

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 25

July 2017

Hello to all SRL members,

Newsletters are written sporadically,. When there is a lot of good stuff to report on and it coincides with me being around with a few minutes spare time I have fun relating the news and hope you enjoy these updates. First, though, a contribution from our Chair, Ivor.

Chairman's Update.

We are progressing with the appointment of someone to complete a Hydrology Study without which we cannot progress on the plain with the connection. Also we are looking at further studies for engineering & Bio-diversity. We are hoping some of this will be done by Staffordshire University or another Uni in our area as I said in the last newsletter. (This will help our community connection)

I hope we can shortly complete our agreement with the landowner for our 100 year lease. I have hopefully obtained a volunteer Architect to draw up the plans needed for the solicitors. As you can see I am rather HOPEFUL !!!!.

We are pursuing funding in several places and looking to attract monies to help build the Basin. Any offers of help from our members on this subject will be very gratefully received. Most of you will have heard of the buy a block campaign which is starting to obtain some momentum.

Finally a request: - Please give some thought to either volunteering at our work parties or suggesting some people who would be prepared to. We have a very small group who attend quite regularly but need some help. It is a time for enjoyment and we have fun as well as progressing the project. It should not be considered hard work although some jobs require a level of fitness and strength. However there is plenty of strimming , weeding and site clearing that can be done by most people. So come and join us (You may just like it!!)

Thanks again for your support and if you have not renewed your membership. please we do need your support.

Ivor Hind

P.S. If you can make a work Party please let John Potter know so we can ensure you have refreshments and he will arrange suitable work. Phone:01785 226662

Rest of the News.... Back in the spring, we launched our monthly social evenings. These were held at 'The Sun' pub in Stafford. The room is provided free on the assumption that most attendees will contribute to the

pub coffers by buying a drink – or two! Our thanks then to the staff who help with finding extra chairs etc when attendance exceeds expectations.

We enjoyed 3 great evenings with a variety of talks. Each occasion included a raffle and updates on work parties, fund-raising etc. Raffle prizes were donated by those attending and included wine, jigsaws and fascinating books. We intend resuming these evenings for the autumn/winter months and seem to have settled on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. As such, Tuesday October 10th looks a likely date to merit putting on your calendar! Sales of 'blocks' were promoted – see Chairman's update' – and are proving to be quite a successful fund-raiser. **Have you bought yours yet?**

SRL had a promotional stand at the country fair held in the grounds of Stafford Castle in May. More volunteers 'manning' the stand would have been helpful but for those who did help, there was opportunity to wander around the other stalls and also enjoy the events in the central ring. Morris dancing, Shire horse displays, sheep-dog demonstrations etc. Should the opportunity arise next year, do consider joining us for an event which combines support for SRL with a lovely day out.

WORK-PARTIES: There have been several work parties since the last newsletter. We are usually really lucky with the weather, which makes me think this SRL project must have 'Heavenly Approval'! The usual jobs are ongoing – further brick-laying on the lock house footprint; re-instating the original towpath; increasing the hard-standing at the end of the roadway, which will be so good for parking cars once the winter mud, which caused some havoc last year, returns; work within the 'basin' and last but not least working on the lock house garden. This now has a lawn and a lavender hedge. One can visualise future work-party participants having a lunch break on this lovely grassed area really appreciating the fruits of their labours as they survey the progress being made. Does that conjure up some idyllic images for you? If you have yet to join a work party, let me re-iterate what is in the chairman's bit. It is not all hard work and there could be the very job to suit you. We always stress that those who come and help are volunteers, therefore you 'call the tune' as to how many hours you stay, how many breaks you need, how many chats you have with passers by – and that last bit can be as important as an hour of hard graft digging. Contact with the public is great. It raises our profile, gets the community 'on board' and makes everyone feel connected. If PR is your forte, we need you as much as we need the more physically inclined. Finally, there are the 'tea making angels.....' Could they include you? **John Potter** usually has the current info on dates and what work will be happening and can be contacted on **01785226662**. As I finish this newsletter, I can report that I have literally just come home from the latest work party which saw the fencing re-aligned to allow SRL a greater area for the basin and surrounding ground – thank you so much to our 'Landlords'. We can now progress with digging more of the basin. Also happening today was a continuing relocating the broken bricks we have reused to the hard standing area for parking cars. All whole bricks are carefully cleaned and saved for the rebuilding of any structures. **Next work party – August 19th**. We have also earmarked **September 9th** but this could be part of a week-long work party so watch for further details.

Hopefully all of you receiving this have renewed your membership. If not, please do so. We need your continued support.

Hopefully, too, we will see lots of you at any future events, be they work parties, social evenings or such events where we have a promotional stand. Like Ivor – we are all hopeful!

The final 'hopeful' is that you all enjoy the summer whatever you may be doing.

Best wishes to you all

Vee Potter (veerose@hotmail.co.uk)



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