

Manchester & Stockport Canal Society – March 2018 Newsletter

N.B. Please say YES to the last item in this newsletter

Dear Members, Supporters & Friends,

Since my last newsletter in October 2017 we have been busy on several fronts raising the profile of the Society.

Cleaning up the Canal line

On the weekend of 21st – 23rd October the Society took part in a joint “mass litter pick” organised with Sustrans, the cycle charity.

Several members turned out in miserable weather to clean up the line of the canal from Debdale Reservoir to the junction with the Ashton Canal.

A grand total of 368 bags of litter, plus a couple of mattresses and other paraphernalia were collected together and left at prearranged locations for Manchester City Council’s refuse collectors to transport away during the following week.

The event proved such a success that a further litter pick on Saturday 3rd March has been organised to coincide with the “Keep Britain Tidy” weekend.

The event starts at 11.00am and continues until 4.00pm. Volunteers should register at the Gorton Community Centre, Abbey Hey Lane, M18 8PE where equipment and bags can be picked up.

As with the last event, several of the local community groups are also taking part.

Just turn up and announce which group you are with. You will then be directed to the length of canal we have been assigned – between Claytonbrook Road and the Ashton Canal Junction.

A detailed survey of the Canal line

The Society now has at its disposal the means to digitally map the length of the canal from Ashton to Debdale.

This will enable us to plot the precise route of a restored canal.

The survey will give us accurate digitised measurements of where the canal will go and the amount of material to be removed to restore the canal bed to its original profile.

The survey information will be suitable for importing into CAD draughting software allowing us the possibility of producing 3D imagery of the finished restoration – a valuable tool in informing stakeholders what the future could look like.

We can then start to plan how and in what order to carry out the work.

To achieve this we need the skills of CAD draughtspersons -any experts, now retired, or with a little time to contribute out there??

Please contact me at RBravey@aol.com if you can help.

Developing a Business Case for the Restoration

The survey information will also give us the information we need to begin detailed discussions with Manchester City Council (M.C.C.) and others to make further progress.

Whilst it is all very well knowing what we want to build, we have to persuade M.C.C. the

landowners, Canal & River Trust the ultimate canal authority and our other stakeholders that we have a viable business case for restoration and that the canal has a sustainable economic future as well as creating much needed green corridor through East Manchester.

We have United Utilities interest in creating a marina at Debdale, in itself an important economic and social benefit to both the canal and boaters, both cruising and residential. Manchester has a dearth of suitable medium/long term moorings in secure surroundings.

We must now make the case to combine the two opportunities into a viable proposition.

Peter Scott, our retired Secretary has been busy pursuing leads for organisations to help us prepare a business case for restoring the canal, talking to business schools and universities.

If he is successful in gaining the interest of one of these institutions we will need the assistance of members and supporters with similar skills to guide and mentor this project.

FINALLY WE need your help to keep in touch with you

In May this year, new Data Protection Regulations come into force requiring us, as a Society, to obtain your permission to continue to contact you with information about the Society's activities.

I sincerely hope we can rely on your continued interest and your wish to be kept informed of our activities.

**YES, I WISH TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE
MAILINGS FROM MANCHESTER &
STOCKPORT CANAL SOCIETY**

**PLEASE E-MAIL THIS NEWSLETTER
BACK TO ME IF YOU AGREE TO BEING
ON OUR MAILING LIST**

**IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OR SUPPORTER
AND HAVE NOT RECEIVED AN E-MAIL
FROM US, OR WISH TO BE KEPT IN
TOUCH WITH THE SOCIETY'S FUTURE
ACTIVITIES, PLEASE CONTACT**

RBravey@aol.com

