

STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK

NEWSLETTER number 6, APRIL 2009

Since Newsletter number 5 last June, much has happened and I have decided to tell the story of events in a series of Newsletters hopefully at one month intervals. I also intend to E-mail these to our Members in order to save costs and time. I will also post paper copies to both The Stafford Boat Club and the Wolverhampton Boat Club to go on their notice boards. At the Stafford Boat Clubs gathering of boats held in 2008 during June, the SRL took the display stand and an enjoyable time was had, highlighted by a visit from the Mayor of Stafford, Councillor Ann Edgeller, and her good looking party (including Pete Edgeller and John Mountfort) For those members who do not know Ann & Peter Edgeller, they have been well known members of Stafford Boat Club for many a year. Ann showed great interest in our aims and objectives and promised to help us in her year of office as best she could. By chance, Stella Machin (another Stafford Boat club stalwart) was having tea with relations and mentioned the SRL where it became evident that her relations and family were the current land owners at Baswich where the original basin, lock house and aqueduct were situated. A meeting was held with Eunice & Bill Finney who own the land (with another member of the family) and it transpired that they were very sympathetic and helpful to our cause as well as being extremely well connected with people that can make things happen. Ivor & Norman with Eunice & Bill visited the site in November 2008 and an agreement as to how much land the SRL could occupy was agreed and a plan was drawn (enclosed). This will allow the SRL to restore the entrance to the basin, the basin and the aqueduct leading to the original lock, to be re-created almost exactly as built, the exception being the enlargement of the basin to allow narrow boats to moor to provide initial security and an income for maintenance etc.

David Jones has researched the lock cottage (in future to be called the lock house) using census returns and successfully provided further historical data and another aim is to restore this lock house as accommodation for further security, control to the river and our headquarters.

With very important information given to us by Eunice and the help of the Mayor, Ann Edgeller, a meeting was arranged to be held in January of this year at the Council Offices in Stafford which could well decide the future of the SRL.

So, after many years of struggle it appears that we are about to take a major step forward in our aims to restore this link and your encouragement as a member of the link is greatly appreciated. I trust you find these exciting developments encouraging as we are definitely moving forward to restore the link.

(Is that a light I can see at the end of the tunnel?)

The restoration of the link between the British canal system and the County Town of Stafford must surely, in the grand scheme of canal restorations, be about the simplest and the most cost effective. This will bring the County Town of Stafford with all its benefits & facilities to boaters as well as, in return, providing increased tourism and economic benefits to Stafford.

We look forward to our members continuing support in these hopefully exciting times.

I enclose a copy of the plan below

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STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK PROPOSED ENTRANCE, BASIN & AQUEDUCT 1st DECEMBER 2008

- A-B 74'
- B-D 247'
- C-E 141'
- D-E 159'
- F-G 92'

