



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

Web:- [www.bddct.org.uk](http://www.bddct.org.uk)

## **Spring 2015**

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 nonexistent this year, there have been some moves behind the scenes.

The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Restoration Committee held their summer meeting at the Kings Arms, Heath, Wakefield, where the Trust was able to run through the restoration proposals with those members of the Committee unfamiliar with them, as well as updating them on the latest developments. The Committee are very supportive of all our efforts and suggested a few avenues for further exploration. The interest at strategic levels in restoring the canal was reinforced by the presence of Mark Penny – volunteer Chair of the North Eastern Waterways Partnership. A walk after the meeting with Committee members was used to demonstrate the impact that HS2 will have on the Winterset/Cold Hiendley Reservoirs and the potential that the feeder canal and the main line of the Barnsley Canal has in that area for boaters.

Following discussions with the farming landowners of Winterset and Cold Hiendley Reservoirs (and the section of canal in the Notton Cutting), it does appear that a water supply could be fed into the Walton section of the canal at times by manual operation of the draw-down valve. However, this would require the installation of a revised outlet pipework and additional valves, and would probably require the provision of an outlet at the Walton end of the section to prevent stagnation, something which the Walton lock flight would have provided in the past. The progression of what would be an interim scheme is on hold while the various issues are explored in more detail.

A community Partnership at Willow Bank in west Barnsley has been formed to promote and improve the local environment. The area includes the Barnsley Canal which is 'in water' over much of the adjacent section, but not maintained effectively. Plans are being drawn up for a staged approach to improvements to the footpath network and accessibility generally. The Trust is involved and has offered to help the project by enlisting the support of the Waterways Recovery Group or our own volunteers if plans come to fruition.

A visit was expected to take place with Jonathan Horsfall - the North East Regional Waterway Manager Canal and River Trust (CRT) and some of his colleagues from the in the autumn of 2014, unfortunately this got postponed. The intention was to help CRT to know all they needed to know about the abandoned canals and their restoration and how it might fit in with longer term strategies for the region. However, we have recently been advised that a visit will take place in the spring of this year, but just with Jonathan Horsfall. He has submitted a bid recently for the part-funding of a post that would seek to promote progression of the restoration, and if successful the remaining funding will need to be generated locally. It is hoped that these funds can be found. This bid has also been supported by Mark Penny, who has taken a great interest in the restoration of our canals and is also very aware of the potential that the canals have for regeneration. He has become an effective voice in favour of moving ahead with the restoration and assisting us in our efforts.

Representatives of the Trust have made an effective contribution to the HS2 working Party formed by CRT and involving the Inland Waterways Association and various other restoration trusts. Although the impact of the lobbying on altering the impact on our canals has yet to be determined, there is little doubt that the unified working had produced results at Fradley Junction etc., and the Trust is hopeful that similar beneficial results can be achieved for the Barnsley and Dearne and Dove Canals.

**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