



BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS

*The Heart of
Berkhamsted*

It is well over 200 years since the opening of the London to Birmingham canal which provided a great stimulus to industry in what is now Dacorum (with 25 kilometres of the canal within its boundaries) and was so important for the development of Berkhamsted as a town and inland port. We would not, indeed, have had the heart of the British paper industry in Apsley without the canal.

There is almost infinite scope for initiative, enterprise, and creative talent at all levels round our canal.

5 to 7 year olds

Theme – Our Canal

An emphasis on hands on making and creating

- **Model canal narrow boats**
- **Traditional canal boat painting with a “roses and castles” theme.**
- **Brass rubbings (The Berkhamsted interpretation – desks could provide a basis for this).**



There are eight of these desks from the Rising Sun to Waitrose



Ravens Lane Bridge



7 to 11 year olds

Have you come across the names Egerton and Bridgewater? Francis Henry Egerton became the third Duke of Bridgewater in 1767 and lived at Ashridge House near Berkhamsted. Find out all you can about him and tell us in words or pictures what he did for canals.

Make a model of the section of canal near you – could be papier mache contour model, or a model of a lock gate.



11 to 14 year olds

Show what life was like on the canal 150 years ago – the people, the canal boats, boat handling, canal- side scenes, the industries in Dacorum associated with the canals. *This could be presented as written work, costume, poetry, painting, drama, music, modelling or any other innovative ideas.*



14 to 16 year olds – Adults also

- **Changing function the Grand Union Canal through Dacorum**
- **Changing function of canal side buildings in Dacorum**
- **Sustainable transport – a role for waterways?**
- **Waterside development and regeneration options**
- **Waterways and environmental diversity**
- **Waterways and the quality of the environment – environmental improvement or degradation**

Any of these topics can be approached in any of these ways

- **Artwork**
- **Craftwork**
- **Model work**
- **Illustrated essay**
- **Film or Power point presentation**
- **A musical compilation**
- **A short play**
- **A piece of poetry**
- **Dance choreography**

(more pictures and examples to come here

We hope you will be as enthused and excited by this project as we are. It would be helpful to hear from anyone who is thinking of taking part and one of us would be delighted to talk to you. 'Covid 19' allowing we hope to showcase the results of the project at the AGM of the Berkhamsted Citizens Association and award Certificates of Excellence in each group. This will be held Berkhamsted Town Hall in March.

Lindy Foster Weinreb – Chairman

Berkhamsted Citizens Association