

Oakham Canal Green Corridor

Newsletter – Summer 2023



Heritage | Environment | Community



***Finally, the sun is shining and summer is here!
What better time to catch up with happenings along your canal?
We've been busy!***



February 2023 - Fishermen's section footpaths upgraded

In late February, braving rather horrible weather, our volunteers replaced both the aggregate path on the east bank of the Fishermen's section and the chipping based path, through the woodlands, on the west bank. The vegetation on the east bank has recovered well and the path is beginning to naturalise.

In less than 1 week, the team of 14 volunteers laid just under 100 tons of aggregate material to make the new path, at a cost of just under £5,000. All of this money was donated by a number of sponsors, including Severn Trent Water, Rutland Lions and the Oakham Memorial Institute.

None of this would have been possible without the invaluable contributions by our sponsors and volunteers.



March 2023 - Installation of bat and bird boxes

Thanks to the efforts of our friends at Men In Sheds, Oakham, we installed 20 bat and bird boxes along both the North and Fishermen's section. We hope this will continue to increase the breadth of wildlife along the canal and encourage further breeding.



April 2023 – OCGCP benefactor sponsors CiCLE classic

We were pleased to sponsor, and present, one of the team prizes in the Rutland – Melton International CiCLE Classic on Sunday 23rd April. Our sponsorship was paid for by a very generous, but anonymous, benefactor to enable us to promote the Project to a wider audience.



April 2023 – Oakham Canal features in Oakham Arts presentation.

The renowned historian, Robert Butler, presented his talk “Lost Canals – A story of romantic decay”, to Oakham Arts Society. The story included several anecdotes on the Oakham canal and was well received by the crowd of more than 150 people.



July 2023 - Morris Men a Dancing!

On a balmy July evening, we were joined by our friends, The Rutland Morris Dancers, on a Guided Walk, which was given as a thank you for their kind donation to our cause. Quite a crowd of spectators gathered and witnessed an impromptu dance, after which the weary Morris Men were refreshed with pork pie and a glass of beer!



July 2023 - New Ecology and Youth Trustee

Sadly, due to pressure of other commitments, our previous Ecology Trustee, Beth Hunt, had to step down from the project in June. We wish Beth all the best and thank her for her efforts supporting the project.

We have been fortunate enough to find an excellent replacement in Max Devere-Summers, also an experienced Ecologist, with specific background in field surveying, which will be vital to the ecological wellbeing of the Canal going forwards.

We are delighted to welcome Max on board, as our newest and youngest Trustee. As can be seen from the photo, Max was keen to get his hands dirty straight away!



Talking History Project

We have been lucky enough to secure funding to create a “Talking History” audio guide, which will help us preserve the cultural heritage of the Oakham Canal, in posterity.

The guide will be freely available and describe the history of the canal, how it was constructed, how it impacted life in Oakham, the lives of canal people and run through time right up to our project today.

Many local groups are getting involved in the creation of this artefact.

Do get in touch with us if you want to be involved.



Guided walks

With a UK summer upon us, our founder, Paul Dadford, has been conducting the ever popular Guided Walks along the canal. Paul is a font of knowledge for the history and tales from the canals past.

Further walks are planned for:

Tuesday 15th August, Sunday 27th August and Tuesday 12th September.



July 2023 Hanson UK Team workparty

We enjoyed a very productive work party with the team from Hansons HQ in Syston.

The all-lady team helped construct a new set of steps and got stuck into trimming and strimming along the towpath.

We look forward to their return!



September 2023 - Next major footpath project

Our next major project will be to create a new Permissive Footpath route, along the commonly used field boundary just north of the Oakham bypass.

Look out for further details of the project and your chance to volunteer in its creation.



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