

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.

Website: www.stafford-riverway-link.co.uk

Newsletter No 27

January 2018

Hello SRL Members!

Welcome to 2018 and may it be a year of progress, expanding membership, successful work parties and happy socializing.

Chairman's Update: It is taking somewhat longer than we anticipated to get started on the surveys with regards to 'Hydrology' and 'Bio-Diversity' but we shall continue to persevere. We are, as I said last time, looking for someone to undertake an early engineering survey in order to obtain some ball park figures to help us obtain funds.

I have now obtained new architect plans to present to the landowners, which should then go to the solicitors for ratification. This means we should have a lease agreement with the landowners for 100 years! Due to this, the project has taken on a new momentum with regards to building 'the basin' and further works on the site. The only thing slowing us down is funding. So as I said in the last newsletter, please give it some thought and help us proceed.

'Buy a Block' is progressing slowly, but will give us a start on the basin towpath wall.

Due to the efforts of John Potter, John Mountfort and their team the site is looking very good. Please visit, if you can, when we are having a work party. These dates are sent out by the membership secretary but should also be on line in the near future. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on site! Meanwhile, thanks very much for your support.

Ivor Hind (Chairperson)

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We can give you some work party dates right now so do, please, put these in your diaries, on your calendars, on your computers so they beep at you very loudly and then come along and join the fun. Yes, 'FUN' as the camaraderie at our work parties is to be enjoyed. We work hard and play hard with breaks for refreshment and much chat. Whatever your interest or skills there is likely to be a job for you as there is a real mix of getting involved with the structural side – the basin, the lock-house, the walls along the towpath – or with the 'back-to-nature-bit, with hedge planting, grass cutting, weeding, etc. And then, we welcome those who have 'chat' skills and can engage with the passers-by, telling them what we are up to and passing on our enthusiasm. Or perhaps you want to keep the workers supplied with refreshments (supplied by us, not you!) whilst they toil away cleaning bricks etc. Whatever your forte, we will welcome you with open arms! So, dates –

24th Feb with an option to continue on 25th if need be; March 19th – 25th; April 14th/15th; May 12th/13th.

We have provisional dates for later in the year too. If a work party is a week long, don't be put off! No one ever manages to commit to the whole time. Volunteers are a much loved breed who give as much or as little as they are comfortable with. Come for an hour or two and you will be as welcomed as those who come regularly, spending all their spare time with us. Every hour is logged and can be 'match-funded' when we are looking for grants etc.

I guess that covers work parties! Let's move on to a different aspect of our 'SRL life'.

Social Events: As a group, we were a little lax in starting up any social events that were not connected to meeting up on the site. However, we now have a regular social evening during the autumn and winter months. Acknowledging the summer activities of many of us – boating/caravanning etc we don't meet in the summer. Currently, we meet in 'The Sun' pub in Stafford and have had some enjoyable evenings when we have welcomed speakers. One evening was a little different in that 'Titanic' brewery, who run 'The Sun', organised a brewery trip for us. I'm told it was a fantastic evening with much free ale. Sadly, I myself, don't like beer.....Needless to say, I didn't go. So more dates for your diaries –Wednesday February 7th we have a talk on 'Garden Railways' and on Tuesday March 20th we have a talk on 'Bridge Chapels'. 'The Sun' gives us the room free of charge, benefiting from increased bar sales on the nights we meet, so a big 'thank you' to the staff there. We tend to meet at about 7.00 p.m. with the speaker starting at about 8.00 p.m. Any news, updates, chat etc happens first, along with the sale of raffle tickets. Well, we do need to increase the funds a little when the opportunity arises! Do please come and join us and meet fellow SRL members and enthusiasts. SRL is for all of our members and we will welcome any new ideas from you.

That leads neatly on to the next 'newsletter item'. We need members! Some of you reading this may have overlooked renewing your membership. Please check and if you are not up-to-date please send a cheque or fill in a form for your bank so you never forget again.... Not quite a 'Your Country Needs You' but definitely 'SRL NEEDS YOU'! We also need a boost in membership numbers so if you have friends or relations that you think might join do encourage (coerce!?) them Membership for their next birthday present perhaps? Then, how about telling all your work mates about this project and what a change cleaning bricks or pruning hedges would be to sitting in an office. And while I'm at it, we need someone other than our chairman, our current committee and myself to encourage these increases in numbers and funds! In reality we could do with a

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Do you have any sparkling new ideas, or know someone who could help in this way? We know there are many sources of funding in the form of grants, sponsorships, local business backing etc but we don't know everything and all of us have limited time to research this and make contact etc. This would be a fantastically, amazing supportive role for someone out there!

Last, but not least, we aim to take our SRL caravan to some new venues this year to publicise our project. We have 'had a presence' at the Stafford Country fair for the last 3 years and those manning the stall get to see the event. Fancy helping? Let us know. Phew, I'm 'out of space'. Thanks for reading this, Vee.



*Stafford Riverway Link Community Interest Company is a not for profit Company Limited by Guarantee
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The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Stafford Riverway Link CIC or its officers/directors