

# STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK

(A Community Interest Company)

E-mail : [srl2010@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:srl2010@hotmail.co.uk)

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

**Newsletter No 28**

October 2018

Hello to all our members,

**From The Chairman:** I would like to thank the members of SRL and the few!! helpers we have had on site this year. I have found it disappointing that some have agreed to come and not turned up which makes it very difficult for the organiser (JP) to provide what he needs and Vee or myself what catering to bring. There is a very small band of people who turn up regularly and due to these brilliant volunteers we have, as a group, achieved an incredible amount this year. Please, if you can come even for a cup of tea and a chat DO! It gives us a much needed boost.

Aside from the site works we are now meeting shortly with the CRT engineers with regards to how we anticipate progress and how they can help. The object of the meeting is to consider the Basin plan and the Bridge plans and put them on the CRT site. We have applied for a further small grant from Staffs county councillors which has been agreed! This will give us a further £650 next year for purchasing Blocks and building materials to continue the basin wall. We are still selling Blocks (£5 each) and any donations will be gratefully received. I will be presenting our project to Lichfield IWA at their AGM and prior to this they have given us a donation of £100 to help the build. There will be, in the new year, a Raffle to help raise funds for the Basin wall build and any Prize donations will be gratefully received.

Finally, with regards to the River Sow progress, we are seeking to join forces with Perkins to possibly reinstate the Signs that follow the footpath route and cycleway into Stafford which will raise our profile to a new level. Thank you to all members - we really appreciate your support so please come to our Social Evenings if you can.

Ivor Hind (Chairperson).

P.S. Jenny you are doing a great job with Facebook!

**Work Parties** We have held several work parties recently and the volunteers who have come along will know how satisfying they have been and also what fun we have. The weather has been very mixed with a need for sun tan cream and sun hats followed by a drenching so intense my own anorak took two days to dry. C'est la vie! Much brick and block laying, as well as concreting, has been accomplished; hedges planted, trimmed and nurtured; the lock house garden tended; the lock house, itself, lovingly worked on; a bonfire to burn the rubbish provided warmth on a cold, dreary day. If you haven't been along, you've missed some good opportunities to join the fun. One of the best days was when we were joined by about 95 volunteers from RISUAL, a local company, who made us the focus of their community day. A much appreciated 'end-to-the-day' was a barbecue which they invited us all to share. Are you feeling a need to come along and join us? The next work party weekend is planned for **Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>**

**and Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>.** There will be useful jobs to suit all. Don't think it is all hard, physical work. Helping with refreshments or talking to the many people walking the towpath and raising our profile is of as much importance as mixing concrete or cleaning bricks. At the last work party, Ivor refurbished the **notice board** beside the site perimeter fence. Keep an eye on this as news of work parties and social events will be displayed here.

**Social Events** With the onset of autumn, and for some of us a decline in boating activities, we have resumed our monthly evening social events. New for this season is our intention to alternate the events between 'The Sun' in Stafford and the Stafford Boat Club. We thank both these venues for their support. The October evening was at 'The Sun' and Ivor gave an update of the progress on the Link and a photographic presentation covering the history from early days to the very latest work party. This was followed by a film with a very old fashioned boating theme which provided a few chuckles. November's meeting will be on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>** at the Boat club. Our vice chairman, John Mountfort will be presenting the history of the boat club. He has said he does not do much talking but has a series of DVDs representing each decade. Again, this should be an interesting evening and we'd love to welcome some SRL members who maybe have not managed to join us previously. Evenings are free to attend with an assumption that one might buy a drink from the bar to support those supporting us! We do hold a raffle on these evenings with donated prizes – wine, cosmetics, jigsaws, DVDs etc have all been previous prizes. Meetings in either venue are 7.30 p.m. for 8.00.

New for this newsletter – well since I have taken on the job of composing it – will be inserting some photos. I could claim improved computer skills, but sadly, I must thank my other half and concede that in some small areas he is cleverer than me! Hope to see lots of you soon.  
Your newsletter editor, Vee Potter.



Progress on the towpath wall.



*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*