



28<sup>th</sup> September 2014

## **Report of the Secretary for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

In spite of our lack of funds, events have turned our way in the past year. In fact the outlook is positively sunny on the canal front.

Probably the most important event was that canal consultants Moss, Naylor Young came up with a report which showed that the canal income could reach £2million a year through mooring and fishing fees etc. This work was done free of charge and has important implications for borrowing for the capital programme to restore the waterway as far as Broadstone. Well done to our Chairman in this.

Secondly we dissolved the limited company on 14<sup>th</sup> April this year on the grounds that we are very unlikely to enter any contracts for several years whilst we build up our business case. This saves a lot of administrative work where we depend on professionals to help us in submitting our returns to Companies House.

Thirdly we broadened the variety of events at which we had a stand, starting with the Manchester History fair in March, the Reddish Festival and appearing at the Clayton Hall open day in Openshaw near the start of the canal. The latter resulted in us getting leaflets into Gorton Library and a local church. All this in addition to the usual Fun Days in Reddish. Thanks to Graham Burns and Liz Watson.

Fourthly we have made a start in erecting plaques giving a history of the canal at various points along the line. The Mayor of Stockport opened the first two at Nelstrop's Mill and at the Community Centre in North Reddish Park in May. A third plaque has been ordered for Broadstone House and outline permission has been granted for Houldsworth Mill & Aspinal Oasis Academy in Gorton and we are working with the City Council on sites in Gorton & Openshaw.

In the past couple of weeks the Civil Engineering Dept of Manchester University has expressed interest in designing the bridges and aqueducts necessary to carry the canal at Gorton Station and to bypass the Gorton Reservoir spillway with the possibility of following up with a bridge at Wall Way and the aqueduct over the railway in North Reddish. All this ties in neatly with the work of our in-house Civil Engineer, Roger Bravey, who is hoping to make a start on the design of the restoration of the canal over the next year or so. 700 metres has been completed already.

Pictures below

1. Gorton Reservoir from the dam which has to be bypassed by an aqueduct.
2. Car park on Wall Way – the canal has to go underneath or round it.
3. Entrance to Hyde Rd bridge.
4. The spillway where the bypass aqueduct is needed between the fence and the hotel on the horizon.

Peter Scott



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