



# Barnsley, Dearne & Dove Canals Trust

[www.BDDCT.org.uk](http://www.BDDCT.org.uk)

## Newsletter – Spring 2011

### *Greetings to all*

Yes! It's Renewal time again!! – So, if you have a renewal form in with this news letter (and the 'dreaded red dot' on the label) *please* help us by renewing promptly,

Matters have been moving so slowly that it appears we are at a standstill, but, rest assured we haven't forgotten about the restoration - so don't lose heart just yet!

Our biggest concern just now is the lack of funds from almost every quarter and the ongoing cutbacks in both national and local government – this is seriously affecting our ability to move matters along.

BUT Barnsley MBC is currently spending £123,000 on biodiversity and recreational projects at various sites along the line of the Canal. These projects do not preclude the restoration work later on and might even look good.

ALSO a number of Major Development Projects affecting the line of the canal are in the early planning stage – the various commercial organisations appear to be willing to assist us by including the canal in their plans.

The two prime developments are firstly, the Wakefield power station site. This already has planning permission for housing, but the decline in the demand for housing put plans on hold. The view is that the construction and sale of housing on the site is now a more reasonable prospect. Previously the developer had planned to provide compensatory land downriver for flood water accommodation. However, before things went flat he was attracted by the prospect of providing a marina which could possibly also accommodate floodwater. The intricacies have yet to be explored, but it could mean that the first section of the canal and the river lock might be delivered.

Secondly, Nostell Estates with UK Coal as local landowners are promoting a concept called the 'Nine Lakes Country Park'. Wakefield Council is also a landowner in the area and is supporting the scheme. As well as incorporating nine water bodies between Featherstone and Newmillerdam in Wakefield, district, putting the Barnsley Canal back into water is seen as a key element on the proposals map. That's all I am able to say just now,

AND if you travel the Trans-Pennine Way north of Monk Bretton you can now cross under the recently opened Cudworth/Monk Bretton Bypass via a generously proportioned under-bridge pretty well on the line of the Barnsley Canal. Heading north, the bridge is just before the alignment proposed by Atkins veers off to the east on their suggested aqueduct around the Ardagh Glassworks (formerly the Rexam Glassworks). The ample width would accommodate the restored canal. The Trust and Consortium were consulted on how this section might best be treated, so we can chalk up a useful 'win' here.

ONE project WE are starting on is a rewrite of the Trust's book 'The Barnsley Canal, a Forgotten Waterway?' (The Blue Book) and are looking for any pictures / photos / articles of historical interest etc. of the canal for possible inclusion in the new issue. Email or write to us if you are able to help in this or any other matter – canal related.

P.S. Keep an eye on the website [www.bddct.org.uk](http://www.bddct.org.uk) for an item on the abandoned Adwick Tunnel on the Dearne and Dove near Swinton. It should make interesting reading.

P.P.S. The location shown on an old postcard taken on the Barnsley Canal near Heath has been pinpointed. It is hoped that 'before' and 'after' versions can be displayed together shortly.  
Let us hope matters keep on improving over the next 12 / 18 months

OK that's it for now; Best Regards

*Ulrich Signer*

Membership Secretary & Editor

---

Registered Office: 22 Cyprus Avenue, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 2RT

Company Number 2600350

Limited by guarantee and not having a share capital

Registered Charity Number 1002651

Registered with ENTRUST as an Environmental Body, Registered Number 014718