

STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK

(A Community Interest Company)

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Patron:- The Lord Stafford, DL, FRAGS

President:- David Kidney Vice President:- Jeremy Lefroy MP

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.

NEWSLETTER Number 17

November 2013

It has been some time since the last Newsletter; however, we have not been idle.

It has been 7 years since Newsletter Number 1 was issued and for a number of personal reasons I have decided that this Newsletter will be my last, so it is time for another enthusiast to our cause to take over. If anyone reading this Newsletter wishes to take over, then please e-mail me of your intention and we can have an electronic chat. – looking forward to that I am.

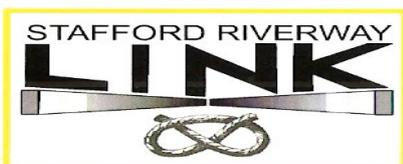
I have been involved with the SRL since its inception in February 1997 and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the challenge of getting to Stafford by water, I think it is important also to the economy of Stafford and improving the ecology of the area, let's be clear the river Sour is not the best in the country and sadly neglected, I pass over it nearly every Thursday by the Sea Scouts Unit and cannot help but to think that the SRL with the help of the Community and the Councils (they are on our side and have been, and still are, very helpful and enthusiastic in improving the river and surrounding countryside) we could make the river Sour into an award winning river.

In a letter from the Environment Agency dated 22nd May 2013 it states that

"The Agency is committed to working with your organisation to try and find

a solution which is acceptable to all parties to enable this project to move forward" this seems very fair and positive to me. Although it was felt that some personnel at the EA were negative to the proposals outlined by the Halcrow report and others were considered to be helpful. It has always been seen by the SRL that the EA would be the major problem in restoring the Link as we have been told this in the past by so many organisations that have had dealings with them (including BW). It is noted

Norman Cooper



that in some areas the EA is not opposed to navigation and indeed on some rivers (River Medway) the EA encourages it, however it has been noticed that in our Area on the EA there is one officer who is most negative to our proposals but when his many comments were individually addressed by a Doctor of Microbiology in our party he ignored them and quickly moved on. I therefore think that any negativity on the part of just one officer can be overcome and as such together the EA and the SRL can move on for the benefit of the community and all interested groups to complete the Link.



I enclose a photo showing John Mountfort the Commodore of Stafford Boat Club presenting Ivor Hind the Chairman of the SRL with a large cheque for £8,017-04p the proceeds from Stafford Boat Club's members and friends annual charity and, if you recall, this is the second time the SRL has benefitted. Thank you dear friends at Stafford Boat Club for your support.

Recently there was £14,600 in the SRL Bank Account and this after we had paid for the Halcrow Report.



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