



Registered Charity No. 1197159

Welcome to the first FHCS Newsletter. We aim to send out a regular Newsletter that updates the FHCS Committee, Members, and Supporters on our latest activities and developments.

Aims of FHCS

- #1** Record information relating to the Ford to Hunston section of the Portsmouth and Arundel Navigation (the canal) and associated waterways.
- #2** Maintain access to the canal footpaths and restored remains.
- #3** Preserve, restore and maintain the line of the canal and features along it.
- #4** Support the establishment of a Greenway along the route of the Ford to Hunston Canal if it substantially preserves the line of the canal and the features along it.

FHCS activities

Our activities are currently divided into the following topics: Planning & Developments, Projects including bridge and artefact repairs, Workdays, Exhibitions, Guided Walks, and administration.

Planning & Developments

Currently, there are three large new housing developments on the canal route

that have significant implications for one or more of our 4 aims. These are:

- (a) Drove Lane, Yapton Parish, (Developer: Barratts & David Wilson Homes);
- (b) Ford Landings, Ford & Yapton Parishes, (Developer: Vistry Group Ltd) vistryhomesford.co.uk,
- (c) Charmans Field, North Mundham Parish, (Developer: to be confirmed)

All 3 developments have had input from the Society, with Drove Lane the most advanced in implementation.

Projects

In April we carried out brickwork repairs on Tack Lee Bridge in Yapton village.



Photo: Vince Anderson

Workdays

Following workdays clearing part of the Drove Lane to Denges Barn canal towpath stretch in April, we cleared spring growth at Park Lane Bridge remnants and elsewhere in Merston in May, and worked on Ford Lock remnants and Barnham Court Farm swing bridge remains (below) in July.



Photo: Vince Anderson

Exhibitions

On May 22nd, we gave a presentation on the History of the Canal, and its route through Aldingbourne Parish, at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. We plan to do similar in the other 7 Parishes along the route.

The Society will be exhibiting at the Yapton Summer Fair on **July 13th**, with the continuing assistance of the Yapton & Ford History Group, and Allen Misselbrook's display boards in particular.

Guided Walks

The Society's Vince Anderson led a walk over the 3 miles between Barnham Court Farm to the River Arun at Ford on 25th May. On a fortuitously sunny day (after all that rain this year!), 17 walkers joined 7 FHCS Committee members to view a Canal Exhibition, share coffee and cake, and to walk the eastward route together (see below). Thanks go to all who attended. On Saturday 24th August, we plan a walk between Ford and Yapton to look at the implications of the Ford Landings development led by Vistry Group Ltd. We

also plan to organise a Barnham to Chichester Walk later this year. Also contact us for a copy of our Walking Booklet covering the canal route (£3 each).



Photo: Vince Anderson

Other News

We held our second Annual General Meeting on 13th May, noting our thanks to Andrew Saunders and James Gadd who have stepped down as Chair and Secretary, and we welcome Elaine Cordingley as our new Chair.

In May, we raised modest additional funds from the Guided Walk, from catering sales on that day, from selling our Walking Leaflet to individuals, and from stocking them at Chichester Ship Canal Trust Café at Basin Road, Chichester.

**Want to help us preserve our Canal heritage and the towpath route?
Enjoy the outdoors, meet new people, and make a positive impact on our rural environment?**

Membership Forms (£ 15 p.a.) are available at our exhibitions and workdays, or via our facebook page (Search "The Ford to Hunston Canal Society") or via our Secretary richardboulter52@gmail.com