AGM 2024

The Kennet and Avon Canal Trust 62nd Annual General Meeting was held on 1 June 2024 at 11 am at Devizes Wharf and by Zoom. 21 members were present in person or by Zoom. Apologies were received from 11 members; four members had nominated proxy voters.

Graham Snook welcomed all those attending on behalf of the Chairman, Graham Puddephatt, and declared the meeting quorate. The minutes of the 2023 AGM were accepted on a show of hands.

The Chairman then chaired the remainder of the meeting via Zoom.

**Item 1: To receive and adopt the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.** The Treasurer, Jerry Dixon, summarised the Trust's achievements in 2023 and the financial results for the year. There were no questions on the Report and Accounts, which were received and adopted on a show of hands.

**Item 2: To elect Directors:**

1. Mike Bailey and Rob Dunton, having retired in accordance with Articles 32 and 33 of the Trust's Articles of Association, and having offered themselves for re-election, were recommended by the Directors for re-election.

* Mike Bailey – Proposed by Graham Snook; seconded by Alison Cannon. Agreed on show of hands.
* Rob Dunton – Proposed by David Copley; seconded by Rob Dean. Agreed on show of hands.

1. Alison Cannon, Graham Puddephatt and Jerry Dixon, who have been appointed as directors since the last AGM, having retired in accordance with Article 37(2) of the Trust's Articles of Association, were recommended by the Directors for re-election.

* Alison Cannon – Proposed by Jerry Dixon; seconded by Terry Mundy. Agreed on show of hands.
* Jerry Dixon – Proposed by Julie Dean; seconded by Rob Dean. Agreed on show of hands.
* Graham Puddephatt – Proposed by Lesley Hooper; seconded by Terry Mundy. Agreed on show of hands.

1. Paul Hanson is recently appointed (9 May) and will be confirmed at the next AGM.

**Item 3: To transact any other business which may properly be conducted at an Annual General Meeting.**

The Chairman announced Andy James as this year’s recipient of the John Gould award, thanking him for his long-term efforts to raise funds for the Trust by selling recycled aluminium cans for scrap value.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the AGM closed at 11.15 am.

The formal meeting was followed by a series of short updates on the Devizes museum, Bruce Branch and Crofton Branch. The Chairman first thanked the previous Chair, Chris Simms, for all he had done and wished him well for the future. He thanked The Trustees for their help and support in getting us to here, following the reorganisation that has occurred. The chair moved on to thank Mike Rudd who had encouraged and enabled the Trust to become signatories of the current IWA campaign to “Fund British Waterways”. This was a topic close to his heart and raised the issue of the current decline in the national waterways and, with the climate changes we have seen in recent years, both flood and drought experience on our waterway and the struggle for CRT to maintain it as a navigable resource. If feels like the opportunity to revisit the roots of The Trust and proactively act as a critical friend to The Canal and Rivers Trust and Environment Agency, assisting where we can and advising where we see the need. The chair also mentioned the assistance Crofton Volunteers had given to help CRT and the work done by Bill Fisher assist with mitigating the flood aspects in and around the Berkshire area and his work to promote long life lock gates.

**Devizes Museum**

The museum curator, Terry Mundy, gave an update on the successful reopening of the Devizes museum and tearoom. Visitor numbers have increased, with a number of community groups and schools visiting, and the museum/tearoom now has enough volunteers to open more frequently during the week and weekends. Terry gave particular thanks to Ann Snook and Caroline Calder for their hard work in setting up the new tearoom and gift centre.

**Bruce Branch**

The chair of Bruce Branch, Alison Cannon, noted the move of the Bruce Boats in 2023 from Enterprise into the Trust as a charitable operation and summarised progress of the 5-year plan to bring operations back on track. Progress is going well, with bookings currently above income targets for the year, and Alison thanked all those involved in achieving this progress. The Chairman also thanked Alison for all her support and hard work, particularly in finding volunteers to cover the administrative and office-based commitments for the Branch.

**Crofton Branch**

The chair of Crofton Branch, Graham Snook, gave a summary of the efforts and progress made in funding and maintaining the Crofton workshops. He noted that a grant of £15K has been received to develop the Smithy building, which was purchased from CRT in 2023, into a learning centre, with much of the work carried out by Trust volunteers. Work is also in hand to determine the best use of the Crofton cottage as a Trust resource. Key activities for the year included: providing support to CRT by pumping water while problems with their electric pumps were dealt with; and activities carried out by the Crofton learning and development officer to promote Crofton with schools and other community groups. The Chairman also noted the very positive feedback received from CRT following Crofton’s assistance with the pumping.

**Thanks**

Finally, the Chairman gave special thanks to the Trust’s finance officer, Helen Flavin, for the phenomenal amount of work she has carried out this year on behalf of the Trust. He also thanked all volunteers from boats and branches for all their hard work in support of Trust activities and looked forward to meeting and working with them in the future.