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| **Welcome to the January Edition of** **B3C Matters!** **Happy New Year!** |

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|  * Storm Henk and Winter Maintenance - Canal Update
* Christmas at the Quays, 5th December
* Christmas Paddle,19th December
* Hare & Hounds, 20th January
* Twixmas Path Repairs, 28th December
* Committee Update
* And finally ……….
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| **Storm Henk & Winter Maintenance - Canal Update** |

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| We were advised by the Canal Authority on 3rd January that the recent storm has brought down a number of trees along the canal.  Reports are still being received and assessments are being made. Priority will be given to making unstable trees safe before clearing the towpath and removing trees from the navigation.  If you come across a fallen tree, please do not attempt to move it yourself but report it by emailing info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk  The size of the tree and an accurate location using [what3words](https://u1099264.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/qVtD2Uvjoybry29g9C7qJ5Y3scmrBzsHW9Fgyk6uaHQ/42q/bJfXH-bORXyFdudIYgqCyw/h0/eSgM4icfS2HlVB7wZqYE-vWmvBQ1bEc4YA_O3uGJMkI) would be appreciated. Mytchett Pound (Lock 28 to 29 Ash Lock) is currently open but will be closed at Heathvale Bridge, Ash Vale to boat traffic from 15th January for shot blasting and repainting of the bridge.  There will be no access under the bridge to either pedestrians or boats. Additional maintenance works will be taking place along the canal during the winter (see image below). Further details can be found Basingstoke Canal website [here.](https://u1099264.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/qVtD2Uvjoybry29g9C7qJ4geACyiWxodbwGS6rfwaB7gENU7n614era4axplQV5oxePIHzbsBKB0q9nQBeg7sBc-6JDticpPE1o4Fo0IQEQ/42q/bJfXH-bORXyFdudIYgqCyw/h1/4mectDvasppfW-oUIEaV0o59a1Cy7Uyr5C-d1wzWscU) **BCCC Committee** |

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| **Christmas at the Quays - Tuesday 5 December** |

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| ‘I am handsome’, ‘oh no you’re not!’ … yes it was yet another B3C annual Christmas dinner. This year, it was at a new venue, the Kingfisher on the Quays. The promise of a delicious sit-down 2 or 3-course meal with fellow paddlers proved very popular, with 29/ 30 places booked well in advance. Sadly, a couple of people had to cancel at the last minute, which was a shame however ‘lurgies’ do tend to turn up at this time. I discovered Spond had auto sent a message to everyone else ‘reminding them of this event’. It didn’t mention the start time though or location … so I had a few last-minute slightly worried people sending me messages checking on details 😊. The main concern though is always…’ what did I order?’, where my handy list comes in use.Of course, it’s wouldn't be a true club dinner without Anne & Brian’s famous Potted Panto. This year it was Sleeping Beauty. It’s very popular with some of the cast actually asking for a part this year's panto . I was ‘volunteered’ again - the Biffin persuasion machine is very persuasive 😁. With realistic snoring from Jane Bocutt and the evil side of Sarah Francis coming out as Wicked Witch, combined with Anne, Brian and myself - Equity cards (ahem) may not be needed anytime soon! Entertain however, we did 😂. Drinks flowed, mince pies were munched and there was much laughter. Everyone there seemed in agreement that this venue worked really well & the food was excellent, so it’s likely we may go here again for Xmas ‘24. Pencil it in now for either 3rd or 10th Dec! **Zoé Griffiths**  |

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| **Christmas Paddle - Tuesday 19th December** |

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| Despite the truly appalling weather, a good time was had by all who attended the Christmas paddle on Tuesday 19th December.  After a very short paddle, it was time for the shelter and umbrellas to go up and for the Kelly Kettles to go on before enjoying a warming drink and something to eat. Thanks to Anne and Brian for organising the event, and to everyone to braved the conditions - such great sports! **BCCC Committee**  |

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| **Hare & Hounds** |

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|  This month’s H&H will be held on Saturday 20th January. Choose your boat or SUP and decide on either the 2, 4 or 6 mile course. The start time for the 2 mile course is 0945.  If you haven’t done it before, please contact me at b3c.racing@gmail for more information or to agree a start time for the 4 and 6 mile courses. **Tony Gallagher** |

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| **Twixmas Path Repairs** |

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| Regular visitors to the barn would have noticed that despite our previous efforts, the path to the barn has been slowly eroded by the wet weather.  Over recent weeks the condition of the path had been deteriorating to the point that the walk from the car park was becoming hazardous. |

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| A person pushing a wheelbarrow with a shovel  Description automatically generated |

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| Following a shout-out from Rick, a group of club members got together on Thursday 28th December to repair the path. |

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| A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered. You did a fantastic job. **BCCC Committee** |

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| **Committee Update** |

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| Former Club Secretary, Stuart Skeldon, has taken up the role of Membership Secretary.  This is a change from what was reported in the last newsletter. Stuart can be contacted at b3c.membership@gmail.com **Rachel ER Neighbour**Club Secretary |

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| **And finally ..............** |

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| A reminder that the Club's Welfare Officer, Nancy Thomas, is available to support any member who has a Club related welfare issue.  Nancy can be contacted  at b3c.welfare@gmail.com |

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| Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month’s newsletter. The deadline for the February edition of B3C Matters is Wednesday 31st January.  Please send your news to b3c.matters@gmail.com Happy Paddling. **B3C Matters!**  |

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