

No. 74. April 2026

Welcome to the April Bulletin

As we move further into this landmark year, the Basingstoke Canal Society continues to celebrate an extraordinary milestone - our 60th anniversary. For six decades, dedicated volunteers, supporters, and partners have worked tirelessly to protect, restore, and promote this unique waterway, transforming it into the cherished asset we enjoy today.

The anniversary celebrations remain in full swing, with a vibrant programme of events, activities, and community engagement reflecting both our proud history and our shared ambitions for the future.

In this edition of the Bulletin, we are pleased to bring you updates on recent events, progress on restoration and conservation projects, and a look ahead at the exciting plans still to come as part of our 60th anniversary celebrations.

Thank you for being part of this journey, and for helping ensure that the Basingstoke Canal remains a living, thriving heritage for generations to come.

Guy Hillier, Editor, Basingstoke Canal Bulletin.



The Basingstoke Canal Society

Join us for a special 60th anniversary celebration

The Society is continuing to celebrate our 60th anniversary with a special event taking place in Woking on Saturday 18th April – and everyone's invited to join the festivities.

This unique event will feature the official naming of Kitty II, our electric trip boat which will take place at 2pm. A brass band will be playing at 1pm, along with teacup rides, a magician and face painting for the children. Included among the 30 stands at the event will be a coffee van, the premiere of our 60th anniversary video and an archives display.

The event runs from 12pm to 4pm at [Boundary Road Recreation Park, Woking. GU21 5BX](#). We are looking forward to seeing you there.

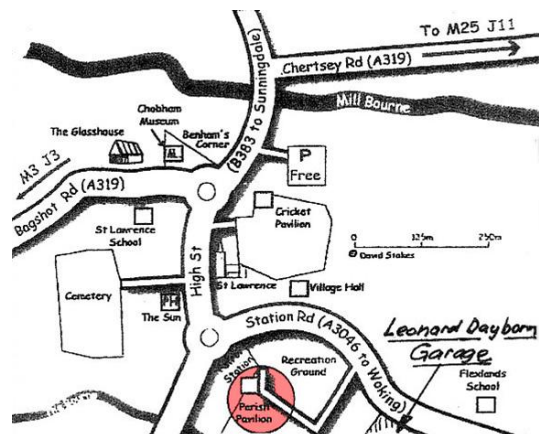
Feeling inspired? Then why not [become a member](#), give us a follow on [Facebook](#), or join our team of enthusiastic and dedicated [volunteers](#).

Latest Chobham talks

Damsels and Dragons: Basingstoke Canal & Beyond.

Wednesday 22 April 8pm
Location: Parish Pavilion on the A3046, Station Road, Chobham

As a SSSI, the Basingstoke Canal is a wonderful habitat for dragonflies and damselflies. Francis Kelly will tell the story



of photographing every species found in the UK, with a particular focus on those found on our canal.



Huge interest in lock keeper positions

In a joint venture between the Society and the Basingstoke Canal Authority, we have advertised the availability volunteer lock keeper positions to manage 17 locks along the Canal.

As the response was so good, the position is now closed for further interest at this time. We are very excited to see how this joint venture between the BCA and BCS goes, and for our new lock keepers to share their Canal knowledge with the visiting boaters.

Photo credit: Matthew Bennett.

Kayak and paddle board sessions available

Come and have fun on the Canal for an hour in a kayak or on a paddle board guided by qualified coaches. Everything provided but bring a change of clothes - it can be a bit wet!



Peppones Street Food will be there too!

The session is run by the Basingstoke and Deane Canoe Club and takes place at Odiham Wharf on Saturday 16th May from 10:00 to 14:30. To reserve your slot, visit their booking website [here](#).

Upcoming events in 2026

Our team of volunteers will be attending several local events in the next few months as shown in the table below. We are always looking out for more volunteers to help man our stalls and drive new memberships for the Society. If you are interested in helping out, please visit our [volunteer page](#).

2026 Events Plan		
Sat 20th June	Ash Village Fete	A popular event run by Ash Parsish Council
Sat 27th June	St John's Village Fete	An annual event run by St John's Scout Group
Sun 5th July	Zebon Copse Resident's Assoc.Fete	Membership and attraction close to the Canal
Sat 11th July	60th Anniversary: Barbecue and Music	Canal-side gathering at The Fox and Hounds
Sun 12th July	Frimley Green Carinival on the Green	A busy summer event not far from the canal in Frimley Green.
Sat 18th July	Friends of Oakley Park Summer Fete	Stall and bubble blowing
Sat 18th July	Dogmersfield Flower Show	Annual country flower show at this pleasant location.
Sat 18th July	Odiham Church Fete	Pleasant church fete in lovely surroundings
Sun 6th Sept	Odiham Raft Race (TBC)	Return of the annual raft race beside the Canal at Colt Hill

Navigation stoppages and works

Keep up to date with the latest works happening on the canal and towpath including navigation stoppages by visiting the [Basingstoke Canal Authority](#) page where you will find all the latest updates.

[Details of stoppages and works](#)



About The Basingstoke Canal Society

As the guardian of The Basingstoke Canal, the Society promotes and campaigns for the sustainable future of the Canal as a navigation.

[Become a Member](#)

[Volunteering](#)

[Donate – The Basingstoke Canal Society](#)



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The Society received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2018, equivalent to an MBE, in recognition of more than 50 years outstanding contribution to the local community.
