

STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK
(A Community Interest Company)
E-mail : srl2010@hotmail.co.uk

Patron:- The Lord Stafford, DL, FRAGS

President:- David Kidney

Objective: To promote the restoration of the historic river and canal waterway linking the county town of Stafford to the national waterways network for the benefit of the community and all interested groups.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the many new members that have joined us recently; your support is greatly appreciated.

The next major project is to obtain funding for a costing survey so that the Stafford Riverway Link CIC can then apply for further larger funding to complete the Link into Stafford.

During the year, The Stafford Riverway Link has been advised of grants available for the costing survey amounting to many thousands of pounds courtesy of the Inland Waters Association and it is hoped that grants from other sources will allow this costing survey to commence shortly.

As many of our members are aware, Stafford Boat Club have made the Stafford Riverway Link their chosen Charity for the year and from the obvious efforts being made by the members of Stafford Boat Club, very helpful monies to our cause will be forthcoming early in 2011 and with some very influential

members of Stafford Boat Club now serving on our committee you can be assured the money will be very welcome and spent cautiously and wisely towards restoring this Link with the British Canal Network for the benefit of the whole community.

Much has happened this year and I would like to keep you all updated on these events in order, so I will commence with the work party that took place on Sunday 11th April at Baswich with the object of layering the trees back into its original function as a hedge by the towing path. It is our intention to restore the hedge as it was in the 1800's.

The Land owner and colleagues who obviously know the countryside and its ways worked with SRL members on a lovely sunny Spring day and I include below some of the photos taken on this day. Other photos can be viewed on our Website later (with suitable captions)



BEFORE



AFTER

During the work party we were able to layer the hedge by the basin and later work will involve planting whippys or quicks to complete. Also the trees alongside the Drain to the side of the Land that enters the River Penk will be layered, possibly next Spring.

It is my intention to only place a couple of photo's in the Newsletter of each Stafford Riverway Link event as more can be viewed on our Website thereby leaving more room for text and keeping costs as low as possible for the few copies I post

It is also my intention to advise all members by E-mail (That have internet connection) and post (for those who do not) of any further work parties as soon as I know the date and object.

The next event took place on the Wolverhampton Boat Club Commodores Cruise on the 3rd June and gave some of the many members of the Wolverhampton Boat Club that are also members of the Stafford Riverway Link a chance to actually see what they have been supporting for some years now. A report by our Chairman Ivor Hind follows:-

On Thursday 3rd of June from early morning until late afternoon members of the Wolverhampton Boat Club, on their Annual Commodores Cruise, were arriving at the Junction and below St. Thomas's Bridge (101) for a visit to the site of the Stafford Riverway Link. In all there were over 20 boats on the cruise and the Commodore had arranged to stop here for a tour of the site and an explanation of how it used to be, followed by a guided walk to Stafford. At 1pm all those interested gathered and Ivor Hind and Geoff Hales gave an account of progress so far. We then walked to Stafford in beautiful weather, some went to the Pubs in Town others went to Victoria Park for tea and cakes. On the way questions which arose were answered by Ivor & Geoff, particularly the ones relating to the salt works, as there are still several places with the pipe work remaining, that used to feed the Brine Baths. Its fair to say that the boats moored caused a lot of interest from passing boaters who wondered why we were all there. Several leaflets were handed out to passers by and we even received a donation of £20 given

to one of the Club members. All in all a very successful day.

Also in June Stafford Boat Club held their Bi-Annual gathering of Boats and again it must be said what a lovely and well organised gathering the members of Stafford Boat Club put on. The Stafford Riverway Link with its trusty Gazebo attended this gathering for the second time, remembering that really we the SRL took off at the last SBC gathering by finding the land-owners of the Baswich site and recruiting on to the Committee some influential SBC members.

As many of you are aware the Stafford Riverway Link has been formed for some time now and, slowly but surely we have made progress, but as mentioned above we seemed to make the big jump in progressing further at the 2008 Stafford Boat Club Gathering of Boats. For many years now we have been wondering what the Lock, the Lock House, the Entrance Bridge, the Aqueduct and the Basin looked like at Baswich? Unknown to us, we have had lots of the information since the early days of the SRL, but didn't recognise it.

For example, Alan T. Smith MBE gave me photo's that he had taken at the Baswich site in the 1970's and very helpful they have been, yes with age they had gone a bit green but, unknown to me for many years, one photo looking just like a field, showed on closer inspection to be of the Lock showing raised brickwork, also showing the aqueduct brickwork and aqueduct towpath and railings. Recently a small test pit was dug to investigate and we think we have found the Lock brickwork.

David Jones recently managed to acquire a newspaper cutting photo entitled "Placid Waters at Baswich" (reproduced in the last Newsletter) and although we knew we had an unusual bridge with four entrance and exit points, it was not until David remembered that we had a BW 1955 plan of Baswich obtained by David and me many years ago from BW at Gloucester that showed the whole Baswich site in 1955 as BW had installed a concrete culvert. The plan showed a very unusual entrance bridge, the Lock House, the pig sty and the entrance brickwork to the Aqueduct and the aqueduct footpath still in situ, it also showed

the bridge brickwork and if one measures the distance between the remaining entrance brickwork at Baswich, it is possible to acquire the scale of the plan as a ratio and from that determine the measurements of every structure shown on the plan, David has also recently obtained photo's of the Lock House and the associated Pig-sty (again, reproduced in the last Newsletter) which again are clearly shown on the BW 1955 Baswich plan. It is now clear that whoever took the photo of the Lock House and pig-sty was standing on the entrance bridge.

The plan also shows that my theory could be correct, in that the Offside of the Basin was Turf sided except for the brickwork to the

aqueduct (which we have found and uncovered) and the brickwork to the Entrance bridge (to find) however plans are to enlarge the basin for income purposes, so no turf sides. Also, using the latest technology it is possible to remove the BWB 1955 culvert and earthworks from the BW 1955 Plan to get a clearer picture of the site as it was from probably the 1930's to the 1950's with the exception of the removed aqueduct. These measurements will help us when John gets his JCB on site shortly to have a dig around. I hope to reproduce this Plan in the Next edition of the Newsletter after obtaining permission.

As I mentioned in the June Newsletter, The Stafford Riverway Link is changing the date of membership renewals from July to April, so we would appreciate renewals for 9 months, for the period 1st July 2010 to March 31st 2011.

Full Family Membership at £15, Full Single at £7-50. Corporate at £18-75.

Then in April 2011, Full Single Membership again back to £10, but a reduced Full Family Membership at £15 (a genuine reduction) With Corporate membership again at £25.

*Please send to Mr. R. Bowden 36, Wolverhampton Road,
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WV8 1PJ.*

<i>9 Months Single Membership</i>	<i>1st July 10 to 31st March 11</i>	<i>£7-50</i>
<i>9 Months Family Membership</i>	<i>1st July 10 to 31st March 11</i>	<i>£15-00</i>
<i>9 Months Corporate Membership</i>	<i>1st July 10 to 31st March 11</i>	<i>£18-75</i>
<i>Life Membership per person</i>	<i>Life</i>	<i>£100-00</i>

Cheques payable to Stafford Riverway Link.

Your continued Membership is greatly appreciated – we will get there and as it is my belief that we will definitely get there. Barbara & I are becoming Life Members - and we are not the first I might add.

*Norman Cooper
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Or 01902 842464*

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Stafford Riverway Link CIC or its officers/directors