



WILTS & BERKS CANAL TRUST

Welcome to "On The Button", the electronic newsletter for the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust. If you have any suggestions or items you would like to include in the next edition please email editor@wbct.org.uk

SWINDON BRANCH

Swindon Branch members continue to meet monthly and attend various events to publicise the Trust. Our Work Party installed a Sarsen stone to which the plaque commemorating the opening by the Duchess of Cornwall of the Waitrose landing stage had been attached.



Slow progress continues with the new section of canal between E Wichel and Croft Road, where the developers are happy to incorporate this short section into their plans, & build the canal. Another short section is planned, with a lock, to link with the E Wichel section. Volunteers are helping with a new survey prior to construction. Rod Hacker, on behalf of the Trust, has submitted a document to the recently closed Consultation on Swindon's Local Plan, objecting to the proposal to remove the protected line from the Town Centre. The Branch has a 'wish list' of projects that could be actioned quickly, should funding be available. The Michelstowe Games raised £3,600 to start preparatory work for the upgrading of the slipway by Beavan's Bridge. If the remainder of the funds can be raised soon Dragonfly can be overhauled & repainted in time to resume trips in April

DRAGONFLY

Dragonfly is now decorated for December's Santa Trips.



IWA CAMP

Inland Waterways Association have confirmed that WBCT have been successful in securing a Water Recovery Group Summer Camp for first 2 weeks in August 2020 at Steppingstones Bridge (West Vale Branch) and, if more work is required for volunteers, Childrey Wharf. Hopefully we can expect up to 20 volunteers each week and will complete the bridge foundation stones and wingwalls. WBCT members can join in too under the WRG supervision. More details to follow late Spring

CANAL MAP

At the AGM, the Trust was offered this fascinating map, dated 1795 & describing the 'Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal' - which must mean it was produced before the Act of Parliament was passed. It was felt that it would not be right for Trust funds to be used to purchase it, but Trustees & Exec members clubbed together to buy it.



It is proposed to mount & frame it and make it available to local museums, with the Trust retaining one or two high-resolution copies. Thanks to the Hough family for drawing it to our attention.

FUNDRAISING

The fundraising team, Jaye Tuck and Gordon Olson, met the 7 November deadline for a "Waterways in Progress" funding bid to the Inland Waterways Association. Their chosen project is the rewatering of the 130M length of canal the Trust owns directly alongside Shrivvenham Canal Park.

Our bid has been acknowledged and is now with IWA's judging panel. A novel feature of the project is the proposed use of a solar powered pump to keep the stretch in water. How environmentally friendly is that?

All are now fully booked, so please don't try to squeeze in at the last minute! The following lovely comment was put on our Facebook page

You are offering such an amazing service - all your own time and work given voluntarily and so many enjoy your Santa trips. It's great that so many people love what you do. A big thank you from our family who have enjoyed three very happy and festive trips on your boat in past years. Merry Christmas to you all We are looking forward to a great Santa season!

SWINDON LOTTERY



supporting

WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a Swindon Community Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other local good causes!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.SwindonLottery.co.uk
And Search For:
Canal Trust



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

RWB AWARD

The WBCT in Royal Wootton Bassett entered the Its Your Neighbourhood competition in South West in Bloom. This is for individual community gardening or environmental projects. We were pleased to hear that we were judged as Level 5 - Outstanding. This is the highest possible result, very pleasing as it is the first time we have entered. Jenny Stratton picked up the certificate and Assessment Form and took them to show members of the work party and they were pleased to have the appreciation of the 'effective maintenance of the canal corridor'. Royal Wootton Bassett town entered the main South West in Bloom competition, and were pleased to win a Gold Award, in our first entry into the main competition, rather than the Pennant beginners category.



It is so good to have the Canal contribute to the community effort, and there was a mention of the canal in the assessment of the main competition.



Find out about Morningside Meadows

The canal runs through Morningside Meadows nature reserve, next to Bincknoll Lane in Royal Wootton Bassett. Ellie Jones, of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, which owns the reserve, will give a talk about the wildlife of the meadows and their management.



Monday 2nd December 7.30pm

The Angel Hotel,
47, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett
SN4 7AQ

For further information contact Jenny Stratton 07818 450651

Please note, the ballroom is upstairs and there is no lift.

Free parking in the Borough Fields car park SN4 7AX

200 CLUB

Applications to join the 200 Supporters Club 2020 are now open. If you would like to participate go to <https://www.wbct.org.uk/get-involved/200-club>
The closing date for applications is 31st January 2020.

SUPPORT US

As a supporter of WILTS & BERKS CANAL TRUST you can raise free donations simply by shopping online using Give as you Live. Shop at over 4,100 leading online stores including Amazon, eBay, Tesco, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, M&S, Just Eat and Booking.com, to name but a few!



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