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Summer 2022

The Wharfinger

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST



152
EDITION

REBUILDING A SUSTAINABLE CANAL BETWEEN HEREFORD & GLOUCESTER

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As chairman I find myself doing many things H&GCT related. One Friday in January I arranged with Tony Higgins to check out the Ashperton Walk leaflet before the final approval to go to print (now available via the web site). Having walked it a couple of times before, the aim was that Tony would be the final guinea pig to check out the instructions, while I ensured he didn't get lost. The weather was glorious as we started off and stayed with us all day.



As we left the foot path to join the road by Tunnel Cottage, the new owner was chatting with his electrician. A friendly hello was said and then a lengthy discussion about the canal and their interest in restoring their part. This then led to our first workday on this new part of the canal at the end of February.

The first challenge was to find the steps down to the canal. The picture taken by Tony (left) shows a couple of the team working their way down some steps that required digging out.



A very steep slope, but we did get down to the bottom safely. Neil Smith, the landowner, is shown by the tunnel mouth with a few pieces of history (right).

We visited again the following month and worked at making the steps slightly easier with some post and rail to help work your way down (picture below). More undergrowth was cleared allowing Neil to cross the canal.



We even got a canoe down and took some measurements and still could not see light through the tunnel (flooded portal in picture below).

The issue we have - unusually - is water at a higher level than desired.

Oh, by the way, Tony didn't get too lost on the walk.



We also had a busy month in February as the full board got involved in working on purchasing some land that had come available, with the email newsletter going out asking for funds to buy a couple of pieces of land at Malswick. We had some very quick responses from a number of members, with even one couple hand delivering a cheque. These enabled us to have the confidence that we could fund the land purchases. Then discussions with other potential purchasers ensued to agree a strategy that got us to a tense weekend at the beginning of March. Like buying a house, we are in the subject to contract stage on one of the pieces of land. We are still in discussions with the other. I thought buying a house was hard, buying land seems a lot harder.

Further to our offer of being able to view the Social evening talks remotely – we have had no requests for this so no further action will be taken.

The board have agreed that to enable us to push the canal restoration further forward, and hopefully quicker, we would ask for a change in the articles to let us have up to twelve Trustees and two co-opted, up from the ten and two co-opted we have today. This will be put before the AGM in June. At the AGM there will be a chance to ask all your questions and see a slide show of the work that has been going on and if you have missed them some of the videos from YouTube. As detailed below, copies of the agenda and reports will not be available at the AGM.

Chairman - Ralph Barber

Notification - Annual General Meeting 2022

The 2022 AGM will be held on Weds 22 June 2022 at 7:30pm in Ledbury Community Hall.

The formal notice of the 2022 AGM was published on our web site as required under the Articles 28 days prior to the above date. The Agenda, the Annual Report, Accounts and Finance Statements can be found on the website. We are also reducing our costs by having no printed copies of the Agenda, Annual Report and the accounts available at the door. You should be able to download them from the website for printing. Should you be unable to print them, please contact **agm@h-g-canal.org.uk** at least 7 days prior to the AGM and arrangements can then be made to supply you with a printed copy.

In accordance with the H&G CT's Articles and Memorandum of Association, those members of the Board of Trustees who are retiring on rotation but offering themselves for re-election do not require to be formally nominated to serve an additional term.

New Nominations - New nominations to serve on board of Trustees are welcome. Requests for a nomination form should be made by the person making the nomination by email to **agm@h-g-canal.org.uk**. Nominations should be submitted in the period between 42 days and 18 days prior to the AGM.

Proxy voting - Every member who is entitled to vote at an AGM may appoint a proxy to vote in his/her stead. A proxy must be someone entitled to vote at the AGM. Proxy forms are also available via email to **agm@h-g-canal.org.uk** and should be completed, signed and returned to arrive at least 48 hours before the start of the AGM.

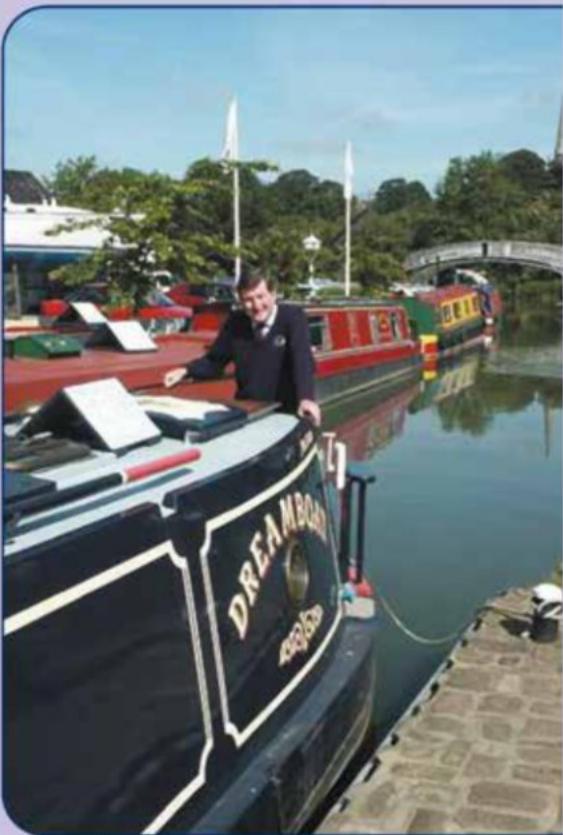
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Annual Report and Accounts for 2021/22

of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust Limited



The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2021. A nonprofit distributing company no. 2704407, formed in April 1992, and a registered charity no. 1010721, which replaced the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society launched in 1983.

Governing document

The charity is constituted as a limited company, limited by guarantee as defined in the Companies Act 2006, and as such is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Organisational structure

A team of volunteers runs the charity. Managed by the Trustees who meet regularly, supported by site-based groups of volunteers and committees responsible for promotion and other commercial activities. The board appoint trustees to run The Wharf House Co. Ltd. The Articles of Association allow for up to ten trustees to be in place but does allow for the co-option of two more to cover special projects. One third of the trustees stand down annually by rotation but can apply for re-election. Potential new trustees can be elected at the AGM or are co-opted during the year, but they must stand for formal election at the next AGM. When new Trustees join, they are provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles, which includes information about trustees and charity law.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are put in place to reduce risks of fraud error or unsafe acts.

The Board of Trustees is aware of the general guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The Trustees have regard to this guidance and consider the activities of the charity have been carried out demonstrably for the public benefit and this applies also to their plans for future action. The charitable objects are defined as rebuilding a sustainable canal between Hereford and Gloucester.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Ralph Barber Philip Marshall Eamonn McGurk Keith Vaughan Welch Robert Moreland
Nigel Jefferies Edward Helps Anthony Sellwood Deborah Barber Richard Appleton

Chairman's Report :

As the Covid-19 pandemic continued it made it a difficult year. All the promotional events we had planned to attend throughout the year faced changes, but we did manage to get out on the road in the summer. Our own social events were also cancelled until later in the year and again we went virtual with our AGM in June.

My thanks go to all Trustees and Volunteers for their ongoing support and involvement in the Trust.

This is a shortened report, ten months, as we have changed our financial year to align with the yearly calendar.

An ongoing strategy review continues. This has further brought together a number of groups looking at sections of the canal. A team in Hereford are looking at the start of the canal and discussion and work is occurring with Herefordshire Council on several sites in Hereford city and further afield in Herefordshire.

The concept of an inclined plane for Newent continues in model form and we managed to present this at the IWA event in August that gained lots of interest from the national canal press as well.

The Wharf House Company operation having changed from a directly managed to a leased operation (now The Lock Keepers and The Moorings) the lockdown continued to affect our tenants. Just before the end of the year, Malswick House also reopened as a pub managed under the same arrangement as the Lock Keepers.

We wish both organisations well as lockdown lifts and all gets back to normal.

One of the keys to a solid restoration is the involvement of others - councils, locals, all types of groups. Work has occurred to continue to ensure the canal route is protected and supported by all. Positive comments have been received about the change in direction the trust is now taking, after a few years of some negative comments. The sharing of ideas and use of social media with Facebook, YouTube and Twitter now used for interaction is seen as a positive.

Looking further forward, like every other person and organisation, the coronavirus has had and is having its effect on the Trust. Work slowed down, but volunteers continue to progress matters where they can.

Objectives an activities:

The trust espouses the following core values: -

Restoring, enhancing, and protecting the canal for all;

Integrating the canal corridor as a sustainable resource into the life of the communities along its route;

Endeavouring to complete the work in partnership with all other interested parties.

Interested Parties

This reporting period we have engaged further with the Neighbourhood Plans under development in Newent via Zoom meetings due to Covid-19.

Voluntary help and gifts in kind

The volunteers form a critical part of the Trust, not just in restoring the canal but also in maintaining the restored sections and promoting it widely through local and national events. All these aspects have continued throughout the year in question and are set to expand. The value of the volunteer work that we have recorded adds up to around £118,672, but we know this

does not reflect all the time dedicated to the business of H&GCT by all our hardworking volunteers.

Risks to the Charity

The Trust continues to negotiate new sites and to rejuvenate former sites with developers and landowners at various places along the line of the canal - including locations in Hereford and Ledbury. These can take years to conclude but we continue with an ongoing diverse portfolio of negotiations so that a flow of announcements can realistically be expected over the coming years.

Reserves Policy

The charity aims to hold funds that are at least anticipated to cover the normal operating costs for 12 months.

Charitable activities and achievements

With the ongoing restrictions due to Covid-19 site work was a challenge through out the year.

Burcott Road : Ongoing tree pruning and maintenance of the site.

Holmer : A lot has happened with Holmer, which has been reported in the press over the years. We are currently in discussions with the current landowner supported by Herefordshire Council with a view to agreeing a transfer of the land on the canal corridor.

Aylestone Park : The reed boats reported in last years report were well worth the expense and we will look at doing the same in the new year.

Kymin : Ongoing site maintenance continued. Several trees that came down in storms continued to create work for the volunteers. To help those who would like to volunteer but who work in the week we are meeting at weekends on this site. The site is extremely popular with local walkers.

Yarkhill : Regular maintenance and vegetation clearance continued to keep the volunteers busy on this stretch of canal.

Adjoining Yarkhill : The team have gained access to the site next to Yarkhill and have done an excellent job of clearing the site. Unfortunately, we are finding that a number of landowners are happy to let us work sites but are not allowing the general public onto the site.

Ledbury : As reported in the last annual report the decision for the development of 625 houses and a number of factory units was given the go ahead and support for the canal in land and money was also awarded. Discussions are underway with the developer and Herefordshire Council to agree a way forward.

Dymock : The pump replaced last year is working well with ongoing monitoring to ensure the water levels in the winding pool are correct.

Oxenhall : As reported last year we lost the site leader and during the Covid restrictions we had many Zoom calls to agree a way forward with the team and a new site leader has taken on the

role and is getting to know the site well.

Newent : Whilst not a lot has happened on site, we now have a model of the proposed inclined plane that proved to be a good discussion point at the IWA show in August and was very successful at Newent Fayre event.

Malswick : We finally got planning permission in November. A very frustrating slow process for the team who did a fantastic job of getting all the work done. This included obtaining over one hundred documents to get this past the planning authority. It is going to be a busy year coming up to turn open fields into six hundred metres of canal.

Moat Farm : Routine maintenance including mowing of the grassy areas continued to be the focus of work here. The 'wilder' areas occasionally needed intervention to enhance the habitats that have been created.

Over : Regarding the land slippage at Vineyard Hill - the area is pegged out and continues to be monitored. There is a plan to improve the ability to get boats along the section of canal at the bottom of the hill. Ongoing maintenance occupied the team, including the clearance of weeds by the boats that we used at Aylestone Park.

Heritage Boats : The boats continue to be worked on. Mr Maysey was lifted out of the water last year. Repairs are now underway and with the Covid-19 restrictions the work has been slow. The superstructure was replaced and extra work was required when a volunteer discovered the steps did not do what they should do, new steps now in place. Apart from the existing users of the basin, the model boaters and Sailing4Disabled, we have had new users. We have had the fire brigade practising their boating skills, the Scouts made some boats and tested them in the basin and a local paddle boarding business is running sessions.

Mill Barn : As reported in editions of the Wharfinger throughout the year we are continuing to work this forward. We have a design; the original planned location has had to change due to underground pipes. We are getting the paperwork aligned ready to apply for planning permission.

Llanthony : Both properties are let, and the lock basin has had a couple of visits for volunteers to keep the Wysis Way footpath that runs through the lock, open.

Membership : Sadly, we lose members each year, and this year the overall figure decreased to 1114. We missed being able to get out to shows in the early part of the year. The events at the end of the year brought in several new members, who are also getting involved in work on the sites. We thank members for their generosity with all their donations.

The Wharfinger : Its high standard has been maintained thanks to many volunteer hours given by writers, photographers, editors, proofreaders, layout and delivery.

Walks Leaflets : These have been selling well.

Website : This is constantly running behind the scenes. Queries are passed to the relevant Trust member for a response.

Sales & Promotion : As mentioned above, we managed to get to a couple of shows at the end of the year. We have plans to attend many shows next year.

Socials : Went the same way as the Sales and Promotion due to Covid-19. We did get a social in the later part of the year. A full calendar has been worked for the year to come. We will continue to go to the Royal Oak; unfortunately, we are having to move to a Thursday in the New Year (2022). We are also looking at remote connection for people who are unable to attend the evening.

Grand Holiday Draw raised £1,746 which was very good as no tickets sold at Open Days. Our gratitude goes to those who donated all the prizes.

Financial review, Achievements and Performance

During this shortened 10 month financial period the companies showed a combined surplus of £47k compared with £43k for the previous 12 month accounts. The position therefore continued to strengthen. As in the previous year the results are combined to avoid confusing matters with the inter-company interest charges.

The main source of funds remains the rental stream. For the Trust rentals totalled £37k, which compares well with the £46.8k in the year to 28 February 2021, especially in view of the loss of income of £ 4 k in Dymock as a result of the need to sell the property there. In cash terms rental income since 2018 has remained broadly static in spite of the loss of income from Dymock, which in ye 2018 and 2019 amounted to more than £10k. For Wharf House Co Ltd rentals totalled £37.5k compared with £28.7k for the 12 months to 28/2/2021, £28.1k in ye 28/2/20 and nothing before that. During the latest period about £5k was lost because of Covid. Since both properties are now let on long-term leases and providing full rents can be achieved (with no hiccups from Covid or other issues), in a full year significantly more rent will be received.

Overall , other income has dropped, entirely as a result of a reduction in legacies by £15k.

Expenditure at sites has increased slightly to £31k (for a 10 month period), and will be expected to rise significantly in the current year as a result of work at Malswick.

Overhead costs for the Trust include a book profit of £30k on the sale of the house at Dymock, the main object of that (which was achieved) being to realise cash.

Wharf House Co Ltd costs continue to reduce, this period being at £13k compared with £15k for the full previous year. In future, in the absence of unexpected events/costs, they should not be more than £3k in a full year.

The Balance Sheets of both companies continue to strengthen. From the sale of the house at Dymock , our solicitors withheld £30k to settle a possible overage claim. Since it is hoped that the eventual settlement will be for much less than the amount withheld , there may be a useful injection of cash in the present financial year.

Ralph Barber - Trustee



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Although the landscape during the winter months has its own special kind of appeal, March and April bring a very welcome return of colour to the scene.

Firstly with the snowdrops, followed by crocus, daffodil, tulips, cowslips and primroses.

And then the blackthorn and the cherry blossom.

And finally the new leaf growth - starting with the hawthorn and the palest of green tint on the willow - followed by the bold green of the horse chestnut.

All have appeared in abundance this year at Over.



Site Upkeep

In mid-February, the strong winds brought down a number of branches and also a complete tree - blocking the entrance to the site.



Thankfully, the tree narrowly missed the Severn Trent sewage pumping installation, damage to which could have caused significant problems.

We are indebted to John, who has some kind of influence with an army (if that's the right collective noun) of wood elves, who appeared overnight and removed the whole tree by the following morning, leaving it all cut and stacked ready for removal.

A considerable amount of volunteer time has been spent during the past couple of months in cutting back trees and pruning shrubs that had been rather neglected for the last two years due to the pandemic. Some of these had grown too large or out of shape and badly needed attention.

The Skew garden near the entrance was particularly affected and has now been very greatly improved.



Along with the new growth in flowers and trees, the grass is now growing furiously and attention is turning to plenty of mowing (carefully avoiding the wild flowers to allow them to seed)

Vineyard Hill

With plenty of water in the canal over recent weeks, running the boats regularly along the narrow stretch of Vineyard Hill appears to be working as far as keeping a channel clear is concerned.

The intention is that we will continue to run the boats as often as possible in the hope that this will not only keep the channel open and navigable, but will also help to limit the expected growth of weed which caused such severe problems last year.

Bee-baiting

This is nothing at all like Bear-baiting, which is generally frowned upon these days.

Bee-baiting is a technique which our resident bee-keeper Chris is trying out for the first time this year.

When colonies of bees swarm, they often end up in awkward places such as up a tree, making it difficult for the bee-keeper to collect them and re-locate them.

This year, Chris has placed a "Bait Hive" a little distance away from the main hives.



The Bait Hive contains aromatic oil which hopefully will give off a scent attractive to a swarm of bees and bring them straight into the hive.

The system is now in place, and we must just wait to see if the bees appreciate the efforts made on their behalf.

Commemorative Seat

There has been a seat to the memory of Don Freeman near the top of the slipway for many years.

Recently, we were asked by the Gloucester and District Model Boat Club for our approval to place a second seat in a similar position, in memory of a recent member who passed unexpectedly.

In discussing possible locations, it was decided that we would move the original seat to the other side of the slipway and the new seat would be placed on the original base.



As a consequence, a new base has been created; the seat thoroughly cleaned, rubbed down and re-painted before being fixed in the new location. We hope Don would approve of the new outlook from his seat.

Heritage Boats

Work on Mr Maysey has progressed very well over recent weeks. The Helmsman's seat and battery box have all been re-built and fitted, together with the new housing for the fuel tank.

The replacement timber around the front and sides of the cabin has been completed and external painting of the cabin is almost complete.

The hull has received another coat of bitumen blacking, and most significantly, a local sign writer has re-painted the name on the bow.



The engine has been overhauled by the team at Malswick and will be re-fitted before the boat is returned to the canal. Some internal painting is to be completed, and the plan is that the re-launch will take place in mid-May, followed by some checking and testing before a new Safety Inspection is arranged.

A successful Inspection and issue of a Certificate will then allow the boat to carry passengers once again.



Susan-E remains on the trailer at the moment and will be returned to the water in due course.

Alder, Renton and Bosley are all in an operational condition, and are being run regularly as part of the plan to keep Vineyard Hill navigable.

Andy Fowler

Malswick Update



Most of our efforts in the late Spring and Summer have been towards the three week visit by the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG) in July. The WRGs are going to install the pipework for the big culvert, move substantial amounts of soil and train some volunteers on dumper and excavators.



Preparations include stripping the topsoil from the path of the canal, which will ensure a more stable foundation. The 13 tonne digger driven by Malcolm Cliverty is keeping the dumper drivers, Steve Delacourt and Graham Lammond, very busy.

Mark Atkin checks the inside of the pipes for the aptly named big culvert



The 6 tonne dumper makes its hundredth way back for more top-soil, driven by Steve Delacourt.

A perfectly levelled step into the new site hut; much easier on the knees thanks to Bob Hargreaves. Next job: paint the door and replace damaged windows.



Photographs by Mark Atkin and Alan McBride

Yarkhill Update

Work has continued with the clearance of Mr Barnes' section and levelling the wild side to improve accessibility. The three storms in quick succession during February gave us some extra work. One tree fell as we were working on-site and blocked the access track.

Having decided the windy conditions called for an early finish, we had to quickly clear the track in order to retrieve our cars.



While clearing the wild side we had been unable to deal with the numerous trees which had fallen away from the canal across the ditch and into the adjoining field. We approached the owner who was happy to give us access, consequently we have latterly had a change of scenery while we work.

The driver of a large tractor had a shock when crossing our sleeper bridge. Two of the sleepers gave way under the weight. Fortunately, the damage was only under one wheel and after some desperate reversing he was able to recover to safe ground – tractor and driver in one piece. A full assessment of the whole bridge will be carried out when the level in the ditch allows access to the underside.

Robert Comba

Thank You Day



Saturday 24 September 2022 10am to 4pm

A thank you day for all our Members, Volunteers and supporters for the last 30 years of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust will be held at Over Basin, just outside Gloucester and next to The Lock Keepers GL2 8DB.



You will be able to take a boat ride on Mr Maysey, see the model boats and other water activities. Meet new and old friends and get the most up to date information about the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal and the next 30 years.

Bring your children and grandchildren so they can enjoy the water and maybe help with the restoration in the future as we restore this beautiful canal for them.

Debbie Barber

Mayhem at Malswick

A trying time for the trusty trio.

Things normally purr along quite happily with just the occasional hiccup, not so this quarter, do not read on if you are of a nervous disposition.

The Massey has finally been returned to Oxenhall, after conversion to forward forklift/bucket operation. At its final full function test the hydraulics decided to die so it was dispatched to a pal called Kev who did a mates rates strip and transmission rebuild so saving the day.

Buoyed by this success it was decided to add a topper to the tractor in order to cope with the newly acquired grasslands. A bargain little-used example was located in Longhope and returned to base at Malswick House where it was duly checked over, fitted with new implement pins and shield chains ready for its forthcoming extra duty of the Malswick flat lands.



The Lister Sellwood pump was brought up from Moat Farm for a check over and found to be seized solid, much freeing fluids and pushing and shoving freed it but start it would not. The engine was split from the pump, and it was found that with the pump connected it was too much for the engine to start. A visit to Mr Pinder produced a bargain priced electric starter which was installed and the starter ring gear heat shrunk onto the flywheel which was eye wateringly expensive. This is still a work in progress, but we are hoping to launch in the next couple of weeks with the caveat of easy electric start.



The ATV was cruising happily along when the rear drive coupling decided to join the lads in the cab. On route it managed to take most of the clutch assembly with it. A serviceable used clutch and coupling was located in Morris's Garden centre in Usk which entailed loading the beast onto a trailer. The clutch was drawn off using a dedicated puller and the s/h unit pressed on for free conditional on us purchasing the parts. £40 was squandered on a good s/h drive belt. It was then trailered back to base. Another ongoing project with the end in sight.



A big dumper with a missing engine has been nearly acquired along with a nearly acquired replacement engine. Look out for updates, if this does materialise it will be great fun, but again very much work in progress.



Mr Maysey's engine has had its new timing belt fitted and a service so is back with Andy waiting to cruise the waterways after the major hull work. Underwater stays were found to be short, so the hunt is on to fabricate and get them fitted prior to launch. Another work in progress but the Over team will have Mr Maysey creaming along the waterways very shortly.



Sterling efforts to revive the vintage flymo ended in tears as a lack of compression relegated it to heartbreak corner. Parts enquiries (this was made before I was born) resulted in no replies, so despair and hopelessness and lots of very long grass.

The tracked dumper still waits forlornly for the generous offer to rework the engine to materialise. This machine is not owned by the trust but is on free loan, so there are constraints on what can be done with it. Let's hope fortune smiles on the poor thing and we are soon roaming around on it.

A site portaloo has been acquired at a too good to be true price but was found to be a bottomless pit. Sterling work by team then resulted in a pit bottom fabricated and fitted so redemption achieved. It awaits a full function test which may result in further jobs so just waiting for the call at moment. It is much needed at the Malswick site as construction is heading into full swing

Chris Phelps

Garden Opening in aid of H&G



Saturday 3rd – Sunday 11th September 11am – 5pm

Come and visit a country garden in aid of the H&G Canal Trust. Tea and cake available each day. £3.00pp entry.

The garden, of almost an acre, surrounds the house on three sides, with different 'rooms' and areas. You will find herbaceous borders, rose garden, vegetable garden, wildlife pond, and lawns. If too hot (one can only hope) you can rest in the shade of the summerhouse or under the trees in the orchard. Plenty of sitting areas to rest and listen to the birds. Dahlias abound for late summer colour and the roses usually put on a good late show. It's a country garden so ground is somewhat uneven – beware of the vole holes.

...and if you still have energy to burn, walk down the road a short way and you will find the towpath walk along to Kymin.

You can find us at Brick House, Westhide HR1 3RG

Debbie Barber

A Present for Ellen



As a newbie Yarkhill lengthsman team member, I had been tasked to work with Harold (a many year veteran) to level off the spoil heaps on the wild side of the Yarkhill to Barr's Lock section near to the Worcester to Hereford Road. These heaps had been created back in the 90s when the IWA WRGs cleared out the canal basin with a digger and dropped them on the bank tops. This task required the use of a spade and pick since the small digger had been stolen, so we were feeling like latter day navvies. Glad to say I was not on any kind of performance payment!

Well, I was having a joke about when we find the "gold bar" what would we do? Who would ultimately have the legal right to it? The landowner, the canal society or the finder?

The bar has not been found yet, but I have found a few bits. Harold has stated it must be beginner's luck as he has found nothing during his time levelling the paths out. So, what has been found?

The first and most interesting to me is a small cup with the wording, "A present for Ellen". The cup had a small crack in it and the handle was missing. I think this damage had been caused before I found it.



The cup, well what had happened for it to end in the canal and be collected up by the digger so long ago? Was it being used when the handle fell off and it entered the water?

Whatever it was I would think it was a prized position and a loss to the owner, Ellen, God bless her soul.

Other items are not that interesting. A clay pipe with the stem broken off, a small glass bottle and an Eiffel Tower Lemonade bottle. This latter was discussed over a coffee with the crew, and no one knew of this company or what it was until Paul stepped up. He remembered it from his youth. It contained Lemonade crystals, a premier temperance beverage made by Foster Clark Ltd, making two gallons of cordial.

Question resolved thanks to Paul, another long-term volunteer who needs to be thanked along with so many more, current and past, for the amazing work they have done over so many years. A WELL DONE from me.

The associated photo illustrates the finds. I will keep my eye out for more and update all when something else is found. Not sure what I would do if I do stumble on that gold bar!!!

Dave Goff - Yarkhill lengthsman.



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If you have enjoyed this year's
Herefordshire Walking Festival
Join us next year too...

**Saturday 18th to
Sunday 26th June 2022**



HEREFORDSHIRE it's good to walk...

Anniversary walk at Ashperton and Staplow.



As detailed in Wharfinger 151, an Anniversary Walk was organised to view some parts of the canal. The route undertaken by the 13 intrepid walkers took us along stretches of the canal around Ashperton and Staplow. The weather was sunny and dry, so spirits were high. The route followed the first part of the new trust walk leaflet no. 7 and continued to follow the route on walk leaflet No. 1 at Staplow – a total of 7.5 miles on public footpaths.

The first signs of the canal came into view as we got to the line of the Ashperton tunnel, where the spoil heaps from the tunnel are a prominent feature. The walk continued along the line of the tunnel until we arrived at Tunnel Cottage – the temporary home of Stephen Ballard when he was building the difficult tunnel.



A special arrangement had been made with the owner to allow us access to her private garden to look down the canal cutting to the tunnel entrance.

The good works undertaken by volunteers clearing brambles from the tunnel mouth helped us appreciate the beauty of the engineering. The water level is very high, nearing the tunnel roof.



The walk continued beside the long cutting, which is in water, turning left over a pretty bridge with views of the canal in both directions. A quick tea break was had at the junction with the route on leaflet 1 and continued across the airstrip – a challenge for the canal restoration - past The Wharf at Staplow to arrive to a warm welcome at The Oak pub. We took our place in a private room and, thanks to pre-ordering, the delicious meals arrived efficiently.



After a pleasant break with good chat, we resumed the route back to Ashperton, noting some slight changes to the footpaths around Lower Hope House. A team photo, minus one walker who had to dash away, was taken to prove we all made it back in reasonable shape. As they say, 'A good day was had by all'.

Phil Platt

Nigel Jefferies



It started on Wednesday 13th April 1983 - this was the inaugural meeting of the Canal Society and when Nigel Jefferies started his involvement in the H&G canal.



A youthful Nigel working on one of the many plaques he created, taken by Mike Potts

His involvement has continued for 39 years, over half of his life, and as a member of the Board of Trustees for the 30 years that the H&G Canal Trust has been in place.

It is with great sadness that after such a long involvement in the H&G Canal Trust he has decided to step down as a Trustee at the 2022 AGM in June.

He will continue to be involved in helping out on sales stalls and doing talks for local groups in Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and further afield.

During this time Nigel has helped in many areas ...

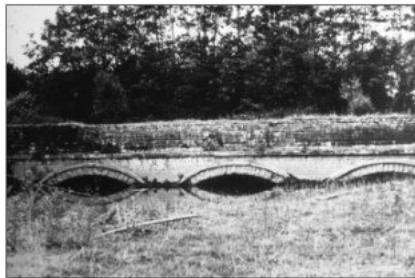
- Working at getting the Skew Bridge at Monkhide listed. The masonry arch bridge was first listed in January 1986 whilst the Society was still in place and has a remarkable angle of skew of 63°.
- Spending over 25 years as membership secretary.
- Creating the initial walk leaflet at Staplow and then developing further walk leaflets.
- Entertaining and informing people with his talks at various clubs around the area and raising a significant amount in donations for the Society and Trust.
- Supporting the sales stalls as they travelled around the area.
- Using his skills to create the plaques that you see around highlighting the canal and the milestones that are on various sites.

Whilst doing all this Nigel served on his local Parish Council for many years, including as Footpath Officer and also served for a time as the Chairman of the Parish Council.



Ralph Barber

Social Evenings



In March a talk from Mike Potts gave us a historical journey along the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal.

This provided some very interesting pictures and great insights from Mike as to the recent past of the Canal.

A long way back, a picture left of the Lugg Aqueduct and below, Frome aqueduct.

In April, the topic was Beer by Boat, as Gareth Davies presented a wide ranging talk covering

- the India Pale Ale brewed for shipping to troops stationed in India
- Conveyance of beer along the river in Severn Trows
- The sinking of a ship carrying Guinness by a German U-boat in October 1917
- and Guinness tankers at sea



Yes, until 1983 they had tankers moving the black stuff around the world. Now it is in 40-foot containers getting to New York in 26 days and then onto LA in 33 Days.



Gareth finished off with details about a certain brewing company in Europe that is now using electric barges to move their product, taking six million kilometres of lorry traffic off the roads.

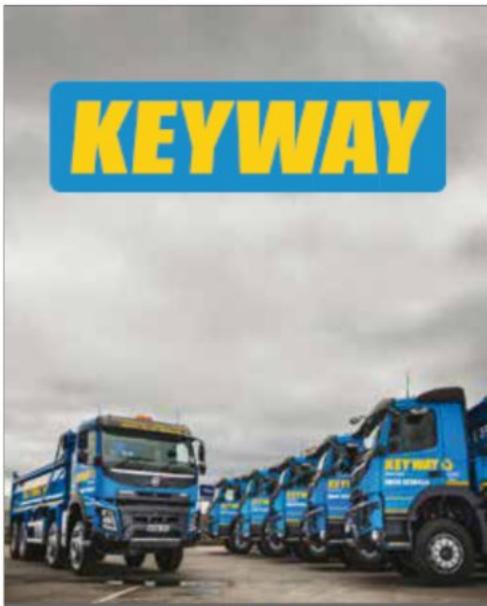
Ralph Barber

Upcoming Socials

16 June 2022	No social meeting as The Trust AGM will be on 22 June 2022
21 July 2022	Michael Limbrey with a Montgomery Canal restoration update
18 August 2022	Informal Natter and Noggin at Malswick House
15 September 2022	Dick Skeet - Retracing the Jam 'ole Run and the Grand Holiday Draw

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Training with a difference



Whilst we need training on diggers and dumpers (that is currently being organised via the WRG camps at Malswick in July) we also need training on the handling of boats. So, two of our volunteers travelled to Droitwich to attend a Royal Yachting Association Inland Waterways Helmsman Certification course.

On the first day the weather was sunny with a bit of wind to make things interesting. A gentle trip to the first broad lock on the Droitwich Barge canal tested their skills at travelling along, turning the 50-foot boat around a number of times and then mooring up, spring off, spring on. Their knowledge and ability to do a bowline, a clove hitch and a couple of other knots was also tested to see if they have been practising before coming on the course.

Day two started with rain, fortunately a bit of classroom work occurred talking about man-over-board (MOB), anchoring, working through tunnels, dealing with swing/lift bridges and



then locks – all via a video. Fortunately, after the boat was sorted out the rain had just about stopped. A trip was then undertaken going along a different canal, the Droitwich Junction canal which reopened in 2011. The trip included several swing bridges and locks and a tunnel (that has approx. only four inches of space above the boat when going under the M5), and then of course all repeated on the return journey. A bit more work was done on those knots, including a canalman's hitch, with further turning, mooring and dealing with hire boat traffic as others were out enjoying their holidays.

Congratulations to Simon Hill and Paul McClintock who successfully completed their RYA IWHC.

Postponed for two years, but WE ARE BACK
to celebrate our Silver Jubilee Year
on
Saturday 10th September 2022

The H&G Sales Team
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Help to set up. Chat about our canal.
Sell stock & draw tickets.
Are you able to spare a couple of hours or more? No experience required!
(8-10am set up, 10-12 noon, 12-2pm,
2-4pm & 4-6pm pack up).
Be part of this amazing day!
As you know we are nothing without YOU,
the volunteers!
Please contact Ginny by email:
vmbktt@gmail.com for more details.

Board on Tour



The Board held the April 2022 meeting at Yarkhill Village Hall. Afterwards the attendees visited the site at Monkhide, with the kind permission of the landowner, Major Barnes. We were able to walk along from the A 4103 and see the famous Skew bridge. Built at 63° from perpendicular, it has the highest angle of skew of any canal bridge on the system in the UK. Thank you to Richard Appleton (on the left) for arranging access.

Next to Richard is Bob Hargreaves, who was co-opted onto the board at the April meeting. He will focus on the engineering aspects of the canal. Ed Helps is next with his focus of Health and Safety. Debbie Barber looking at Promotions - we have almost one a month over the summer, attending shows such as Oxenhall (March), Droitwich (April) and Ledbury Community Day in June. Chair next and then Philip Marshall focusing on finance.

Whilst the Thursday Yarkhill team will soon be working the site, unfortunately there is currently no public access.



Making better use of Legacies ...



... and Reducing the Tax Bill

Most of us know that if you gift-aid your subscriptions/donations to charities then they can claim back 25% more from the Inland Revenue. Many will also be aware that money or anything else left to charity in a will is exempt from Inheritance Tax. Readers may also know that if 10% or more of what's taxable (the "chargeable estate" after exemptions) is given to charity, the rate of Inheritance Tax is reduced from 40% to 36% - that's on the whole sum, not just what's given to charity. But did you realise that even if nothing was left to charity in a will, the beneficiaries can sign a Deed of Variation to make donations, or increase the amounts, and so reduce the tax bill?

There was a time when your parents died in their 70s and left you money when you were young enough to need it. Not so much nowadays, it seems. With parents going on into their 80s or even 90s, all too often by the time you get your inheritance, you wonder whether you now need it – or, at least, need all of it. Of course, personal circumstances vary from family to family, but it is noteworthy that legacies are becoming an increasing source of funding for charities.

It's also noteworthy that children often arrange for their parent's home to be sold. They've got their own home by now and don't want to move back to where their parents lived. So, the house sale means a cash windfall – which is also subject to Inheritance Tax (subject to exemptions at lower levels).

Let's look at an example. Joe is the son of a parent who dies; the other parent died earlier. His parents had a house worth £550,000 and they also had various investments of some value. Let's assume that the taxable value (after the usual tax reliefs etc) is £500,000. Inheritance tax at 40% means £200,000 for the Government and £300,000 for Joe.

Joe doesn't need all the money and has always been a waterways supporter, gift-aiding subscriptions to a favourite waterway society (but this isn't essential for will varying). Joe doesn't want to sit on all this money and see another 40% go in tax on his death. He would like to give away half of his inheritance, which would have been £150,000 for the charities concerned. He signs a Deed of Variation to his parent's will and names the charities he wishes to get the money totalling £250,000 (half the gross inheritance before tax). This reduces the tax rate to 36%, charged only on the remaining £250,000.

The result?

...only £90,000 for the Government, £160,000 for Joe and £250,000 goes to charities.

So, the bottom line ... charities better off by £100,000 – and incidentally, Joe by £10,000.

Of course, Joe doesn't have to be so generous. Maybe he's got grandchildren he wants to help – but not too much, as he wants the grandchildren to earn their own way through life. There's still some left for charities.

Maybe you're wondering what this article has to do with you. Well, you are interested in the inland waterways – or else you wouldn't be reading this. Maybe YOU might be interested in varying a will so you can direct money to a waterways charity – such as the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust.

(You could simplify things by leaving money direct to a waterways charity – and not have to hope your children do "the right thing"!).

Naturally, this article isn't proper professional advice. But you may wish to ask your solicitor about it.

By the way, Deeds of Variation need to be dealt with within two years of the death.

John Dodwell

Canal Walks



H&G Canal Trust has produced a series of walk leaflets which explore various parts of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal.

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OXENHALL and OVER BASIN**

All proceeds towards the promotion and restoration of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal.

More details and ordering options available on the website.

Logs for Sale

Proceeds to Trust Funds

These logs are processed by our volunteers from the clearance work during canal restoration. The sale of them helps to fund the cost of our work restoring the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal.

After April 2022 each log order will need to be 2 cubic metres or 3 dumpy bags @ £75 per bag



Purchases can be arranged by contacting our Malswick site team by email: malswick@h-g-canal.org.uk

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Sales and Promotions Events



The team are looking forward to getting out and about again this year – these are the events we hope to be attending and engage with the public with support from our members and volunteers.

On the last day of April, the team enjoyed a lovely sunny day on the first day of the St Richards Canal Festival in Droitwich. We had a nice view of the canal with the boats motoring past, including the electric trip boat The Pamela May 2. Unfortunately, our gazebo was far too close to all the lovely smells from the catering area – far too tempting.

There was a steady flow of interest in the stall. One thing we did notice was how few people had cash on them – a result of the pandemic and contactless payments becoming the norm. Something to consider for the future.



Thanks to all the team for staffing the stall.

Raising awareness and funds for the Trust's work is vital in maintaining progress with the Canal's restoration. Our Sales and Information Stand can be seen at many Waterways and Country Shows during the year.

We have two small teams of volunteers based at Hereford and Gloucester to cover both local and national events. Come and visit, or better still, join us on the stand. Additional volunteers are urgently needed to help us at these interesting events. Our small and friendly teams will make you very welcome!

Our next outing will be at the Ledbury Community Day on 4 June 2022. We will report back on interest there in the next edition. Other planned attendances are listed below.

Debbie Barber

Upcoming Events

Sat/Sun 25/26 June 2022	Braunston Historic Boat Rally
Sunday 26 June 2022	30th Anniversary Yarkhill Walk, Herefordshire Walking Festival
Saturday 20 August 2022	Tibberton Show, Gloucestershire
Saturday 10 September 2022	Newent Onion Fayre, Gloucestershire
Saturday 24 September 2022	30th Anniversary Over Members Day, Gloucestershire
Saturday 12 November 2022	Winter Fayre, Newent, Gloucestershire

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Help Needed



Would you like to help the Trust more but are unable to get out on the sites, or is it just not your thing?



**Your canal trust
needs you!**

How about helping with the Management of the Canal Trust?

As a trustee you can help the trust and support the restoration in many other ways. We meet once a month and during lock down have been meeting via Zoom. As restrictions are lifted, we plan to look at interspersing virtual meetings with physical ones - moving around the canal corridor to visit the different sites. This would involve meeting the local site leaders to gain more insight into the work the teams are doing.

Never done such a role? Want to know more? See if your experiences can be of use? Have a chat with any of the current trustees. If you would like to know further information about what is involved about being a trustee, please check out the Charity Commission website - they give very good information about the role.

Please do consider becoming a Trustee to help make the canal a reality

The Trustees



We are open ...

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In the previous Wharfinger I reported the passing of Clubman Robert Strong. At Over the memorial seat to Rob has been installed near the position where Rob used to sail from. Mid-May we had a picnic day when his partner Kath and sister Pat unveiled the seat. We are pleased to say the seat is being extensively used.

The Over sailing site looks superb, thanks must go to our Harbour Master John. His nemesis is the weed growth which is aided by the two natural floating weed assembly points, the wind decides where the weed will next settle. For the bank strollers John has repainted the picnic tables. We must not forget the employment of the weed cutter which certainly cleared and livened up the canal.

One abandoned sailing day a handful of skippers sailed to the winding hole, quite an adventure. The tailwind home made the sail less taxing. Despite these problems the Club has completed its Winter Micro Magic sailing competition. Sailing is very popular with around 160 launchings in the first four months. The summer sailing competition started on April fool's day in sunny but seriously cold conditions!

Recently the Over bank side residents have been mystified by a continuous flapping sound seemingly generated from the canal, so an explanation. In daily life a near impossible situation is to view two moored paddle steamers. Our photograph views two model paddle steamers resting just off the Over canal slipway. Both are kit built, at first glance they

appear twin like. Paddle steamers offer a great deal of licence which allows the modeller to detail usually from memory or photographs.



Both are electric motor driven but with different ideas, one has independently driven paddle wheels, not legal, while sister has a common driveshaft.

There is a formula to establish the most efficient revolutions for a paddle wheel. Both models have feathering paddle wheels. The above deck is where individuality is used. For instance, one model the crew is clothed in summer kit while the other in normal working clothing. The same applies to the decks where one model is individually planked while its counterparts' decks have plank effect from a printed sheet.



The second photograph depicts a model gathering at the canal turning circle.

Ted Tedaldi.

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Doesn't time fly, when one is enjoying oneself!

(messing about on the water)



These photos may mean nothing to a lot of our readers, to Sailing4Disabled RowingPirates it means that we as a group have been providing boat rides for the disabled and a few unsuspecting walkers for the past 10 years, these photos from my collection were taken by me on April 2011, ah but this is 2022 and we didn't sail during the Covid19 pandemic!

Sailing4Disabled canoe and Mirror dinghy on the water in 2011.



What I am unable to do is say how many clients have enjoyed a trip along the Hereford to Gloucester Canal at Over, the only thing I can say is that the insurance company is a lot richer!

We are very grateful to the volunteers, who in the early planning days for got their act together and started the Canal project, or I might be floating my boat collection in my hot tub, at least it would be hotter!

This brings me into thinking a celebration BBQ is the order of the day?

One thing that is certain is that we are still taking some of our first day clients who are still with us at Over, and I still have a hard time trying to understand some of them, but I am learning.

These last photos are from 2022, 11 years on, but 10 years at Over Wharf providing boating! Thanks to all volunteers here's to the next 10 years!



Pete R W Bisson S4D/RP

Sailing4Disabled boat Sir Charles Morrison and the Over Basin Slipway in 2022

Site Days



Regular Volunteer Work Parties

Volunteer work parties regularly convene at restoration sites as listed below. Please contact team leaders to check for latest situations.

Tuesdays

Malswick
Robert Heigham
malswick@h-g-canal.org.uk

Oxenhall/Newent Station
Roger Coombs 07801 455779
oxenhall@h-g-canal.org.uk

Thursdays

Over Basin/Vineyard Hill
Andy Fowler
overbasin@h-g-canal.org.uk

Yarkhill
Chris High 01568 615 575
yarkhill@h-g-canal.org.uk

Ad Hoc

Hereford Roving Team
John Pritchard 01432 272972
hereford@h-g-canal.org.uk

Second Sunday each month

Kymin
Ralph Barber 01432 853 086
kymin@h-g-canal.org.uk



Please submit your copy for Edition 153 to the magazine editorial team no later than 29 July 2022.

Ideas, text and images by email to editor@h-g-canal.org.uk.

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Contact Details



Chair — Ralph Barber

01432 853086 chairman@h-g-canal.org.uk

Land and Environment

landandenvironment@h-g-canal.org.uk

Finance — Philip Marshall

01452 760301 finance@h-g-canal.org.uk

Projects — Eamonn McGurk

projects@h-g-canal.org.uk

Health and Safety — Ed Helps

07767 897861 healthsafety@h-g-canal.org.uk

Membership Sec — Tony Higgins

01432 850408 membership@h-g-canal.org.uk

Mail Order Sales — Janet Moulton

01432 264366
18 Coningsby Court, Coningsby Street, Hereford
HR1 2DF mailorder@h-g-canal.org.uk

Fund-raising with used stamps

Steve Bence stamps@h-g-canal.org.uk

Wharfinger Editor — Nick Dymott

07526 254809 editor@h-g-canal.org.uk

Advertising — Ginny Birkett

01531 820345 ads@h-g-canal.org.uk

Restoration & Maintenance

maintenance@h-g-canal.org.uk

Over Site Leader — Andy Fowler

overbasin@h-g-canal.org.uk

Oxenhall Site Leader — Roger Coombs

07801 455779 oxenhall@h-g-canal.org.uk

Malswick Site Leader — Robert Heigham

01452 790498 malswick@h-g-canal.org.uk

Yarkhill Site Leader — Chris High

01568 615575 yarkhill@h-g-canal.org.uk

Kymine East Site Leader — Ralph Barber

01432 853086 kymineast@h-g-canal.org.uk

Hereford Team — John Pritchard

01432 272 972 hereford@h-g-canal.org.uk

General enquiries —

6 Castle Street, Hereford HR1 2NL
information@h-g-canal.org.uk

Want to Help?

The Canal Trust is always in need of new volunteers as our activities continue to expand. We can normally find a use for any skill from gardeners to first-aiders, brickies to those willing to help with a shovel, pen or laptop.

The H&G CT also welcomes offers of gifts of good quality used tools and machinery from those who no longer need or cannot use it.

Want to Join?

Please support our voluntary work by becoming a Member of the H&GCT. A membership form is available online or from our Membership Secretary.

H&G CT UK Membership Rates

	Annual	Life
Individual	£15.00	£300.00
Joint/Family	£20.00	£400.00
Electronic	£10.00	-
Corporate	£40.00	-

PLEASE NOTE: All subscriptions and donations are as being made under the Gift Aid scheme unless you state that you do not wish us to do this. Payment made by Standing Order to *Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust A/C 11600694 Sort code 16-21-20* greatly assists us and payment remains under your control.

All application forms and payments by cheque please to:
Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust
6 Castle Street, Hereford, HR1 2NL

Visit our website:

www.h-g-canal.org.uk

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We try to ensure details of talks/events are correct — please verify with the relevant organiser if travelling long distances.

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Our objective is to rebuild the 34 mile Canal linking the centre of Hereford to Gloucester and its connection with the 2,500 mile inland waterway network. We have major restoration sites in each county, together extending to some 4 miles. The intention is to provide a financially sustainable independent Canal which does not require regular financial support from public bodies for its future operation and maintenance.

The H&G Canal Trust

The Canal Society, formed in 1983, became the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust, a registered charity, in 1992. It has an ordinary and corporate membership approaching 1,400, here and abroad.

The original Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal

Work started in 1792 reaching Ledbury from Gloucester by 1798. In 1827 Steven Ballard was appointed to oversee the Canal's completion, which reached Hereford in 1845; this was one of the last major canal routes completed in Britain. The Canal stretched from the River Severn at Gloucester, via Newent, Dymock and Ledbury to Hereford, using 22 locks and 3 tunnels. It was closed in 1881 to allow construction of the Ledbury-Gloucester railway which in turn closed in 1964.

= Canal Walk leaflet available.

= Restoration sites suitable for public access.

It should not be assumed that Rights of Way exist.

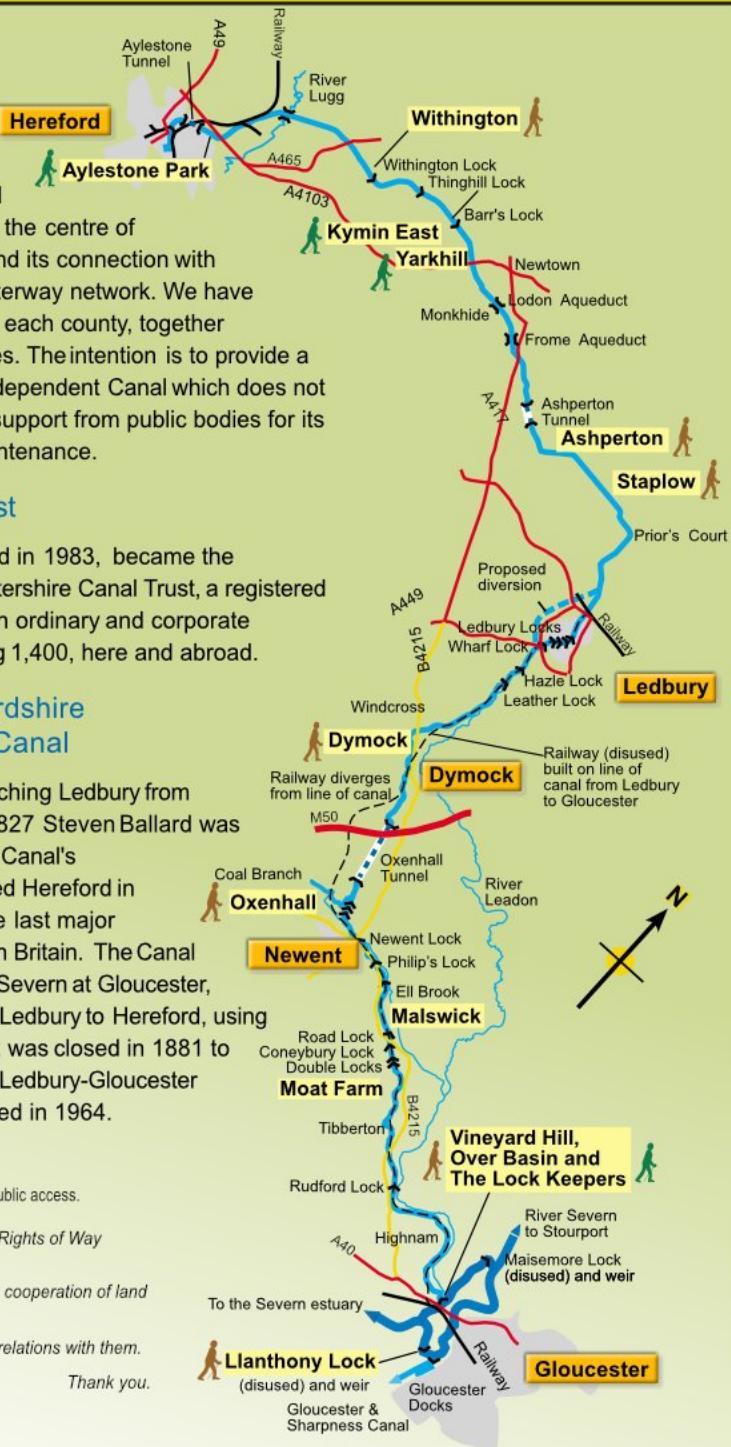
We work on the Canal with the cooperation of land owners and their neighbours.

Please help us maintain good relations with them.

Thank you.



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



Map based on original by Martin Ludgate, Canal Boat Magazine.