

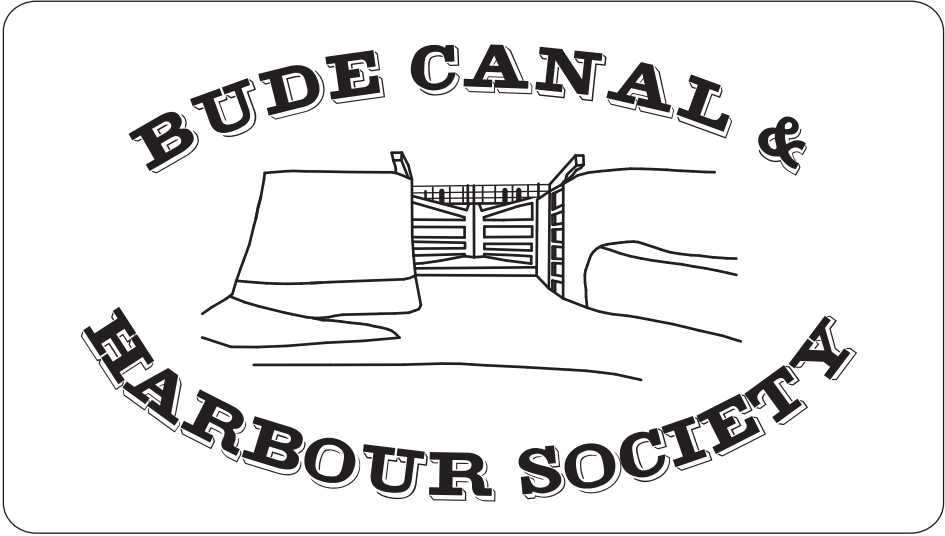
THE TUB BOAT

Newsletter of the Bude Canal & Harbour Society

No. 53

Autumn 2010





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Cover: Survey vessel 'Boy Brendan'. Photo: M. Moore

Creaks From The Chair

Visiting boats have been thin on the water this summer. This is a huge pity since a spectacular boat tied up at the wharf at any time creates great interest and on an occasion like Heritage Day or two when so many more people are about, valuable publicity for Bude and its history is engendered. Since then, there has been a yacht or two, one new-comer in particular whose crew were highly delighted with the facilities on offer, the welcome received and the lovely weather they had been blessed with. They stayed only twenty four hours but promised to be back.

At the time of writing Boy Brendan, a large, iron-grey survey vessel has pride of place at the wharf. About the size of Bude's historic ketches, she looks very much at home there, an old friend who visits from time to time and we are pleased to see her again. Higher Wharf is as ever, empty of all but canoes and rowing boats despite its large expanse of water and good access places. Once upon a time, Boy Brendan could have berthed along here had she been around when Falcon Bridge still swung to allow access. There's little chance now of this situation ever being changed - barring a miracle of course - and few of those occur where County Councils are concerned.

As a partner in The Higher Wharf Action Group (Hi WAG) we continue to campaign for Rodds Bridge to be raised to navigation height and the canal to be reunited with its beautiful Helebridge and the basin beyond, both items dropped from the original regeneration scheme ostensibly through lack of funds. Plans shelved first time round are immeasurably more difficult to reactivate a second time. It took twenty years of campaigning for the canal to be restored to its present condition yet boats of larger dimensions than a canoe can still not reach the locks to make use of them. We also continue to campaign for a slipway to enable these boats to get to the water - daunting task. Funds are available towards our share of the costs of raising Rodds Bridge and we continue to nag and agitate for all the rest. Please let it not take another twenty years; some of us haven't got that long.

Audrey Wheatley

Secretary's Report

Along with fellow trustee David Phillips - at the invitation of John Allen Chairman of 'Ruby Country' - we attended a meeting at their Head Quarters at Cookworthy near Halwill in Devon on the 9th September. I should say that 'Ruby Country', named after the local cattle, is a publicity organisation set up to promote the delights of 'Rural Devon'. It was a most interesting meeting called mostly to discuss the progress of the proposed cycleway through 'Ruby Country' from Hatherleigh to Holsworthy and onto the Devon - Cornwall border.



Graham Cornish the Devon C C cycleway officer outlined the progress now being made and stated that there were only two relatively small gaps in the Hatherleigh - Holsworthy section still to be sorted out.

Our Canal Society is particularly interested in the 'Merrifield Incline Plane', part of the Bude Canal and adjacent to Whitstone Station on the proposed Bude Holsworthy cycleway route. There was a full discussion about the importance of this with the owner of the plane Mr Ken James being present.

All in all I would say that considerable progress on the Bude to Hatherleigh cycleway is now being made although it is no 'easy task' to achieve.

Bryan Dudley Stamp

Membership Report

As many of you will realise, this is the time of year when I have to remind you that the subscriptions were due on 1st September for all members except those who joined after 1st May. Renewal forms (where appropriate) are included in this newsletter. Members are encouraged to return the Standing order Form to me as it is a more efficient method of paying for the society and avoids your renewal being overlooked. Membership cards will automatically be sent to members who have already completed the Standing order Mandates and whose payments have been received.

May I also remind those members who are taxpayers and who have not completed the Gift Aid declaration that they can obtain a copy from the Treasurer.

Thank you for your continued support. *Mike Moore*

Higher Wharf – Update

Firstly thank you to those members who kindly wrote to Cornwall Council asking for the land not to be sold.

Sadly it is becoming apparent that Cornwall Council is taking an entrenched attitude to this situation. It would seem that you can purchase the site and providing that you have a strong business plan to develop the site with a use for the benefit of the canal, Cornwall Council will support you?!

Bude-Stratton Town Council is investigating the possibility of holding a sample consultation within the town to gauge the feeling within the populace. Subject to the result being favourable they would then seek to have a public meeting to which Cornwall Council would be invited to discuss this matter properly. We can only hope it is successful.

STOPPRESS

Bude-Stratton Town Council are conducting a sample survey about the Higher Wharf during October. Please find enclosed a survey form which we ask you to

complete and return to BSTC by 29/10/10 according to the instructions given. It would be useful to encourage your family and friends to take part in the survey but in order to be accepted in the survey BSTC will need to confirm that those voting are council tax payers and reside in the council's area. Anonymous slips will not be counted. Additional forms are available from the BSTC offices in the Parkhouse Centre, Bude.

One thing is certain, should the land be sold for commercial development the owners of the canal, Cornwall Council, will still need to provide a slipway above Falcon Bridge and raise Rodds Bridge to allow navigation on their canal and honour the undertaking started by N.C.D.C. to return the canal to navigation. An undertaking which received in excess of £3.6 million pounds of grants/public monies, and which as stated is unfinished. This is an important issue and your support is needed. Thank you. *Chris Jewell, Trustee, BCHS*

Digitalisation Project – Update

The Society has acquired the digital equipment needed. The first part of the slide collection has been scanned onto a DVD for future use. The second batch of slides has been sent for scanning onto DVD. The whole project should be completed by the end of October. The scanned images will then be used to produce better displays and digital presentations.

Events Reports: Navigation Event

Following a suggestion from a long standing member, Miss Jean Hall of Exeter, the society is exploring the possibility of holding a navigation event on the canal in the spring of 2011. The aim would be to see the two inland locks used by 'boats'. The Bude Canoe Club and Bude Pilot Gig Club are interested in being involved in this event. We await a reply from Cornwall Council.

Bude Valley Management Advisory Group

Cornwall Council has set up this group to act as a liaison/advisory body on the Bude Valley. The Bude Valley is defined as the valley from Falcon Bridge to the bottom of Marhamchurch Inclined Plane, and includes the Canal and Bude Marshes Local Nature Reserve. It comprises the Cornwall Council ward members plus stakeholders which includes B.C.H.S. The group will meet three times a year. The next meeting is on the 4th October 2010 and the Chairman is Cllr Paula Dolphin.

Bude Carnival Fete

Although we booked to attend this event we decided not to go because of an

adverse weather forecast. We were proved right when approx 3.45pm there was a violent rain storm. *Betty Moore*



A stall on Castle Green attracts interest at the RNLI event. Photo: M. Moore

First Bude-Stratton Heritage Day - a Sunny Success!

The Castle and Canal buzzed with crowds and activities on Sunday as the first Bude-Stratton Heritage Day took place in beautiful sunshine. It was a day of something for everyone, young or old, steam or brass band enthusiasts, canoeists or anglers.

The afternoon saw children of all ages entertained by two of Cornwall's top showmen - master of the sleight of hand, Richard Ready and Professor James Gordon with his ever-popular Punch & Judy Show complete with Policeman and Baby. Marvin Farthing aka Graham Eccles weaved his way in-and-out of the crowds on his 21st Century Penny Farthing. In his hands balloons were transformed into crowns, swords and even one amazing windmill hat, while Hayley Ayres of Music Train was busy painting faces including one very realistic Spiderman in shorts and T-shirt!

At lunchtime, providing you were quick, you were able to munch on a scrumptious pork and apple sauce bap from the hog roast cooked up by Kit Davis of The Castle Restaurant or tuck into the delicious fare baked by Lin Hills.

The day's musical contributions came from the area's two favourite brass bands - Bude Metric Brass and the Bude Town Band. For jazz-lovers the Pig Ankle Quartet entertained as only they can and fiddler Lindsay Ritch played a mixture of traditional and contemporary Celtic music. Bude Folk Club gave a stirring rendering of 'Trevithick', which was appreciated by the members of the Society named after Richard Trevithick, while The Barrel Rock Boys, The Peasants Chorus plus guests Andrew McKay & Carole Etherton all in their own inimitable way provided a most rousing musical finale.

“This is the first year for the Bude-Stratton Heritage Day and “we've had a great response from participants, from everyone in fact,” said Town Clerk Christine Kett. While there may have been a change of name, from Bude Canal and Gurney Day, the day is still a celebration of the Bude Canal, Sir Goldsworthy Gurney and Cornish inventiveness. In fact this year we've had more canal stalls, steam engines, tractors and models than ever before,” said Christine.

All the vehicles on show attracted much attention.



An old jalopy and admirers. Photo: M. Moore

Among them were Bude Motor Club's lovely classic cars; Andrew Medland and friends with a wonderful variety of vintage tractors and engines and whistling up a head of steam Kevin and Gordon Burrow's small steam engines and John Briggs with his miniature steam engine. A definite highlight of the day was the arrival, all the way from Penzance, of Dr Robert Dyke with his amazing 1902 White Model

B-6hp Stanhope steam car. Mayors and consorts from Bodmin, Launceston and Bideford were in attendance and were delighted to be 'swept' around town in a selection of Bude Motor Club's open topped cars

Among the many stall holders was the Whalesborough Farm with their award winning cheeses; The Cornish Crisp Company; Baghappy with a beautiful selection of handbags and accessories and Ashtree Pottery where you could talk to potter Rowan Fawdon and watching her using potter's wheel. The Bude Horticulture Society was well represented by members, vegetables and a hive of honey bees! Also present was the ever-popular Bude Old Cornwall Society whose members are always such a mine of information about all things to do with Bude-Stratton's heritage.

Bude Canal and Harbour Society and Bude Canal Trust were alongside The Rolle Canal; The Grand Western Canal, South West Water and the Inland Waterways. On the Barkhouse Green the RSPB had a stall and activities for children and, [instead of drawing birds of the feathered kind] the RSPB offered portrait drawing sessions. The RNLI's ladies also had a stall selling RNLI and Bude souvenirs and promoting sea safety and later took part in the RNLI "blessing of the sea" service in conjunction with St Michael's Church at the Sea Lock Gates.

The Bude Canoe Club's first-ever Bude Sprint Regatta took place above the Falcon Bridge - "We are absolutely delighted that it was such an outstanding success, said Steve Davenport the Club's chairmen, "so much so next year's will be on a much larger scale involving the British Canoe Union," he said. The St John's Ambulance was in attendance, the PA was supplied by John Collacott and the day was threaded wittily together by the master of the one-line quip, James Kendling of Kendling & Partners, Estate Agents and Auctioneers.

"I think I can say it's been a most successful day", said Councillor Barry Garvie, Chair of the Heritage and Culture Committee, "and I would like to thank everyone for coming and say 'see you next year'". *Patricia Wright, the Castle Manager*

The Haytor Granite Tramway Walk

Despite encouraging bookings, as the date of our walk approached a number of participants dropped out either through illness, a clash of dates or due to the dismal weather forecast for the 4th September. Making an early start from Bude the weather was bright with clear skies, however that soon changed as I approached Okehampton with clouds hanging over the moors ahead. When I arrived at Whiddon Down to take the Moretonhampstead Road off the A30 whole area was covered in low cloud and it was a miserable drive through Moretonhampstead to Bovey Tracey following a large articulated lorry most of the way. Despite this I arrived at the car park in good time and although damp it was not actually raining.

It was disappointing that so many of those who booked were not able to make it on the day. I was the only person from Bude and there was only one other vehicle, which was from Annery Kiln with Adrian Wills and his three passengers. After a while we were joined by Mike Wright who would be leading the walk with his wife, Mo and their dog.



A fine view of the granite tramway showing a junction. Photo: M. Moore

Following a short walk into the town centre we boarded the mini-bus for the Higher Haytor Car Park. Ascending into the mist our first stop was the Lower Haytor Car Park, where we dropped off our first passengers. Continuing on up to the Higher Haytor Car Park the driver gave us a commentary about the wonderful views from Haytor but of course we could see absolutely nothing due to the heavy mist. After leaving the bus we made our way up past Haytor Rocks heading towards Holwell Quarry picking up the line of the granite tramway. However due to the heavy mist Mike decided that it would not be advisable to continue on to Holwell so we headed back towards Haytor Quarry but due to the poor visibility we found that we were heading back down towards the lower car park. We then retraced our steps to look at the remains of Haytor Quarry before picking up the tramway again and heading across the moors on a continuing slight downhill gradient to follow the tramway alongside the road until it deviated off into Yarner Wood where we took a short break.

We continued along the beautiful beech avenue lining the tramway, which was probably planted when the tramway was built in the 1820s. On leaving the

woodland the route continued onwards along a permissive path, which opened in 2007 passing through fields and apple orchards, which were quite a contrast to the open moorland, which we saw at the start of our walk.



The contrasting beauty of the wooded areas. Photo: M. Moore

Deviating from the original line of the tramway we eventually joined the main road close to the Edgemoor Hotel. After crossing the road we picked up the original route again through a wood and then alongside Chapple Road for a while until we struck off to the left crossing two roads skirting the edge of Bovey Tracey until we reached Pottery Pond. Here the route of the tramway continued straight ahead, although it can no longer be seen in this area, so we turned left and made our way across the main A382 road (which runs along the route of the old railway line to Moretonhampstead) heading back towards the car park in Bovey Tracey. We made a final stop to visit the weaving workshop in Bovey Tracey, which was an experience not to be missed.

Although we started our walk in heavy mist the weather gradually improved and it was never a problem during the day. We are very grateful to Mike Wright, assisted by Mo, for turning out in such poor weather and for so few walkers and his enthusiasm for the area and its mining heritage was wonderful. *Mike Moore*

Bude Canal Trust

As was high-lighted in the last note from the Bude Canal Trust, we were expecting

a rather busy summer period with some promotional and fund raising activities, and so it proved to be.

The first was the Trust Open day at Pancrasweek village hall in July. Once again, we were supported by our partners who brought along stands that enabled attendees to find out more about their particular interests. These included Bude Canal & Harbour Society, Devon County Council footpath team, Ruby Country, Cornwall Council Countryside Service, and Devon Wildlife Trust. Of course, we had our display of canal history and of proposals of work we hope to be doing in the future. It was good to see it well supported by several local and county councillors as well as most important of all, the locals. The occasion was used to be presented with some cheques for funding support from local councillors and private donations.

Next was the very enjoyable bar-b-que at Barton Gate, thanks to Jan and Steve Wiggins. This was well attended and helped to boost our funds. The following weekend we played host to a guided walk for members of the Bude Canal & Harbour Society. They walked from Tamar Lake to Venn where a welcome cream tea was provided by Mick & Thelma Stanton.

Next, we had a stall on the Castle Green at Bude at the Bude-Stratton Heritage Day. The weather was kind to us this year and there was a good attendance and we were able to explain about the Trust to people from far and near, and again raise a few funds.

Finally, we had a Garden Tea Party at Poundstock courtesy of Tim & Sandy Dingle. Once again the weather did the right thing and against the forecast, the sun shone. Again we were well supported and everyone enjoyed a cream tea and cake and tried their luck at the couple of games we had. This too helped to put a few more pounds in the kitty for work on the canal aqueduct section.



A fine view of Barn House. Photo: M. Moore

Another activity that we tried was a children's walk. This was prepared by Cornwall Councillor Phil Tucker and was in the form of an 'I Spy' type walk. It was not well attended but I think that it is still a good idea and we will probably try again next year.

After the early dry spell, the change to wet and warm meant that the path suddenly disappeared under the vegetation. I must admit that it rather took us by surprise, so we were a bit slow to respond. That is part of the learning curve, as well as the problem with all being volunteers. None-the-less, we did get the hedges cut back and made the path accessible. Before that, we needed to ensure that the beautiful orchids, the broad-leaved helleborines that were flowering at various points between Vealand and Puckland were properly protected from the cutting. We have now marked where they are with stakes and have a record of their position thanks to our GPS. These were brought to our attention last year by local people and it is wonderful to have that interest in what's about.

The opportunity to get some funds to help with this work came about through the Balsdon Trust. We put in an application for funding to buy a ride on mower and various tools and safety clothing. This was successful and the £2500 award has enabled us to get those items.

A structural engineer from the Inland Waterways Association coming came to give us some guidance on repair of the old stone culverts under the canal, and maybe, some bridge work. This will enable us to make a grant application based on some sound figures. Again, this is the kind of work that the Trust is keen to see done to ensure the future of this wonderful asset and part of the local history.

Tim Dingle, Bude Canal Trust

Forthcoming Events: Mincepie and Sherry Walk on Sunday 12th December

The Mincepie and Sherry Walk will be the next and final event for this year.

We will meet at the lay-by at Hobbacott at 9.45am and walk back to Bude via Launcells and Stratton using part of the Northern Section of the Planekeepers Path. It is approx 4 miles and is a fairly easy route to walk although parts may be wet and muddy so suitable footwear such as walking boots or wellington boots are essential. We expect to arrive at the Castle Heritage Centre at about 12 noon to be served with sherry and mincepies. Arrangements will be made to take drivers back to their cars at about 1.15pm.

If you are unable to complete the walk you are welcome to join us at the Castle Heritage Centre. There will be no charge for the walk but the sherry and mincepies will be £3.00 for adults and £1.00 for children under 13.

There will be a raffle and if anyone would like to donate a raffle prize, we would be extremely grateful. Thank you for your support.

Please complete the enclosed booking form indicating if you intend to join us for the walk and return it to Chris Jewell with your remittance by 30th November.

Betty Moore

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Forthcoming Events:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 12 th December | Sherry & Mincepie Walk. Meet at the Castle. |
| Sunday 20th February 2011 | Society AGM at The Falcon Hotel, Bude
2pm at The Efford Room, The Falcon, Bude. |
| Saturday 26th March 2011 | Navigation event on the barge section (TBC) |
-

Contributions for the next edition of the Tub Boat should be sent as an e-mail attachment to g.turney5500@btinternet.com or copied onto a memory stick or CD and sent to Geoff Turney to reach him by 24th December 2010

Trustees:

Chairman	Audrey Wheatley
Vice-Chairman	David Phillips
Secretary	Bryan Dudley Stamp
Treasurer	Chris Jewell
Events Secretary	Betty Moore
Minuting Secretary	Jill White
Other trustees	Anne Longley Lawrence Wheatley Ralph Daniel Pam Daniel
Membership Secretary	Mike Moore (<i>non-trustee</i>)
The Tub Boat Editor	<i>Vacant</i>

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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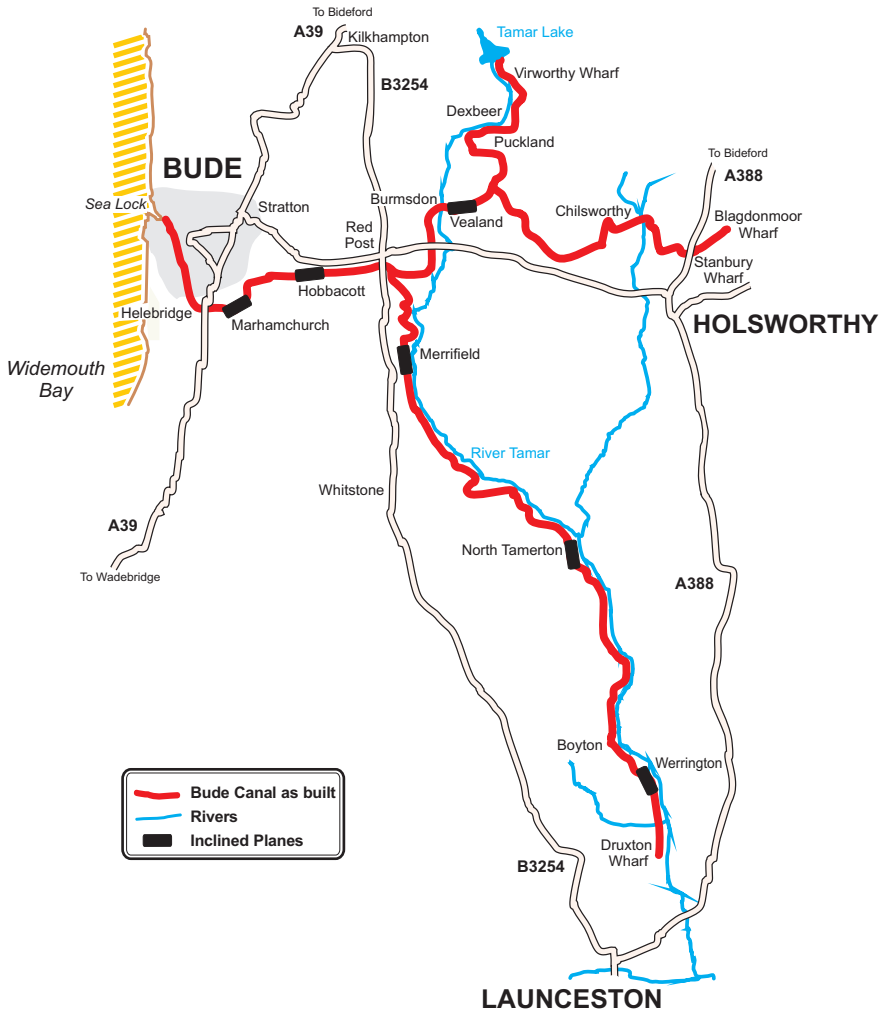
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Registered Charity Number 1086646

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