



Barnsley, Dearne & Dove Canals Trust

Newsletter – January 2008

Happy New Year to all (if a bit late).

It's **Renewal** time again, so if you have a form in with this newsletter, please help us by renewing promptly.

I do appreciate that there has been no 'Keel' for some time – but while physical progress has been limited this last year, there has been quite a lot of movement behind the scenes.

A number of redevelopments along the line of the canals have been put forward to the various Council Planning Departments. Mike Silk and members of the Barnsley Canals Consortium are in consultation with the developers to give us the best possible outcome. The developers might even be able to provide the channel for us in some cases. That's all that can be said for now!

The serious vandalism resulting in the destruction of Clay Royd Bridge is being repaired - the abutments have been strengthened and a new fire-resistant span ordered. This work is being carried out by Wakefield MDC.

We are in the final stages of negotiating with the Probation Service for the regular maintenance of the landscaped area around Elsecar top pound and lock for the benefit of all.

The Trust is now finalising a Project Brief for an environmental feasibility study as the next step to restoring the Walton Top Pound from Top Lock to Cold Hiendley Reservoir including the narrow canal section to the old pump house. The Atkins Feasibility Study recognised this as one of the best locations for early restoration, so our activities will be directed towards this section of the main line in the coming months.

The Trust's Waymarking Project is ongoing with numerous small plaques being set up along the line of the original canal.

The Trust's website (www.bddct.org.uk) is a good way of staying in touch with what is happening. It is updated regularly, and you will find details of meetings and events listed, as well as news cuttings, links to other sites, etc. There is also a link there to Everyclick - a 'search engine' site that donates 50% of its income to charities. The Trust is one of the designated charities listed and already a trickle of cash has been generated by the members who have signed up. The more we can all use it the better the Trust finances will be. Set the site as your 'home' page by clicking on the icon. It's dead easy and works well.

The Trust has now recovered approaching £1,000 in Gift Aid and urges you to complete that side of the form, if you can. We are also making more use of e-mail - it helps to cut down on costs. So if you do have an e-mail address please complete that section even if you are not completing the Gift Aid section.

If you want to take part in the Committee activities of the Trust there are a number of roles you could play. Please contact the Correspondence Secretary on 01924 373866 to talk it through.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Kind regards,

Ulrich Signer
Membership Secretary

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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'

Name.....**Address**.....

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.....**Please Print.** Receipt Required Yes/ No Delete as appropriate