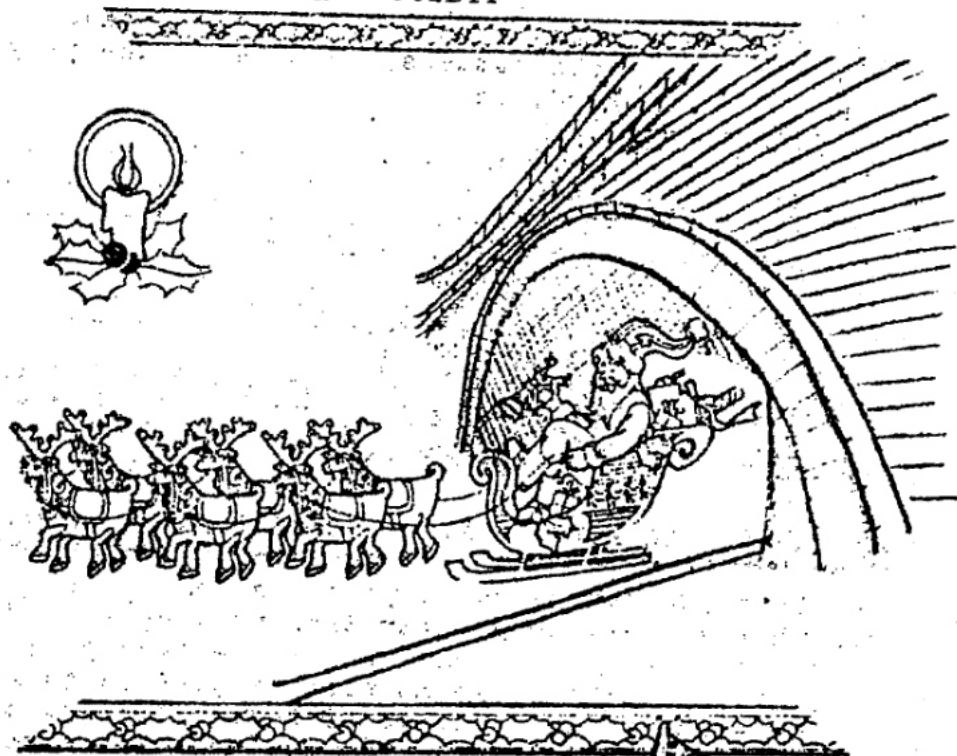


THE HEREFORD WHARFINGER



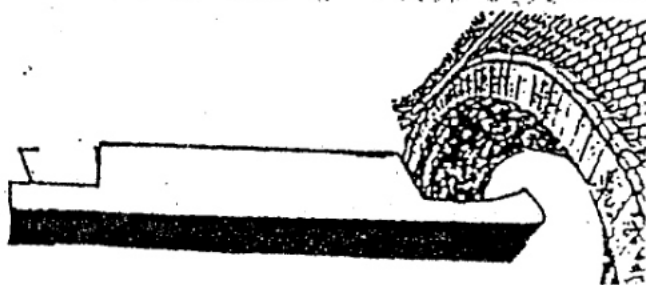
THW

THE JOURNAL OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE
CANAL SOCIETY



25p

(FREE TO
MEMBERS)



14
N°

HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY

President:

Mr Peter Price, Tibberton Court, Tibberton, Glos.

Vice-Presidents:

Major Robert Barnes, Highway Cottage, Lyde, Hfds.

Mr David Bick, The Pound House, Market Sq., Newent.

Hon. Consultant Structural Engineer:

Ronald Munden, BSc(Eng), C.Eng, M.I.Struct.E.,
96 Aylestone Hill, Hereford.

Hon. Archivist:

Post Vacant.

Committee:

Tony Austin-Bailey (Chairman)

7 Gaisford Close, Hereford (Hereford 269704).

Mike Potts (Vice-Chairman)

3 Cranstone, Upper Breinton, Hereford (Hereford 56392).

Robin Andrews (Secretary)

20 Tower Road, Hereford (Hereford 268354).

James Dunn (Treasurer)

Pool Cottage, 5 St. Ethelbert St., Hereford (Hfd. 274106)

Nigel Jefferies,

19 Wiloroft Park, Bartestree, Hereford (Hereford 850661).

Richard Morley,

New House, Rocky Lane, Shobdon, Hfds. (Kingsland 470).

John Startin,

Conifers, Little Birch, Hfds. (Golden Valley 540559).

Peter Woodfield,

60 Whittern Way, Hereford (Hereford 275244).

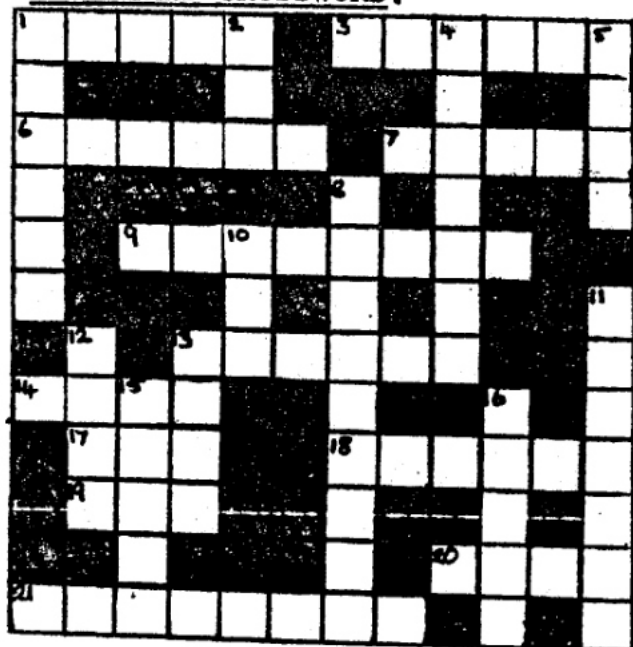
Hereford Wharfinger:

Mike Potts (Editor)

3 Cranstone, Upper Breinton, Herefordshire.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD.

3



ACROSS.

1. The length between two locks.
- 3 & 12 down. Warn a robot. (anag)
6. What! a drag?
7. To decorate.
9. Tunnel on the H.G.C.
13. Festive form of transport.
14. Changes the level.
17. I am, you ---?
18. Built to overcome rising ground.
19. Lug.
20. See 1 down.
21. The key to 14.

DOWN.

- 1 & 20 across. Waders?
2. What we do at a work party.
4. The one with a red nose!
5. To turn a boat.
8. Topical festival.
10. Often fished out of the cut!
11. Famous local engineer.
12. See 3 across.
13. "our bridge".
15. Top of a bridge.
16. Cherub



Solution on page 6

WALSOPHTHORNE TUNNEL

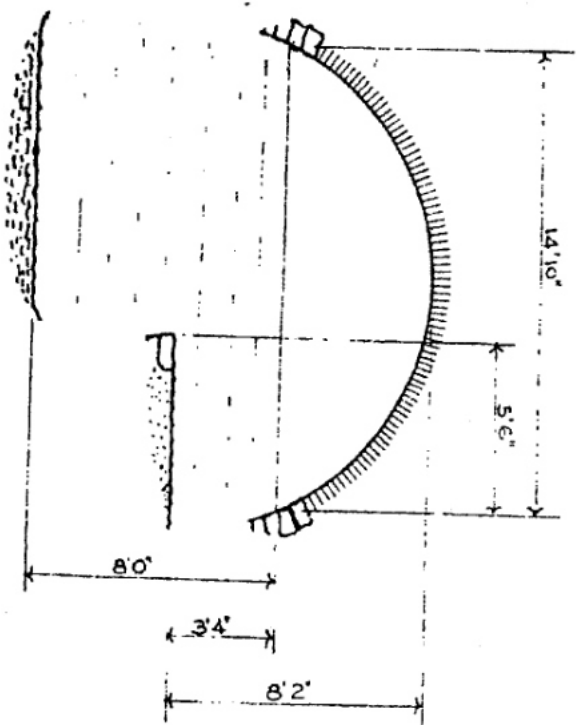
In 1974 a party from the Hereford College of Art G. and C. Photography class made a study of "Walsophtorne Tunnel", which we now more familiarly refer to as Ashperton Tunnel. This report was published shortly afterwards and was written by Stuart Webb, one of the members of the party. Since it was written, although there has been a fair amount of silting of the tunnel, little else has changed.

.....
On May 18th 1842 the Hereford Journal stated that the last length of arching had been keyed in to complete the tunnel, the bricks used for the purpose being some which had been made for the contemplated tunnel 50 years earlier. The completion of this tunnel was worthy of the celebration it was given as it made available to the whole length of the canal an additional and substantial water supply from the Canon Frome feeder simultaneously completed on the Hereford side of the tunnel. A party from the Hereford College of Art have lowered a boat down the steep 35-foot cutting at the south-east end of this tunnel and travelled its full length.

Mr Elliott Davies who owns the surrounding land and the tunnel mentioned that he remembers as a child playing on the towpath within the tunnel. The presence of this towpath was verified along the whole length and although the water is now about four feet higher than its original level one can feel with a rod the hard stone edge of the towpath before the drop into the bed of the canal.

There is no stone facing to the entrance at either end only the dog-tooth pattern of the projecting ends of two layers of stone lining blocks. The tunnel is lined with faced stone blocks for about 20 yards in from either end, otherwise it is brick-lined throughout. The standard of brickwork is high but the tunnel has generally deteriorated at the Hereford end where bulges exist in the brickwork and large faults have appeared down the sides. Two distinct sizes of brick were noted, one being considerably smaller.

Very little water seems to be dripping from the roof of the tunnel but stalagmites 18 inches long were distributed all along making an interesting view in the headlamp of the boat. A vertical brick-lined shaft about eight feet in diameter exists about 60 yards in from the



DIMENSION TAKEN AT PRESENT
WATER LEVEL.

BRICK LINING AT HIGH LEVEL WITH STONE
BELOW (STONE ALL ROUND FOR ABOUT 20 YD.
IN FROM EACH END OF TUNNEL.)

PRESENT WATER LEVEL.

STONE LINED TOWARDS WITH EARTH DATA
SURFACE. DROVED BY PROBE AT VARIOUS
POINTS ALONG THE WHOLE LENGTH.

APPARENT BOTTOM OF NAVIGABLE CHANNEL
THIS IS SOFT MUD - DIMENSION IS APPROXIMATE

VIEW LOOKING TOWARDS THE SOUTH EAST END
SCALE 1:48

DIMENSIONS TAKEN WITHIN WALSOPTHORNE TUNNEL
HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL.

Hereford end. This shaft is not central but to one side of the centre line of the tunnel. Its top is domed with cut stone blocks and its height was hard to judge but was certainly in the region of 20 feet.

The writer and two other members of the Woolhope Archaeological Research Group, Mr G Warren and Mr G Parker, joined in this meeting and dimensions taken by Mr Warren within the tunnel are given on the accompanying diagram.

Nov. 1974, Stuart Webb

.....
attention all tunnel buffs! We have a rare treat next year when Alan Simpson, the famous "Tunnel Man" who has explored and photographed a great many of the tunnels throughout the country, will be addressing members of the Society and any interested non-members - all are welcome. Rather than delivering a formal lecture, his method is to bring all his photographs along and describe those tunnels selected by the audience. It promises to be a fascinating evening. The date is Friday 20th March - don't miss it!
.....

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS

Pound
& 12 Narrow boat
Dredge
Adorn
Oxenhall
Sleigh
Lock
Are
Tunnel
Tow
Windlass

DOWN

1-20 Paddle gear
2 Dig
4 Rudolph
5 Wind
8 Christmas
10 Eel
11 Ballard
13 Skew
15 Crown
16 Angel

We thank David and Caren Andrews for the crossword in this edition. Anyone else like to do one in please.

I only wish I had the power of expressing to you my (a) gratitude for the great honour you have done me and for the very kind and friendly feeling shown toward me. If I could persuade myself I was deserving of it I should be very honoured and great cause there would be for it (b) for to have the good opinion of so numerous and highly respectable a company as this is an honour that any one should be proud of. I thank you much for your kindness and good opinion but report that I cannot take to myself the honour you so kindly bestow (c), my humble service in bringing forward this canal must have been useless unless backed by powerful and enterprising men whose confidence and good opinion I have had the good fortune to obtain.

Ever since my first engagement in this undertaking, now nearly 17 years, I have been actuated by happier motives than merely those arising from my professional (d) capacity, I have felt an interest and strong desire for the success of the undertaking having always felt convinced that the canal must confer (e) benefits immensely great (f) and highly underrated (5) by the county generally.

I have therefore been buoyed up and carried forward through many difficulties that have beset the progress of the undertaking with the hope that its worth and importance to the county would instantly be seen and acknowledged and now; indeed, the time is come when that hope is realised.

It has been highly gratifying to me to (g) observe the proceedings of this day and I feel fully recompensed (h) by these expressions of approbation for all my (i) labour and exertion in executing the now acknowledged useful work.

3. I ought, I think, to apologise (j) on account of the unfinished state of the works, we have been so over anxious to open the canal for trade that we have merely made a passing way for the boats and have left undone every thing that we could put off and finish while the trading is going on.

I shall, in a few days, remove my residence to Withington when, I trust, in a short time we shall finish up and make the canal assume a very different appearance to that it has now.

(k) That part of the canal between Withington and Hereford we shall immediately commence and (l) the time I look forward to with great anxiety when we shall open the canal into this city.

4. The nature of my profession is such that it is impossible for me to make even a probable conjecture where the remainder of my days may be spent after the works on this canal are finished; wherever my work may happen to be there I must go and where ever that may be to the end of my life (m) it will always offer me a pleasant reflection that it has been considered that my humble service has in any degree added to the value and welfare of this lovely county, this beautiful, fertile and hospitable county, and I will to the end of my life remember with the most pleasing sentiments of gratitude I have received from so many of you individually and from all of you collectively.

{a} graterul feeling (b) when it is considered
{c} on me (d) engagement . (e) many advantages
to the county (f) and that the trafic upon it
would be, would produce a sufficient revenue
with proper economy and management, a suffic-
ient would be obtained for the capital neces-
sary for then, for its termination (g) see
(h) for all my (i) toil (j) for (k) the
works (l) it will be a (m) I shall

Notes

1. The brackets (a) to (m) represent parts crossed out in the draft and, in the long passage (f) are disjointed.
2. The punctuation has been provided by the transcriber to help make more sense of the draft, the paragraphing is original.
3. The entry in the pocket book headed "Speech at opening of Canal to Withington" is preceded by an earlier draft.
4. The references to "Withington" and "into this city" suggest that the speech was not given at Withington but in Hereford, probably at the dinner to celebrate the occasion at the City Arms Hotel, Hereford on 26.2.1844; see also (i) the advertisement asking for subscriptions to a testimonial dinner for S. Ballard which appeared in Hereford Journal 2. 2. 1844 p2 col 5, top, and (ii) the newspaper report of the event in Hereford Journal 28. 2. 1844 p3 col: 6, top - this describes S. Ballard's speech: "Mr. Ballard returned thanks in an exceedingly neat and modest, but very effective address".
5. The earlier draft says at this point "that the benefits which the canal would confer on the county were many, great and quite underrated by the county at large. I have therefore". The Mayor admitted in his speech at the testimonial dinner that the Council had not done all it could to help, and the comment was made in one of the other speeches that the apathy that had existed was now wearing away!

Both these articles are reproduced from the Woolhope Club records by kind permission.



CANAL TO WITHINGTON - G. C. Warren

The construction of the second part of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal, from Ledbury to Hereford, started in the middle of December 1839. The Company's new bill authorising the raising of capital to permit this passed the Committee of the House of Lords towards the end of May 1839 and a new share issue of 2250 £20 shares was made. The H. & G. Canal Company Clerk, Stephen Ballard, estimated that the cost to finish the canal to Hereford would be not less than £76,147 5s. 6d.

The canal was opened as far as Withington on 26th February 1844 and a dinner was organised as a testimonial to Stephen Ballard. The Hereford Journal of 2nd February 1844 carried a notice asking interested persons wishing to attend the dinner to indicate their intentions by the 24th.

The Hereford Journal for Wednesday 28th February carried a lengthy report of the proceedings during the whole day. The copy of the Hereford Journal in the Hereford Reference Library is obviously the first edition as it points out that only brief notes of the speeches will be given, "reserving a more ample report for a Second Edition . . ." One must hope that a copy of the Second Edition has been preserved somewhere.

However, in one of Ballard's pocket note-books there is an entry headed, in longhand, "Speech at opening of canal to Withington" and I have attempted a transcription of this draft. The reporter at the dinner was obviously fairly good at his job as his account of Ballard's speech tallies very closely with Ballard's own draft.

The Hereford Journal account of the opening of the canal to Withington will appear in the next edition of the Wharfinger. The above articles first appeared in the records of the Woolhope Archaeological Research Group, and are reproduced with the kind permission of the author.

Day Trip on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal

Saturday 27th September 1986 dawned bright and sunny, which for a small group of people promised the start of a most enjoyable day on a twelve seater trip boat belonging to Red Line Boats.

Having all assembled at the Edgar Street Car Park, Hereford we started off towards Goytre Wharf near Blunover where the boat was all ready for us.

Armed with packed lunches and suitable liquid refreshment we boarded the craft and after brief operating instructions, headed slowly in the direction of Abergavenny.

As most people are no doubt aware the maximum speed limit on all inland waterways is 4mph - speeds above this causes damage to banks, by erosion which can in turn lead to massive repair bills.

The slow speed gave us ample time to enjoy the autumn beauty of the Welsh countryside. We caught glimpses of numerous squirrels various birds and one excellent sighting of a heron.

We eventually stopped at Llanfoist Wharf for our lunch (where we experienced a few drops of rain which luckily didnt come to anything). We managed between us to turn the boat round and then came the journey back. We found that sitting down all day and travelling so slowly made us all very tired indeed!

We reached home base at about 5.45pm and then went our separate ways home feeling tired, happy and new friendships made.

Peter Woodfield.



Blessings great and small...



...may your Christmas
bring them all!

12

WILLIAM BIRD,
TIMBER & COAL MERCHANT,
Commission Agent,
AND
GENERAL WHARFINGER,
BROMYARD AND LEOMINSTER WHARFS,
WITHINGTON.

N.B.—Goods forwarded to all parts of the Kingdom.

N.C. Jefferies, September 1984.

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
~ & NEW YEAR ~
TO ALL
OUR MEMBERS.



HEREFORD OBSERVER

Issue 46.



Friday
3rd October 1986

The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire canal society regrets the closure of the Hereford Cbserver.

Our sympathy to Terry Wardle and Lawrence Meredith, plus other members of their staff.

The Hereford Cbserver gave the Society very good support and coverage. It brought news of the Canal to many people who never knew of its existence.

It was nice to have a local independant newspaper wich was interested in the activity of the various local groups.

Many of our events were covered by the paper and without its support we would not have been able to afford to promote these.

Mike Potts

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

.....
SOCIAL GET TOGETHER.

"CHAT ANA HALF"
.....

We would like to meet a lot of you members out there. Please come along. If you require transport please contact one of the committee.

An evening at the Antelope Inn Barton Road Hereford. An opportunity for members to meet in an informal setting on Wednesday 14th Jan. and Wednesday 18th Feb 1986. Both from 8.00 p.m. onwards

Bring any photographs you may have.

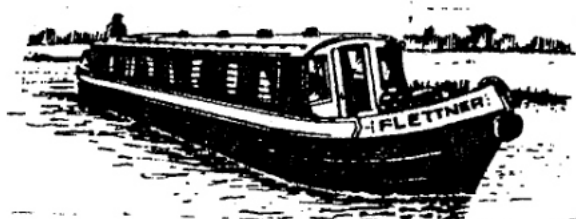
DO NOT MISS ALAN SIMPSON'S slide show on March Friday 20th March (details elsewhere in this edition and further information in the next one.

Some of us travelled to Leamington one very wet evening to see his show, it was well worth the effort. We had a very entertaining and amusing evening. His slides are a marvelous record of many of the disused canal tunnels around the country, many taken at great risk.

.....
Our working parties recently have been very poorly attended. Just the same regulars turning up. We would be very grateful for more help. Not just for labouring jobs but for many other tasks such as fund raising, organising functions, promoting the society.

We are holding several social evenings shortly, please come along you will be made most welcome.

We need more members on our committee, come and join us, there is no pressure, we are all volunteers and have other commitments but spare what time we can to run the society.



RESTORATION NEWS

15

HELP
WANTED
PLEASE



We have started to remove soil from around and behind the towpath edging stones at the skew bridge. We intend to remove the stones, lay concrete and replace the stones to form a firm towpath with a brick wall edging the canal beneath the stones.

We also want to finish dredging the canal up to the main road including the winding hole and to clean up the area next to the main road.

We also would like to clear some of the canal bed on the oposit side of the main road.

Our working parties for the next few months are as follows; SUNDAY 10.30 until dusk (4.00-4.30)
JAN 4th FEB 1st MARCH 1st APRIL 5th

THE HEREFORD WHARFINGER.

EDITOR. Mike Potts 3 Cranstone Breinton
Hereford - 56392.

Produced by Mr Bernard Warburton at the
Ross On Wye resource centre.

Produced quarterly. March, June, September,
December. Date for copy 12th of previous
month please.

SALES

"THE HEREFORD AND GLOUCESTER CANAL"

Hard back book by David E Bick £3.95
The book of our canal.

"THE DIARY OF A ROWING TOUR FROM OXFORD
TO LONDON IN 1875" By Howard Williams £4.50
Including a detailed navigation of our
canal.

Wild bird motif Key Ring & address pad 50p
CANAL TEA TOWEL. A selection of tea towels
with various canal scenes. each... £1.95

Post cards. LYDNEY DOCKS, GLOUCESTER DOCKS,
THE WAVE IN GLOUCESTER DOCKS. 10p each

ILLUSTRATED NOTELETS. (Monkhide Skew Bridge)
Ten complete with envelopes for £1.00

BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW.....
LARGE SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CARD with envelope
picture Hereford Canal Basin. Each 35p

Illustrated MAP of the KINGTON-LEOMINSTER-
STOURPORT canal by Geo R Kendrick. £1.95

CANAL PHOTOGRAPHS. Exenhall Lock Cottage,
Canal Lock (location unknown), Canal Wharf
and Lock (location unknown). Approx 2
Approx 6" x 8" mounted on card £3.50 each.
Or in gilt glass frame £6.00 each.

All sales; Peter Woodfield or Mike Potts see
inside front cover Tel no. & address.

Please note carriage extra. We will try and
deliver where possible at no charge.