



The Stover **BARGEE**

February
2019

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Annual General Meeting

Doesn't time fly! It's soon time again for our Annual General Meeting which is to be held at the Community Hall, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton on Saturday 16th March at 10 am. The AGM gives all members the opportunity to learn about the activities of the Trust and the plans for the future.

After the formal AGM business Stuart Drabble will give an illustrated talk based on his important new book 'Haytor Granite'. The book describes the history of the working and transportation of the granite, and the uses to which it was put.

The Agenda for the AGM is attached. Associate Members will have the opportunity to elect up to five members of the Management Committee.

The Trustees have overall strategic responsibility for the Trust. They normally meet about three times per year. There are currently twelve Trustees who are appointed or elected as follows:

Appointed by the Members of the Stover Canal Trust:

Cllr George Gribble (by Devon County Council)
Cllr Philip Bullivant (by Teignbridge District Council)
Cllr David Howe (by Newton Abbot Town Council)
Cllr Graham Wickham (by Kingsteignton Town Council)
Cllr John Martin (by Teigngrace Parish Council)
John Pike (by the Ball Clay Heritage Society)

Elected by the Associate Members of the Stover Canal Trust:

Rob Harris
Paul Taper
George Whitehead



Co-opted by the Trustees:

Darrin Hewings
Dr Phil Newman
Graham Walker

Each Appointed Trustee must retire at the third AGM after their appointment. Cllrs George Gribble, David Howe and John Martin will retire this year but may be re-appointed by the Councils that appointed them.

Rob Harris, Paul Taper and George Whitehead were each re-elected as Trustees for a three-year term by the Associate Members at the 2017 AGM.

The three co-opted Trustees must retire at the AGM following their appointment but may be re-co-opted by the other Trustees.

The Management Committee is responsible for the day to day management of the Trust under the aegis of the Trust Board. It normally meets bi-monthly. The Committee consists of those Trustees who wish to attend plus up to five elected by the Associate Members and the Treasurer and Minutes Secretary. Those elected must retire at the next AGM but may be eligible for re-election.

At the 2018 AGM the following were elected by the Associate Members as members of the Management Committee:

Rachael Banyard
Christine Martin
Brian Till
Edna Wickham
Wendy Yates

They will retire at this AGM but are eligible for re-election. Any Associate Member may stand for the five positions now available, but he or she – including those retiring - will need to be nominated by another Associate Member who should complete the attached 'Management Committee' Nomination Form. A vote will be taken under Agenda item 5 to elect up to five Management Committee members from amongst those nominated.

Completed 'Management Committee' Nomination Forms must be delivered to the Chairman at (or before) the start of the AGM.

We look forward to seeing you there.

John Pike, Chairman
01626-354404 john@pike.me.uk

Social Roundup

Our Quiz Night was held at the Sandygate Inn, Kingsteignton on the 23rd November and attracted 15 members who enjoyed a meal beforehand.

21 members enjoyed a Christmas lunch at Stover Golf Club on the 3rd December which was considered to be very successful.

The stall at the Victorian Evening was run by Wendy Yates, Andy Cox and Gail Marshall. £192 was raised mostly through the sale of Andy's woodwork items.

Thanks go to Wendy and Paul for arranging these events.



Our stall at the Victorian Evening



Canalside Walks

We are delighted to start working with local nature enthusiast Ginnie Cox, who is arranging a programme of wildlife walks along the canal.

Ginnie is very experienced in leading such walks having organised outings for the general public over the last few years at local nature reserves in the Teignbridge area.

Details of the walks will appear in the next Bargee but in the meantime we list Ginnie's programme so far announced:

Ginnie has already identified scores of plants, grasses, fungi, birds, trees and flowers along the two mile length of the canal. Look out for some dates in the next issue.



WALK WITH NATURE

Part 1 - February to April

Using heightened senses, learn to recognise birds, wild flowers, butterflies and other insects, trees, grasses and more - up close, at a relaxed speed, and in small groups.

- Fri Feb 8 Early signs of life 1 - Hackney Marshes
- Fri Feb 22 Early signs of life 2 - Stover Country Park
- Fri Mar 15 The natural world in March - Hackney
- Fri Mar 22 Birds, birdsong, nest-building - Hackney
- Fri April 5 The natural world in April - Milber woods
- Fri April 12 Birds of woodland and lakes - Stover
- Wed April 17 Migrant warblers and estuary birds - Hackney

*All walks are **FREE** and are led by local nature enthusiast **GINNIE COX**.
Walks start at 10 am and finish at 12 Midday. Beginners are particularly welcome. Phone 01626 368718 to reserve a place on any or all of the walks.
Car sharing can be arranged if needed.



Some examples of fungi found by member Gail Marshall whilst helping with a recent workparty

Keep up with events as they happen:



Workparty Report

Just before Christmas the Fishwick Feeder walkway was again damaged when high water lifted the structure off its supports and dislodged the boards.

Initial inspection indicated it was dangerous to use and the towpath was closed between the access gate and Graving Dock. A notice was posted at either end with an anticipated re-opening date of the 31st January, 2019.

However, during an extended December mid-month workparty, volunteers made good progress in repairing the damage and, with an extra session a week later, the walkway was opened in time for Christmas and New Year walkers. Well done to all involved!

We will be inspecting the walkway regularly and drawing up plans for a more robust structure in the future when funds become available.

Meanwhile, work has continued at Ventiford Basin. The same floods mentioned above filled the Basin in a very short time and water overtopped the dam. In doing so the concrete slabs which were laid as cladding to protect the crest were dislodged. These have now been secured with extra measures to hopefully prevent a recurrence of damage.



The dam crest cladding.



The Basin in November 2018.

Photo from Graham Cox via Facebook

Behind the scenes, a diagram of the proposed crane has been produced by Paul Taper following extensive research on the internet of similar structures and based on the evidence of the remains still in place. Unfortunately there are no original drawings of the crane in existence and in addition, the building of the railway embankment has restricted the working area behind the crane itself. The likely outcome is a best guess impression of how the crane looked which will still give an idea of how the Basin looked in its heyday.



The crane base and rotating mechanism

Further earthmoving is planned in the Spring which is dependent on weather conditions and contractor availability. However, we have received a sizeable grant from the H B Allen Trust which will increase our options to 'buy-in' professional assistance as necessary. Completion of the whole project is now anticipated by Summer 2020.

The workparty members are continuing general maintenance and clearance. Efforts have concentrated on the section between



Teigngrace Lock and Graving Dock where trees growing in, and overhanging, the bed are being removed and thinned. We have received professional advice which indicates that the shaded lengths do not generally benefit the habitat for wildlife. For this reason, the clearance is carefully monitored and, where necessary, compensatory planting is being undertaken along the eastern side of the canal.

Back in Issue 63 we thanked the management at Sibelco for extending our works compound which is adjacent to the lower towpath. We have now settled into the area which has been organised by workparty members over the last 12 months. Whilst much of our 'store' material is not vulnerable to weather conditions, the two storage containers are still crammed with equipment which must be kept dry!

Our group activities continue to expand and we are always pleased to see new volunteers at the workparties. If you are able to give a little time for some outdoor activity with a great bunch of keen people, do get in touch.

workpartyorganiser@stovercanal.co.uk



Our two containers are well used



This one houses the tractor

Help Needed

As many longstanding members will know, our Trust Vice-Chairman Paul Taper has been a stalwart of the organisation. As other members have given up various key positions, Paul has invariably stepped in to take up the slack. Obviously, this cannot go on forever, as his comments indicate here:

“In one of last year’s Bargee editions I wrote a piece requesting members to come forward as volunteers for our monthly Wednesday and weekend work parties. This had an initial period of success and I had a list of 26 volunteers who I regularly contacted with details of time, location and work proposed. Unfortunately, latterly, the work party sizes have slipped back to our original core group of between 6 and 10 dedicated navies and I am so grateful to them for sticking with the project. Nothing new will get done and things already



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done will not be maintained without boots in the mud! We are so lucky that Brian Till was able to bring his lifetime of building construction experience to the group just when George Whitehead was unable to continue as work party coordinator due to work and family commitments.

In this edition, our Chairman, John Pike, has given details of the AGM in April. Part of that meeting will be the election or re-election of Trustees and Members of the Management Committee. You will see that I, with others, was voted back onto both bodies for a further three years back in 2017. That means that my appointment will run out at the AGM in 2020.

I have been involved in the canal project since Roger Harding's meeting in the Newton Abbot Rugby Club back in 2000. I've surveyed all of the canal's structures, produced two planning applications, attended meetings with the EA, TDC, Network Rail and Local Council members, and attended many, many work parties.

However, twenty years is long enough and as my parents, now in their nineties, are requiring much more support, I have two young grandsons, a dog, an allotment and a very patient, long suffering wife and I feel that it is time I put the cap back on my pen and step away from the administrative side of the canal scheme. Consequently, I will not be putting my name forward for re-election in 2020. I still hope to pitch up for work party sessions but will not be attending meetings. The next fourteen months should give us time to complete the works I designed at Ventiford and perhaps I can draw up a few suggestions for works elsewhere along the canal.

I'm mentioning this now because I would like you all to think about whether you know of anyone with a civil engineering, architectural, quantity surveying or site supervisory background who could be persuaded to come forward and join us and undertake the necessary liaison, design and preparation of planning applications required for the

remainder of the restoration. The sooner someone can be found the easier it will be to transfer all of my drawings, reports, technical information and contact details in good time.

I will be sorry to reduce my involvement in this project but when something that you initially undertook as a hobby appears to have become a career and requires almost daily input it's time for a change. It's time for some new blood and I thank you for all your support over the years." **Paul Taper**

Social Events

Members Lunch is at the Boathouse Riverside Restaurant, Devon Valley Holiday Park, Ringmore Rd, Shaldon, Teignmouth TQ14 0EY at 1pm. The food is the usual bill of fare but the view from the restaurant is beautiful up and down the river; you can also see Haytor as well. It will be low tide and there is access from the river from the Templer Way for the adventurous.

To enjoy suitable tides, the **Canoe Challenge** will be on Easter Sunday, 21st April. Have coffee and biscuits at Town Quay from 8pm and bacon rolls at the compound when you get there!

**Please advise Wendy of attendance:
01626 873647 / wendyyatesoz@aol.com**

For Sale



Safety Boots - Size 9 - £25

**Contact Graham Wickham for details on
01626 369829**



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And finally, we have permission from Kerry Clarke to publish this wonderful scene she captured early one December morning while she was cycling the Stover Trail on her way to work. It was sent via Facebook and is now Kerry's profile picture. If you're not yet following our Facebook page you never know what you may be missing!





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2019

February	13th	Mid Week Work Party
February	23th & 24th	Weekend Work Party
March	13th	Mid Week Work Party
March	30th & 31st	Weekend Work Party
April	6th	Members Lunch, Devon Valley
April	10th	Mid Week Work Party
April	21st	Easter Sunday Canoe Challenge
April	27th & 28th	Weekend Work Party
May	8th	Mid Week Work Party
May	27th	Kingsteignton Ram Roasting Fayre
June	1st & 2nd	Weekend Work Party
June	12th	Mid Week Work Party
June	29th & 30th	Weekend Work Party
July	10th	Mid Week Work Party
July	27th & 28th	Weekend Work Party

Advance details of workparty activities will be emailed to those interested.

To be added to the mailing list please send your details to:

workpartyorganiser@stovercanal.co.uk

Committee Member details can now be found on our website

www.stovercanal.co.uk

Contact us by email: info@stovercanal.co.uk or phone 01626 362609

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**Notice is hereby given that the 2019 Annual General Meeting
of the Members of the Stover Canal Trust will be held
at Kingsteignton Community Hall, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton
on Saturday 16th March 2018 at 10.00 am**

AGENDA

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM held on 17th March 2018
2. To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th June 2018
3. To receive the Trustees' Report on the Trust's activities since the previous AGM
4. To accept the retirement as Trustees of Cllrs George Gribble, David Howe and John Martin (who may be re-appointed by the council Members that appointed them) and Graham Walker, Dr Phil Newman and Darrin Hewings (who may be re-co-opted by the Trustees)
5. For Associate Members to elect up to five members of the Management Committee
6. To appoint independent examiners for the year ending 30th June 2019
7. Any other business

By order of the Board

John Pike

Company Secretary
16th January 2019

Notes:

- a. Associate Members may attend and speak at a general meeting but may only vote on resolutions to elect those Trustees and members of committees that they may elect under the Articles of Association.
- b. 'Companies Act' Members attend and vote at a general meeting by a representative duly authorised to do so on their behalf.

The Stover Canal Trust

Associate Members

Committee Member Nomination Form: AGM 2019

I, _____

being an Associate Member of the Stover Canal Trust,

hereby nominate:

_____ as a **Member of the Management Committee** of the Stover Canal Trust

Signed _____

Dated _____ **2019**

I, _____

hereby accept the above nomination

Signed _____

Dated _____ **2019**