

# STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK

(A Community Interest Company)

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**NEWSLETTER number 9 MARCH 2010**

Patron:- The Lord Stafford, DL, FRAGS

President:- David Kidney MP

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*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.*

Website: [www.stafford-riverway-link.co.uk](http://www.stafford-riverway-link.co.uk)

Firstly I would like to inform everybody that The Stafford Riverway Link is now a Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee, Incorporated 3rd December 2009. Company Number 7093971

Stafford Boat Club have graciously stated that their Charity for 2010 will be The Stafford Riverway Link and the first event held was their Silent Auction held at Stafford Boat Club on Saturday 16th January 2010.

The next fund raising event for the SRL to be held at Stafford Boat Club will be at their Gathering on the 11th, 12th, & 13th June 2010 where boats, caravans, motor-homes, tents and day visitors are all welcome. Once again the SRL will have our gazebo there with displays and members willing to answer any questions.

The SRL Website is proving to be a great asset with new members joining regularly and our Webmaster, Paul Bryan, advised us recently that within the last year we have had 26,595 hits. One such hit was a BW senior employee who after agreeing to meet Ivor & me to discuss the way forward for the SRL clicked on to the site prior to our meeting to obtain information about us and told us that it helped him greatly to understand our restoration project and the history of the Link into Stafford.

A number of SRL Committee members met recently with the Land Owner to discuss the re-instatement of the original hedge (they have grown into trees now) by layering so we are not replacing the 19th century hedge but tidying it up a bit, although our aim is to get narrow boats back into Stafford town centre as boaters it is also our aim to keep this idyllic waterway as natural as it used to be in order that it will continue to blend in with its surroundings.

I have been going on for a long time now that a picture of the lock

(St. Thomas's) on the flood plane would be very nice, well, unbeknown to me, I have had such a picture for years, given to me by Alan T Smith M.B.E – it was one of a number given by Alan to the SRL that at a glance just appeared to be of scenery and not obvious as a man made structure, others that he gave us clearly showed the Basin, the towpath, the aqueduct supporting brickwork etc. I enclose the photo of the lock, taken by Alan T Smith M.B.E in June 1971



Please, if you come across any photos of the Lock, the Lock House and surroundings at Baswich, the SRL would be grateful to receive these.

a Photo courtesy of Anthony Gregory in B/W from a Staffs & Worcs Canal Society Reccy between 1967 & 1970



*Showing the entrance to the aqueduct (removed by then) from the basin, with the towpath to the left over the River Penk still in place.*

*We are hoping to have a presence on the Rally field at the IWA National Festival of Boats at Beale Park in the shape of a 4m x 3m marquee which will be fun! Members and friends are very welcome to come and have a sit and a chat over a cup of tea or coffee to refresh the inner person and get out of the stifling heat of the heatwave which will be arriving in August. But please bring your umbrella and wellies in case this heatwave passes us by on its way to the Sahara.*

*We are also pleased to announce that the SRL will also be giving at least one presentation at the IWA National Festival of Boats on Sunday 30th August at 2p.m. different to last years presentation as there are always improvements to be made and new material (such as a photo of the Lock on the flood plain!) your support would be welcome if attending the festival.*

*The Stafford Riverway Link is changing the date of membership renewals owing to the fact that our current date of July is right in the middle of the holiday season, so, this year in July we will be asking for membership renewals for 9 months, for the period 1st July 2010 to March 31st 2011.*

*Full Family Membership at £15, Full Single at £7-50.*

*Then for 2011 to 2012 Full Single Membership again back to £10, but a reduced Full Family Membership at £15 (a genuine reduction )*

*At the moment there is a lot of activity within the SRL and as soon as I can report progress I will inform you. The next edition of the newsletter is due out in June.*

*I would like to finish this edition with a picture of our Chairman, Ivor Hind, standing on the original Lock looking at the original foundations.*

*The Photo taken from the entrance to the aqueduct (you can see the supporting brickwork at the bottom either side ) shows Ivor the other side of the River Penk clearly standing on the old Lock. We know that for sure now as brickwork is just 12 inches (30 cms) below the grass*

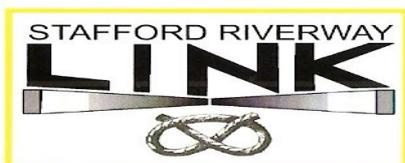
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Corporate Member Number 4007982



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