

FHCS Newsletter #2 Autumn 2024



Registered Charity No. 1197159

Welcome to the second FHCS Newsletter. Contributions or comments are welcome, and can be sent to the Secretary via richardboulter52@gmail.com or via Facebook.

FHCS activities

Our activities continue under the following topics: Planning & Developments, Projects including bridge and artefact repairs, Workdays, Exhibitions, Guided Walks, and administration.

Planning & Developments

At Drove Lane, Yapton Parish, as the "Ryebank Gate" development continues, Barratt Homes and David Wilson Homes held a publicity event with Society members at Tack Lee Bridge on the canal route.



Photo contributed by Barratt Homes

Barratt Homes & David Wilson Homes provided a grant of £ 1,000 towards Society costs of brickwork repairs on Tack Lee Bridge, and forthcoming costs of new signboards and Society publicity material.

At "Ford Landings" in Ford & Yapton Parishes, the developer, Vistry Group Ltd, commenced activities on the ground with border fencing and archaeological work. FHCS provided comments on key planning documents, aiming to preserve the line of the Canal through the site. The PROW team at West Sussex County Council, and the Conservation Officer at Arun District Council have also made comments relevant to the heritage and history of the Canal. Vistry are hosting a liaison meeting in Ford & Yapton on 21st November which FHCS will attend.

At Charman's Field in North Mundham Parish, the Society has continued discussions with the landowner's agents (Landlink Estates Ltd) on how rights of way adjacent to the Canal can be significantly enhanced, including near the conserved St Giles Bridge. Details on a proposed permissive path between Marsh Lane through the Charmans site and then towards St Giles Church are now on the Chichester District Council planning portal. We also met with the Ramblers Association to learn about options on, for example, promoting permissive paths.

Projects

The Society will consider further brickwork at bridges at Tack Lee and Merston, but none scheduled at present.

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Workdays

Following further work at Ford Lock and Denges Barn stretch, future activities may be relatively low key until the Spring. Re-painting at Stewart Swing Bridge site at Barnham Court Farm remains work-in-progress!



Photo contributed by R. Boulter

Exhibitions

The Society was represented at St Mary's Church for the holding of Yapton Heritage Day on 14th September, but public interest in this Heritage Day was fairly muted.

Guided Walks

As planned, on Saturday 24th August, we held a Guided Walk around part of the Ford Landings development site, to be implemented by the Vistry Group over the coming years. Retaining and expanding the Rights of Way on this site is a key Society interest, with our objective (like at Charmans noted above) to permit public access to the full length of the Ford to Hunston stretch of the old Portsmouth to Arundel Canal.

FHCS Activities for 2025

While we are achieving some modest progress towards our Objects as amended and agreed with the Charity Commission in April 2023, as in promoting the preservation and maintenance of the old canal route through Arun and Chichester Districts, the FHCS Committee recognises that there is a lot more to do. Next year our plans include installing more information signboards along the route, making presentations to Parish Councils as delivered for Aldingbourne in 2024, and identifying and meeting with existing landowners and path users along the route.

We're searching for more local partners and volunteers



Near Denges Barn: Photo contributed by R. Boulter

WSSC PROW team, their contractors, our workday volunteers, and our Facebook members all contributed to a very significant improvement of the old towpath stretch from Drove Lane to Tile Barn Farm. Thanks!

Please join us, and share, or forward this Newsletter, and help our movement grow.