

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Foxham & Lyneham Branch

January 2016 Newsletter

Hello Everyone

This is your third newsletter which will continue to come out about once every two months to keep you all updated with what is going on in the branch.

You will still receive agendas and minutes for the branch meetings, but we hope that the additional newsletter will make easier reading and encourage all members to join in different activities.

Please feel free to send in articles to be included in the next newsletter to Sheila Wade.

Post- Christmas Get Together

All Branch members were invited to join in a Branch Sunday Lunch at the Cross Keys in Bradenstoke on Sunday January 31st

We are now fully booked, and I hope everyone has a great meal.

Quiz Nights

The branch holds a monthly Quiz Night at the Cross Keys in Bradenstoke. These quizzes are set by Di Smurthwaite and compered by Rachael Banyard and they are great fun, if a little taxing on the brain.



The Christmas Quiz Night on 6th December had a very good attendance and we all appreciated the Christmas related questions... including the names of the 8

reindeer! The nibbles that everyone brought in were much appreciated, and our Chair Ian Gilbert went home with the best prize in the raffle: a lovely stool with a dragonfly motif made by Chris Poore.

The next two quiz nights are on Sunday 14th February (*Valentines's Day*....*ideal night out to*

Happy Valentine's Day



make the right impression!) and

Sunday 13th March at the Cross Keys in Bradenstoke, starting at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

EGM and New Executive

The W&BCT EGM, which will include more information about the new management structure, is taking place on Saturday 5th March at Ellendune Community Centre in Wroughton starting at 2 pm.

The F&L Committee were pleased to have the opportunity of meeting our CEO, Jonathan Till, at our meeting in December.

Working Party News from Gordon's report

In addition to the work at Foxham, we spent two Christmas Sundays joining the BITM

group, and worked on Rachael's stretch moving a hedge and widening the towpath.



Photo of Gordon Williams and Sheila Wade with the tow path work going on in the background

7 Locks: The Working Party have spent some time in January removing willow saplings from around the locks and the canal bed, and it looks a great deal better.

The 7 Locks restoration project proposal is still in the planning stage and it is hoped that a full proposal will be approved by the Project Board shortly. The extent and timing of the project can be announced at that stage.

Risk Assessing: Our Deputy WPO, Larry Finnegan, has been spending some time on writing and implementing the necessary procedures so that it is clear that the Branch has assessed and recorded potential risks and hazards which may affect the Working Party. This essential work does not exempt

members, especially the Branch volunteers who turn out on most Sundays to help restore the canal, from thinking very carefully about their own safety when undertaking volunteer work. Health and Safety is everyone's responsibility. But it does mean that the Branch has carried out its duties under the current legislation.

A Christmas Story

The Branch Working Party made it into the centre pages of the Dauntsey Pump. No, it wasn't their version of the Calendar Girls but a story with a happy ending, with the title of "It was the Night before Christmas..."

It was about a four legged friend who had survived the trip from Foxham to Dauntsey Lock, hitching a ride with the loads of logs, and who then managed to avoid the actions of the Branch lumber jacks as they cut and split the wood. As far as anyone knows the mouse has now settled happily into a new life at St John's Farm.



No mouse was hurt in the making of this tale/tail... and we are not thinking of hiring out the Working

Party as pest control operatives!

Shows and Events in 2016

We are still looking for volunteers to be show crew and to organize this activity for the Branch. It really is important work and if you can give even a small amount of time at your local village fete, please get in touch with Carsten. We will have a list of dates and times available soon and hope to be able to attend all the local fetes in our area.

From Ian Gilbert, our Branch Chair

Branch officers continue to report F&L branch activity and progress to members using several different routes, including branch minutes, the newsletter, Dragonfly and W&BCT web-sites. We have also recently enabled access to all branch documentation using a Cloud store on the internet.

Please let me know what you think of all our efforts, especially when you are asked to join our new Cloud service, the DropBox.

Treasurer

Nancy Collingborn will hand over the treasurer's role at our next Branch AGM which will be in May 2016. We are looking for a volunteer to take on this role. Please get in touch with Ian

Another Quiz Night

General knowledge quiz
Entry £12 per team (of up to 4)
Bring your own snacks and drinks.
To enter... e-mail: quiz@wbct.org.uk

If you enjoy our Branch Quiz Nights, how about trying another general knowledge one on Saturday 19th March at The Lansdown Hall, Derry Hill: all in aid of the Trust funds.

200 Club for 2016

Tickets at £20 each are available for this very worthwhile fund raising draw. Branches benefit in being able to apply for funding to buy tools from the 200 Club funds and you might even be a winner. More details in Dragonfly or 200club@wbct.org.uk. Closing Date is 15th February 2016

Finally: the next Branch Meeting will be on Tuesday 15th March at the Peterborough Arms starting at 7.30 pm. Hope to see you then.

Branch Officers

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