

## Worcester Canal Group: Minutes of Annual General Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

(Zoom) nb a recording of the meeting can be found at [www.worcestercanalgroup.org.uk](http://www.worcestercanalgroup.org.uk)

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1. **Present:** Joy Squires (Chair), George Squires (Treasurer), Jackie Hollis, Graham Fowler, Clare Harker, Gerry Lowman, Dave Ritchie, Cllr Matthew Jenkins, Cllr Jenny Barnes, Sunil de Sayrah, Mark Brandon
2. **Apologies:** Helen Fairest (Bramblewood), Gemma Hessey (CRT), Wes Erpen (CRT)
3. Chair's welcome and guest speaker: Joy welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Sheena Payne Lunn our guest speaker. Sheena is Worcester City Council's Historic Environment Record Officer, Worcester City Council. She gave an illustrated talk on '**Discovering the history and industrial heritage of the Worcester Canal**', highlighting several sites of particular interest along the canal in Worcester starting with Perdiswell (RAF Perdiswell and Cadbury Factory) through to Gregory's Mill and Gregory's Bank (Barkers Brickworks from mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the mill itself which pre-dated the canal), St George's Lane (Worcester City FC ground from 1920s and the historic St George's Tavern demolished in the 1960s), Lowesmoor Wharf (which housed many Victorian industries and dense housing and had the branch line to the vinegar works), Sidbury where major demolition took place in 1957 to accommodate the widening of the bridge over the canal) and finally Diglis Basin where the Royal Worcester Porcelain was established. Sheena helpfully gave us details of a number of resources where we could find out more about the heritage of the canal: [www.kypworcester.org.uk](http://www.kypworcester.org.uk) – the Know Your Place (kyp) website enables the user to pick up information and the history of the place you are at as you walk along. Discussion following Sheena's presentation was animated and lengthy and led to the bare bones of a new project being sketched out, to be discussed at our next regular meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September. Joy thanked Sheena for a fascinating talk.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** George apologised for not being able to present the accounts for January-December 2020 but would have them ready for the next regular meeting.
5. **Election of officers:** Chair – Joy Squires, Secretary Matt Jenkins (with Joy doing minutes and Matt focussing on communications and publicity), Treasurer – George Squires.
6. **Plans for the coming year:**
  - a. Trees – need to replace damaged, stolen and dead trees in the Autumn. Jenny, Clare and Graham to progress this.
  - b. Link up with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust on the 'Wilder Worcester' project, maintaining our commitment to enhancing biodiversity along the canal corridor.
  - c. Local history project, creating a trail along the canal.
7. **Any Other Business:**
  - a. A reminder that volunteers were needed to help Stuart Minchin (City Council) at the Inland Waterways Festival at Perdiswell Bank Holiday weekend.

- b. The Wanderer Community Boat will be moored at Diglis for the next few months. Volunteers needed to spruce it up. Also, the Wanderer can be used for litterpicks and other events – Matt to progress this.
  - c. WCG members reported that two dog waste bins and one litter bin had been removed at Diglis Basin and a noticeboard had been removed at Lock 5. Joy to contact Gemma Hessey at CRT to ask about this and Matt to link with Gemma to see about the bench which is being stored at Diglis Island (we think).
8. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, venue to be confirmed. Preference expressed to try the LikeU community centre in Westbury Street – Joy to organise.