

The world, it's a-changing! (17th April 2010)

Mid April brought forward an interesting situation. The sky does not have jet airliners queuing overhead to land at Heathrow or Gatwick. Neither are the cargo planes nor 'easyjet' orange ones leaving Luton.

Holidaymakers and business people are complaining that they cannot travel. I have to say that I do not have a lot of sympathy due to my suspicions that the amount of noise and other pollutions are far greater than that admitted by those who know better than I do. I heard of someone complaining that their family was on holiday in New Zealand and had no way of getting back to England. I'm sure that they still have containers that float or even an aircraft could be found to fly nearer and then book a passage on one of the 'floating' things that used to be called 'a ship'. A group of school children are stuck in China and the earliest that can leave is over two weeks away. Me thinks that if nothing else, this little problem will hopefully make people think more before just piling into a tin cigar with wings just for leisure - well, maybe for a couple of years.

Nearer home, the wall next to the Castle Street bridge now has a white line painted on it with the numbers 2 and 3, coupled with the blocks slowly falling into the washed out hole on the pathway, perhaps someone has noticed.

It is the responsibility of the British Waterways Board, who have no money, with just a £30,000,000 shortfall just to keep the canals in their current state, so I wonder who will be manning the pumps to stop the town from floating away. The government is trying to 'off-load' the liability, like the railways, and planning a 'sell off' of the property that BW owns. I'm afraid I seem to have lost the plot on this one as I really can't see a viable business model without increasing fishing and boating fees coupled with a charge for walking/cycling/looking at the canal environment, that could be interesting!

On the subject of canals, I'm currently measuring bits of the tow-path as the Canal & Riverside Partnership has the idea that residents are not keen on wading through puddles whilst enjoying one of the towns assets. The idea is that the tow-path is divided into various lengths/sections in order that a program of renewal can be agreed. As BW has no money ,the Borough Council has no money and the current Town Council apparently would not like to raise the precept in election year for some reason, I might be wasting my time - no real change there, then - but May 2011 may find candidates who wish to improve our town.