

RIVER TIMES

The Arundel Boat Club Newsletter

Suddenly it is March, there has been sunshine and things are happening down on the river bank. Interested parties might care to go and look at the site of the long awaited slipway, one hundred and fifty yards upstream of the Arundel Boatyard.

The land and the structure itself have kindly been provided as a gesture to the community, by the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk and they remain the property of the Estate. The intention has been that it should be run by the Arundel Boat Club to whom it is due to be leased.

The ramp itself is now complete, though with the quantity of water currently in the river and further up the valley, it has not been possible to clear and lay the lowest few feet and form a concrete toe. Beware it is extremely uneven with mud, rubble and old piling with a drop off the other side. Completion will have to wait until the next hose-pipe ban, or some similar freak of nature. The track down from the main pathway along the top of the dyke to the slipway will remain along with planting of some replacement trees. There will also be a fence and locked gate around the ramp itself to discourage unauthorized use. It is intended that boats should be hand-trolleyed from the corner of the asphalt car park along the dyke and down to the ramp.

There is a considerable problem of 'Catch 22' in the current situation; it is impossible to predict how many people will want to take advantage of the facility and there are a number of immediate expenses, before the lease can reasonably be signed. Legal fees and insurance for a start followed by rent and eventually maintenance costs, to name but a few. The Boat Club is kindly being offered a head start with an initial nominal sum for leasing, but this will rise and with such a low membership fee to date, (well - we had no access to the river), there is not a lot in the kitty.

Talking of fees, the Committee has so far decided to handle it thus - increase the annual membership to ten pounds (£10) with an unchanged additional one pound per extra family member. There will be a 'Slipway Supplement' – we have simply guessed £20 this year for those wishing to use the facility; they would be given the combination of a lock on the ramp-head gate after signing an agreement regarding its use. Also £5 a go for your guests visiting with their own boats.