



Barnsley, Dearne & Dove Canals Trust

Web:- www.bddct.org.uk

Spring 2012

Greetings All,

A short Note to accompany the AGM Notice and, where appropriate, your Membership renewal notice. So if you do have a renewal notice please assist with a prompt response.

I do appreciate that there has been no 'Keel' for some time – but while physical progress has been non-existent this year, there have been some moves behind the scenes, including working with:-

- a) Willow Bank Country Park Development Group, who are working on the upper section of the Barnsley Canal to create a leisure and recreation park including the Canal land with a view to full restoration in due course.
- b) Ninelakes Regional Park Project in the Walton area. This is a commercial project which encompasses part of the canal and the reservoirs at Winterset and Cold Hiendley.
- c) Wakefield Power Station Site developers.
- d) Wakefield and Barnsley Councils Local Development Framework (LDF) reports. Monitoring of Rotherham's LDF is underway too.

So things are rumbling on, please don't lose heart!

Malcolm Macaskill It was with deep regret and sadness that we learned of the death of Malcolm Macaskill in October 2011. He passed away peacefully after a long illness. Malcolm's expertise and humour will be greatly missed

Mike Silk, our Engineer has given us this appreciation of Malcolm's work and time with us.

"I worked with Malcolm on the engineering side of the Trust from when I joined in 2003. At the time feelers had been put out regarding funding of the feasibility study and the feedback was very positive. But my impression was that the next stage – getting a contract awarded to a consultant was seen as a bit of an uphill struggle, particularly because of what were then the 'new technology' aspects. Malcolm was very much a hands on doer of things that you could see were taking shape before your eyes. The process involved in getting a consultant appointed to think about how the Calder might be rejoined with the Don via the canals was, shall we say less attractive, but he knew it had to be done.

With my slightly greater knowledge of how to use word basic processing software mainly, then very much under his guidance and direction, together we were able to put together a brief and an information pack for the study. This drew on Malcolm's own experience from other projects.

Although the Trust raised the money The Barnsley Canals Consortium fronted the study. Malcolm was an essential member of the Consortium panel assembled to whittle down the list of applicants to a shortlist and then eventually to select the successful consultant – Atkins. Throughout the process Malcolm's shrewd evaluation and incisive analysis served us extremely well. Malcolm was very supportive of the efforts – no matter how small – of anyone who took an interest in the restoration. He was always working to keep things on an even keel, people pulling in the same direction and keeping everyone focussed. He was always acutely aware that the canal restoration world was a small circle and that splinter groups were not good news. I suspect that what he had seen happen to the Barnsley Canal Group influenced this view.

Malcolm's sense of humour, general bonhomie and patience were always great attributes to have on tap throughout the rather long and at times tedious processes of getting the feasibility study completed. As his illness progressed he had to reduce his involvement with the restoration scheme, but I can bear witness to his fortitude and doggedness in continuing to attend Consortium meetings, when merely to get to the first floor room where they were held was a severe struggle for him. As we continue to strive to deliver the targets set in the feasibility study during these straightened time, his efforts and dedication will be sorely missed."

Mike Silk

I hope to see you all at the AGM. Volunteers for an Officer's or Director's post Please!!!!!!

Barnsley Dearne Dove Canals Trust, c/o 39 Hill Street, Elsecar, Barnsley, S74.8EN, Co No.2600350, Charity No.10002651

I wish to make a donation of £ payable to the 'BDDCT - (Restoration - Feasibility Appeal)'

Name.....Address.....
.....Tel No..... Email..... Please Print.

Receipt Required Yes/ No Delete as appropriate