



## **Barnsley, Dearne & Dove Canals Trust**

### **Newsletter** **Spring 2007**

**Happy New Year** (belated I know, but then I was at sea for it)

**Accounts** Enclosed is a copy of our 2005 accounts for reference as accepted at the last AGM

**Membership Fees** The bad news is that fees have had to rise yet again, due to inflation affecting everything, but please don't let that put you off renewing – now that we have the feasibility study we need your support more than ever in order to push on – so if there is a renewal form in with this news letter please fill in and return asap. (Some of you still haven't paid for last year! - Naughty!!!! – you get 2 red dots on address label)

**Please** fill out forms as full as possible – **especially the Gift Aid declaration** – we have recovered £650 from the tax man so far!!

#### **Feasibility Study**

At the launch in November 2006 Ed Ball MP for Normanton wearing his 'constituency hat' gave a very upbeat speech praising the work done and supporting the whole idea, various representatives from BW, other canal organisations and regional bodies gave a very positive response from the audience so its on to the next stage.

The Barnsley Canals Consortium (a grouping of Local Authorities and other interested bodies including the Trust) has been working over the last few months since we published the Feasibility Study negotiating with various landowners in order to secure the route suggested by Atkins Plc in their report. There is an increasing sense of urgency because Local Authority Unitary Development Plans are currently being reviewed, and evidence from the feasibility study is required to protect the route under a planning review. The suggested route into and through Swinton may need drastically revising due to redevelopment in the area; negotiations with Rotherham MBC are ongoing.

#### **Willow Bank Partnership**

The Willow Bank Partnership has joined the Consortium. Their representative, Colin Heseltine, outlined their interest in reinstating the Barnsley Canal from 'Smithies' upstream towards Barugh, a distance of about 2 miles and includes a section of old opencast mine workings which are due for re-landscaping by UK Coal Plc. Initially Willow Bank Partnership would like to identify and set out footpaths along the line of the canal which would connect with other routes in the area such as the Dearne Way and Transpennine Trails.

Willow Bank Partnership brings an added benefit in that one of their members has expertise in the ecological field – a very useful talent.

The Trust would appreciate help from UK Coal in reinstating the Canal across their piece of land.

This point, at the bottom of Low Barugh Locks will probably be the accepted terminus of the canal – a suitable location for a 50 + boat Marina??

#### **Walking Routes**

The Consortium has agreed to investigate the production of leaflets identifying walking routes which may incorporate the route of the canal – to this end – if you have a favourite walk around the Barnsley, Dearne & Dove Canals area please let us have details! – send to June Backhouse, Barnsley Dearne Dove Canals Trust, 39 Hill Street, Elsecar, Barnsley, S74.8EN, Or via email at our website [www.bddct.org.uk](http://www.bddct.org.uk)

#### **Meetings**

Open meetings will be held as normal on the first Monday of each month at the Market Hotel, Elsecar, Barnsley at 8 pm – details of speakers etc. are available on our web site.

**N.B. March Meeting** is on **THURSDAY** 8<sup>th</sup> March at The Market Hotel Elsecar, with John Goodchild giving an illustrated presentation “The Barnsley Canals – Why Were They Built” – see you there?

Thank You All

**Ulrich Signer**

Editor & Membership