

# STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK

(A Community Interest Company)

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NEWSLETTER number 10 JUNE 2010

Patron:- The Lord Stafford, DL, FRAGS

President:- David Kidney

*Objective: To promote the restoration of the historic river and canal waterway linking the county town of Stafford to the national waterways network for the benefit of the community and all interested groups.*

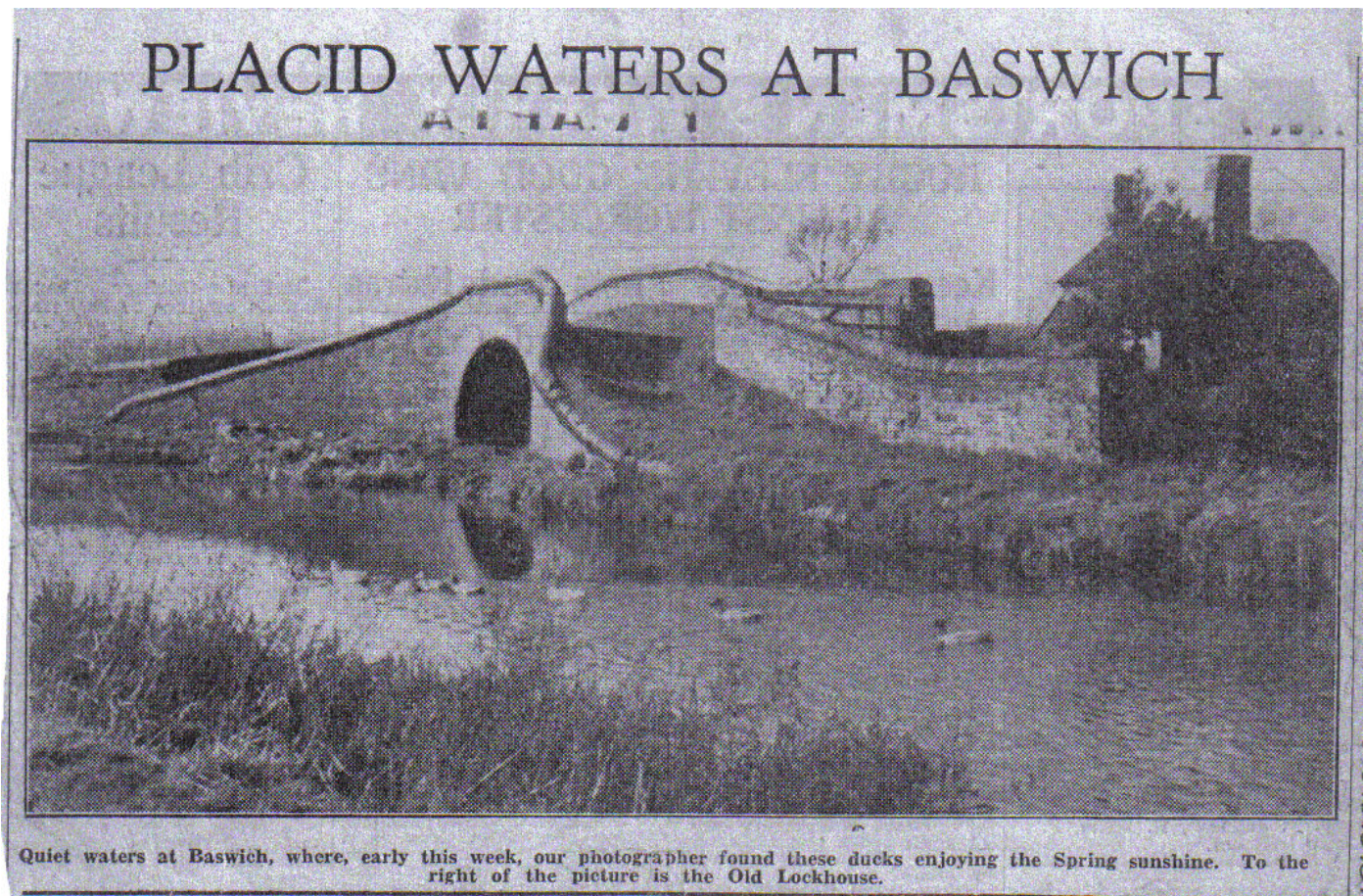
Website: [www.stafford-riverway-link.co.uk](http://www.stafford-riverway-link.co.uk)

One of our major next steps forward is to obtain funding for a development study and scoping survey so that the SRL can then apply for further larger funding to complete the Link into Stafford.

It is hoped that shortly the first grant of money will be become available to the SRL and will be ring fenced and spent only on the development study and scoping survey and lead to further grants which are necessary and vital in order to have this development study and scoping survey produced by an International Company so that further larger funding is available to us in order to complete the Link. I will keep you all informed on this extremely important development.

Remember to come to Stafford Boat Clubs Festival of Boats on 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June and by the way I have double checked the date. Our President, David Kidney is due to open the boaters gathering at 10am on Saturday. On Sunday there will be a SRL Walk, meet in the Clubhouse at 2.30pm and if you are interested please advise the SRL Stall of your intention to attend on the Saturday, so we have an idea of numbers.

Towards the end of April David Jones sent this newspaper cutting



*This is a superb find by David, well done. In order to improve the quality of this photo we now need to research the paper that printed it & then acquire a copy photo. Anybody got any ideas?*

*In the 1950's in Stafford I think there was the Staffordshire Newsletter and the Staffordshire Advertiser, also the Express & Star, so after finding out which publication we think produced it we then need to go there and look on their microfilm copies from 1950 onwards, in the Spring editions!!!*

*I think the bridge is superb, very wide for the towpath and then a gated branch off, to gain access to the field with the basin, aqueduct and lock house. Is this bridge unique on the canal network, I have been boating since 1969 and do not remember seeing one like this. I think it would be nice if we could rebuild this wonderful structure as it was. It is now also obvious that the remains of this bridge that we have remaining at the site are the end abutments of the inner portion of the bridge and not the outer abutments as previously thought.*

*Shortly afterwards, David sent another old photograph which I enclose below:*



*This clearly is the Lock house seen in the Newspaper cutting mentioned earlier with its tall chimney stacks and varying roofs. This photo shows the front door with the pigsty in the front garden and the canal basin to the right (I am guessing this photo was taken from the bridge over the entrance to the basin) I know that David Jones has much more information and no doubt when he is satisfied with his info, then it will be reproduced either in future editions of this newsletter or on our website, or both, I will keep you informed.*

*Below you will find an article by David Jones giving further detail of the **Roving Bridge** over the entrance to the Basin and **the Lock House**, these are superb finds by David and as such I am producing this Newsletter a little earlier than planned so that we can all enjoy them and maybe discuss them at Stafford Boat Club whilst enjoying the Boaters Gathering. I for one look forward to David's detailed account of the Lock House and the Baswich site appearing in due course on the SRL Website.*

## Research into the history of the Stafford Branch Canal and River Sow Navigation is ongoing.

In the last few weeks there have been significant developments that have answered some questions that have been teasing us for years.

David Jones established that the Lock House continued to be occupied until 1956. He discovered that Leslie and Isabella Shaw lived in the Lock House from 1929 until 1956, and raised their Family there.

Next, David found and contacted one of their children, Olive Price (née Shaw), who still lives in the Stafford area. Olive has been very generous with her time and shared her memories and those of her sisters. She has given a unique insight into what the Lock House was like in the 1940s and early 1950s, and provided copies of photographs showing the Lock House and the Roving Bridge.

For example, the **Roving Bridge** at the entrance to the Branch Canal was similar to the roving bridge at Autherley Junction, with a single towpath on the left.

**The Lock House** was made of brick and there were slates on the roof. The front of the house faced the Roving Bridge. **Downstairs** were the Living Room/Kitchen (at the front) and Back Kitchen with Pantry off (at the back). There was a quarry stone floor on the ground level. Also at the front was a Washhouse. Beyond the Washhouse was an area used for storing coal and wood. **Upstairs** were two bedrooms. There was no attic/loft.

A detailed account of the Lock House and the Baswich Site will appear on the SRL Website in due course.

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D J Jones June 2010

*Thank you David.*

*I know of a couple of other photo's that have come to light of the **Ladder Bridge** (as it was apparently called) where the Rivers Penk & Sow used to meet, taken in the late 1800's, clearly showing the bridge as needing replacing. Well it was obviously replaced by the structure still there today, although the confluence of the rivers Penk & Sow have changed, leaving the bridge with nothing to cross but the field. Further work needs to be undertaken before these can be shown though.*

The Stafford Riverway Link is changing the date of membership renewals owing to the fact that our current date of July is right in the middle of the holiday season, so, this year in July we will be asking for membership renewals for 9 months, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011. Full Family Membership at £15, Full Single at £7-50. Corporate at £18-75.

Then in April 2011, Full Single Membership again back to £10, but a reduced Full Family Membership at £15 (a genuine reduction ) With Corporate membership again at £25.

## **STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK** **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS request 2010/11**

**Please find enclosed the sum of £.....**

**Being membership renewal for:-**

**Name(s).....**

.....

Please send to Mr. R. Bowden 36, Wolverhampton Road,  
Codsall,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV8 1PJ.

9 Months Single Membership	1 <sup>st</sup> July 10 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 11	£7-50
9 Months Family Membership	1 <sup>st</sup> July 10 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 11	£15-00
9 Months Corporate Membership	1 <sup>st</sup> July 10 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 11	£18-75

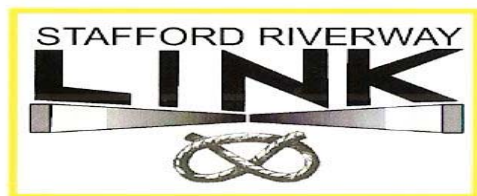
Cheques payable to Stafford Riverway Link.

Your continued Membership is greatly appreciated – we will get there and as it is my belief that we will definitely get there Barbara & I are becoming Life Members - and we are not the first I might add.

**Norman Cooper**

**E-mail [shadow76@talktalk.net](mailto:shadow76@talktalk.net)**

**Or 01902 842464**



Corporate Member Number 4007982

*Stafford Riverway Link Community Interest Company is a not for profit Company Limited by Guarantee Incorporated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009. Company Number 7093971*

*The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Stafford Riverway Link CIC or its officers/directors*