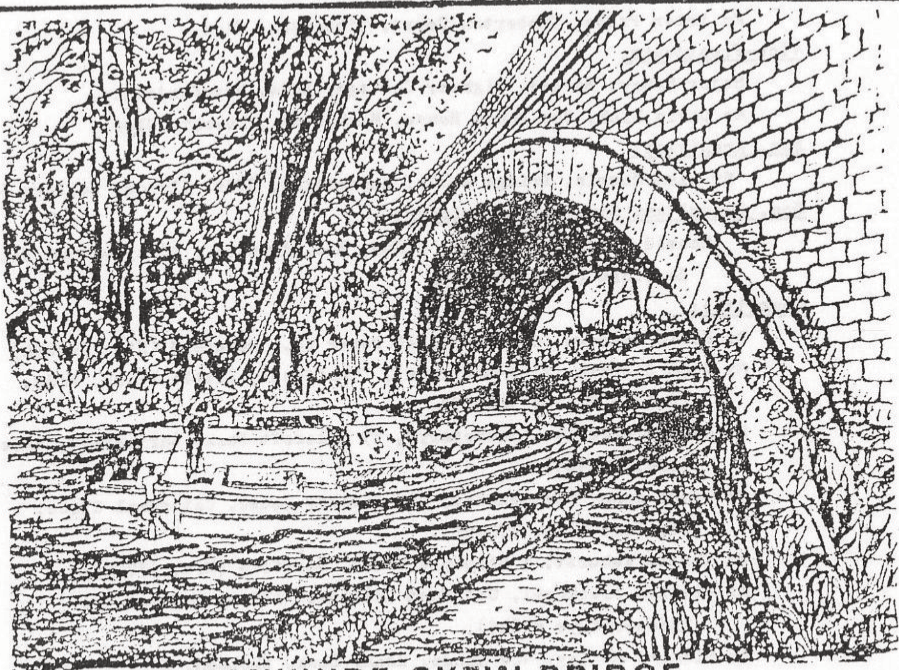


THE HEREFORD WHARFINGER



THU

THE JOURNAL OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE
CANAL SOCIETY



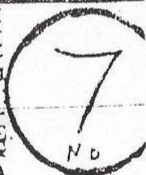
MONKHIDE SKEW BRIDGE

DRAWN BY SYLVIA HOGG FOR THE
HEREFORD & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY



(FREE TO
MEMBERS)

5 SPRING 1985



HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY

President:

Mr Peter Price, Tibberton Court, Tibberton, Glos.

Vice-Presidents:

Major Robert Barnes, Highway Cottage, Lyde, Herefordshire.

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

Hon. Archivist:

Mr Alan Morris, Bridge House, Kenchester, Hfds. (Bridge Sollars 649)

Hon. Consultant Structural Engineer:

Ronald Munden, BSc(Eng), C.Eng, M.I.Struct.E., 96 Aylestone Hill,
Hereford (Hfd. 272716).

Committee:

Dr Robin Andrews (Chairman), 20 Tower Rd., Hereford (Hfd. 268854)

Mr John Startin (Vice-Chairman), 'Conifers', Little Birch, Hfds.
(Golden Valley 540559).

Mr Nigel Jefferies (Secretary), 19 Wilcroft Park, Bartestree, Hereford
(Hfd. 850661).

Mr James Dunn, (Treasurer), Old Deanery House, Cathedral Close,
Hereford (Hfd. 272701).

Dr Philip Ashurst, 1 Stopford Close, Hereford (Hfd. 57245).

Mr William Frecknall, Old Pump Cottage, Wilton, Ross-on-Wye
(Ross-on-Wye 67849).

Mr Richard Marley, New House, Rocky Lane, Shobdon, Herefordshire
(Kington 470).

Mr Michael Potts, 3 Cranstone, Upper Breinton, Hfds. (Hfd. 56392).

Mrs Susan Scott, Bishon House, Bishon Common, Bishopstone, Hfds.
(Bridge Sollars 386).

Mrs Janet White, 19 Crampian Close, Hereford.

Mr Peter Woodfield, 60 Whittern Way, Hereford (Hfd. 275244).

Co-opted Committee Member:

Mr Kenneth Cook, 58 Cotterell St., Hereford (Hfd. 273455).



Letters to the Editor



MORE ARTICLES PLEASE . More items of interest urgently required for future editions of TFW my stocks are slowly running out;

Many thanks to the people who have sent items in, if they have not yet been printed they will appear shortly.

Our thanks goes out this quarter:
Mr John Parry of Priors Court for an excellent poem all about our canal.

Also to;

Mr Rawson of Tupsley for an enjoyable crossword

Mrs M Slinn of Gloucester for yet another fine article about our canal.

And to members of the committee for their items of interest.

MIKE POTTS

EDITOR

Apologies for the last minute cancellation of our January Canal walk on the Abergavenny and Brecon canal. As the weather was not very good it was decided to keep off the roads in the interest of safety. Our walk will now take place a little later, see the events page.

Please make a note in your diary we are holding a main event on Sunday the 2nd of June. We will be staging an open day at Monkhide. See events: Also don't miss our A C M on Wednesday the 3rd April.

Please make use of our sales sheet if you require books etc, no charge will be made where it is possible for us to deliver them personally and save postage.

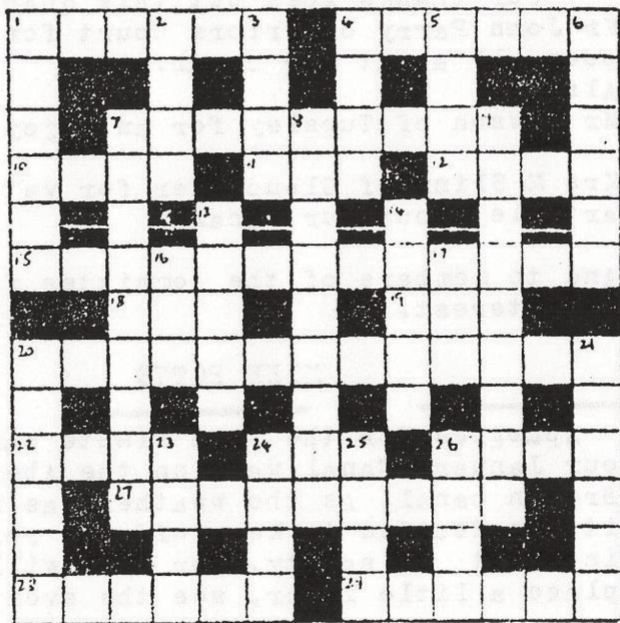
3
No

WATERWAYS



For this edition we have received from one of our members the following crossword. Many thanks, I was running out of ideas slowly. Please don't forget to send in any items for our quiz.

Our thanks goes out to; Mr Rawson of Tupsley for this excellent crossword.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Might he have drawn up a 3 for sterile operations (6)
4. We asked about but not a canal bridge like this. (6)
7. Breathe heavily round silent entertainment. (9)
10. Laid about face. (4)
11. One could be a spade. (3)
12. In opposition. (4)

15. Inferior road where you won't get far on foot. (2,7,4)
18. This Latin, sounds German, but..... (3)
19.Signifies Scots possession. (3)
20. ~~Thaw~~ her out to touch this publication. (3,10)
22. One could be a spade. (4)
24. Qualification Dr. Kahn did hold briefly. (3)
26. Out of a river with no end? (4)
27. A cat may die, so its said, & multiply ? (4,5)
28. Rock to north of Herefordshire village. (6)
29. If the French begin generation of animal feed. (6)

DOWN.

1. Makes no deal to supply canal with water, but may continue? (6)
2. Duck in pâté a la carte. (4)
3. Sounds like it goes round, so we all take turns. (4)
4. As before, he is on the point... (4)
5. ...where she turns me on to a degree! (4)
6. Has din disturbed foreign bacon producers? (6)
7. Level the french decline is all greek to me! (9)
8. Happening.... (9)
9. ... is to make peace maybe, but puts us at risk. (9)
13. A chap to find under bridges? (5)
14. Links a small measure to form a longer one. (5)
16. Wonderful N.American greeting! (3)
17. Point less Scripture still has one! (3)
20. Put out yet lit up a north Herefordshire village. (6)
21. River go slowly, maybe Waik. (6)
23. Bits of fluff caught in splinters... (4)
24.roughly cut... (4)
25.they go down... (4)
26.and up (but may be down). (4)

SOLUTION
NEXT EDITION.

6 ANSWERS TO WATERWAYS QUIZ NO. 2

- 1) Delph Locks are on the Dudley canal, there are 8 locks here but originally there were 9. They were rebuilt in 1858 because of mining subsidence.
- 2) Anglesey Basin is in the Birmingham Canal Navigations, north of Birmingham.
- 3) The Harecastle tunnel originally designed by Brindley closed after the opening of a parallel tunnel designed by Telford opened in 1872.
- 4) Wigan Pier can be found on the Leeds and Liverpool canal. Derelict warehouses here have recently been converted into an attractive Pub and restaurant.
- 5) Regents Park Zoo stands on the banks of the Grand Union canal.
- 6) Blow up Bridge is also near Regents park and it was so named because a boat load of gunpowder exploded demolishing the bridge and killing a number of people.
- 7) The Barton swing aqueduct carries the Leigh branch of the Bridgewater canal over the Manchester ship canal.
- 8) Tewitfield locks are on the Lancaster canal. They were cut off by the building of the M6.
- 9) Pontcysyllte aqueduct carries the Llangollen high above the river Dee.
- 10) The grand Western canal ran from Tiverton to Taunton in Somerset.

There will be a display of our work/progress on show in the Hereford Museum/Library from the 13th of May until the 3rd of June. Membership forms will be available inside. Please encourage your friends to see our work and join us.

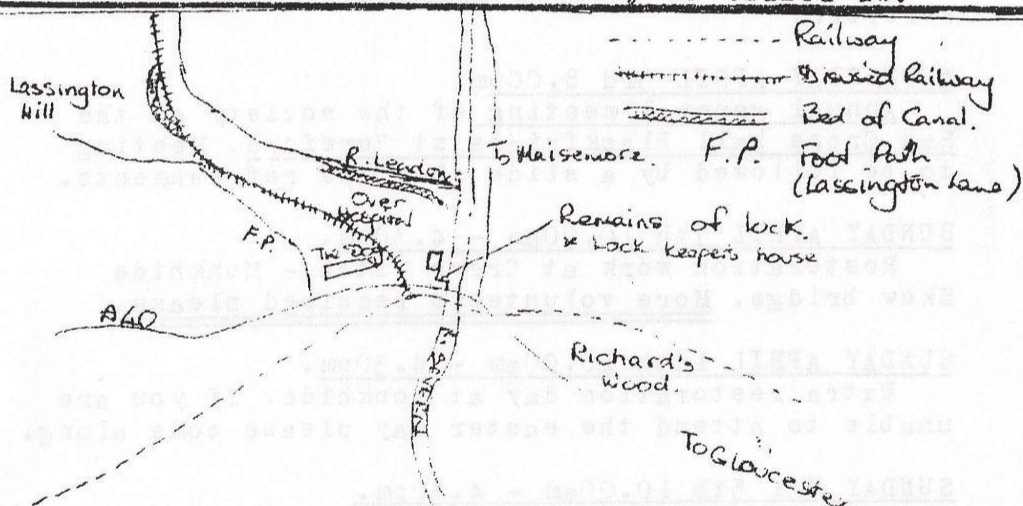
THE HEREFORD AND GLOUCESTER CANAL 1984. ALNEY ISLAND, OVER AND THE ROADWAY LOOP.

By Marilyn Slinn

On Alney Island, below Over Causeway there is 400 yard length of water which could be part of the Alney Island cut (closed early because of difficulty encountered crossing the strong currents of the Severn).

This is next to the recently planted Richards wood of Oak trees. These were planted to commemorate Richard III giving Gloucester a charter 500 years ago, in 1483.

This could be a real amenity if tidied up.



The canal begins in the grounds of Over Hospital. The Lock house can clearly be seen from the A40 and is used by Over Hospital.

The Lock masonry is well preserved under mud and brambles a few feet up from the Lock house.

Much of the canal has been filled with rubbish but behind the hospital there is a short stretch without water, to explore. To find this, walk along Lassington Lane which is a cart track next to "The Dog" at Over. There is a stretch of still water which is part of the old mill race.

cont...

EVENTS

SUNDAY MARCH 3rd 10.00am - 4.30pm.

Restoration work at Crews Pitch - Monkhide
Skew bridge. More volunteers required please.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 6th 8.00pm.

Chat and a drink at the Antelope Inn Barton Rd
Hereford. An informal get together with a drink.
Come and meet other members of the society.

MONDAY MARCH 25th 9.00am - 12.00

Coffee morning and bring and buy at Peter and
Fiona Woodfield's house, 60 Whittern Way Tupsley
Hereford.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3rd 8.00pm.

Annual general meeting of the society at the
Red Cross hall Blackfriars st Hereford. Meeting
to be followed by a slide show and refreshments.

SUNDAY APRIL 7th 10.00am - 4.30pm.

Restoration work at Crews Pitch - Monkhide
Skew bridge. More volunteers required please.

SUNDAY APRIL 14th 10.00am - 4.30pm.

Extra restoration day at Monkhide. If you are
unable to attend the easter day please come along.

SUNDAY MAY 5th 10.00am - 4.30pm.

Restoration work at Monkhide. Many volunteers
required in preparation for our open day here next
month.

SUNDAY 19th May 10.00am

Walk/drive to view the canal. Start at Ledbury
Railway station car park 10.00am. To see the
various canal sites between, Ledbury and Canon
Frome. Including the Ashperton Tunnel. To finish,
enjoying the canal feeder and a cream tea at
Canon Frome court. Advance notice required for tea
at £1.25 per head (7 days notice at least please),
Bookings to Mike Potts. (Address inside cover)

EVENTS

SUNDAY JUNE 2nd 10.30 am.

OPEN DAY AT MONKHFIDE. Viewing the restoration progress. Display of photographs and canal history, refreshments, jumble stall, barbecue and other various events during the afternoon. Entrance from the A4103 at Crews Pitch, approx $\frac{1}{2}$ mile South of the Newtown cross roads junction with the main A417.

LATER EVENTS (MORE DETAILS LATER)

SUNDAY JULY 14th WALK/DRIVE TO EXPLORE THE
ABERGAVENTY - BRECON CANAL.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22nd GUIDED TOUR (WALK/DRIVE)
TO EXPLORE THE RESTORATION WORK ON THE
STROUDWATER & THAMES AND SEVERN CANALS.

PLEASE NOTE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TRANSPORT TO ANY
OF THESE EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT ANY MEMBER
OF THE COMMITTEE. PLEASE GIVE ADEQUATE NOTICE.

GLOUCESTER BRANCH OF THE INLAND WATERWAYS
ASSOCIATION. EVENTS FOR 1985.

MARCH 22nd Annual General Meeting at Wheatstone
hall Brunswick Road Gloucester. Followed by
a talk on the Basinstoke canal & dinner.

April 16th Tewkesbury Marina Yacht Club 7.30 pm.
Talk by Hamish Dawson on the Caledonian canal
by steam, sail and diesel.

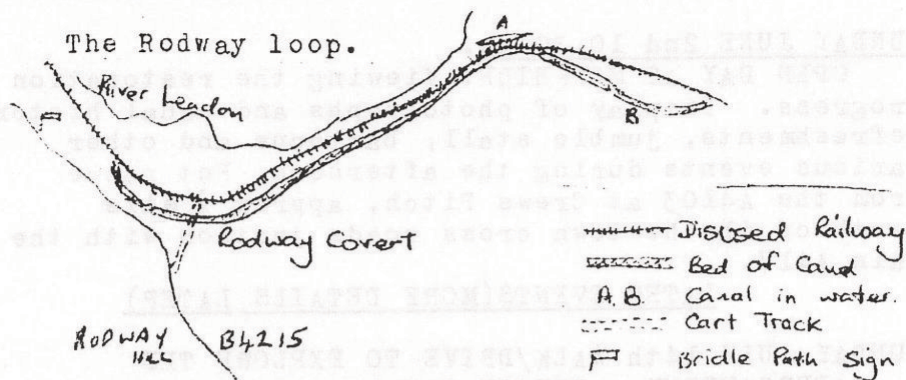
MAY 21st Tewkesbury Marina Yacht club 7.30 pm.
Talk by Graeme Burford of Kennet Marine
Services, entitled "A waterman's view of the
Thames"

JULY 6th & 7th "Gloucester Docks 85" Rally for
"Waterways Summer" event

OCTOBER 22nd Tewkesbury Marine Yacht club 7.30 pm.
Talk by Hugh Conway-Jones on Gloucester Docks
in its hey-day.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT
MALCOLM SLACK (PUBLICITY OFFICER) 12 Eardisland Rd
Tuffrey Gloucester. GL4 0BZ (0452) 411040

cont from page 7



The Rodway loop is easily accessible from the B4215 Gloucester to Newent road at grid ref. 78311. There is a bridle path sign.

A wooden gate can be found here. Standing by the gate the slight railway embankment is straight ahead. Looking Eastwards in the field there is a distinct yellow line where the grass on the infilled bed of the canal is a different colour from the rest. A cart track ran down to the canal and barges could be loaded/unloaded.

The canal made a much wider sweep than the railway and following the yellow line you come to Rodway curve where the canal can be clearly seen, rather reedy.

The bed of the canal can be followed by the side of the railway for approximately 1 mile. The river Leaden is on the North side of the railway embankment.

Marilyn Slinn
(Gloucester)

These articles can be collected to form an interesting picture of the canal at present.

If you should explore any of the canal, please check rights of access and ask permission where necessary. Please let me know what you find for inclusion.

Mike Potts
(Editor)

11

DEAD CARGO

A phantom barge still glides along
The woody waterway,
The old canal, now closed for years
A century so they say.

For many years have passed away
Since horses used to ply
The tow-path, made in yester years
But now forever dry.

THW

But when a ghostly moon appears
Then hides behind the clouds,
A phantom barge hoves into sight,
With bargemen dressed in shrouds.

The cargo lying in the hold
Now hidden from the bank,
Lies inert a rigid man
Who in the waters sank.

His partner who owned half the barge
That plied the water-way,
Was murdered in the dead of night,
'Twas dastardly foul play.

While passing through the darkened cut
The man, he lay asleep,
His partner crept along the deck,
And to the bunk did creep.

He tied his arms and bound his feet
And stuffed his mouth with hay,
The man became unconscious
As in his bunk he lay.

Then they came to Oxenhall,
A tunnel neath the ground;
He pitched the body overboard
And he was quickly drowned.

Another barge it plied this way,
They felt the vessel shudder,
Ten locking in the murky depths
Saw something on the rudder.

Cont...

DEAD CARGO cont...

Then fishing with an iron spike
They pulled the weeds aside,
'Twas then they saw below them
The bargee who had died.

And knowing him to be a friend
So violently they cursed
And called on the almighty
For him to do his worst.

To avenge this fearful crime,
And haunt him to his grave;
But Satan stepped into the barge,
And them a promise gave;

"If you give your soul to me,
I'll curse till end of time
The children of this wicked man
Who did this shocking crime".

Now the years have past away,
The canal no longer used,
But the offspring of the family
Will never be abused.

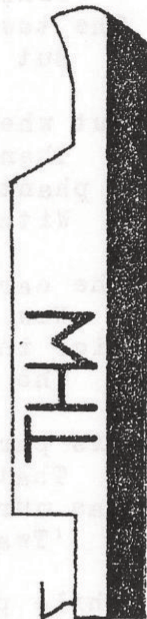
But still at night the barges ply
Draped in deepest black,
The horses still are pulling boats
Nearby the rail-road track.

And though the rails are missing now
The engines never whistle,
The bed is covered till this day
With buttercup and thistle.

But still at night the barges ply
With Satan at the helm,
Through the sleeping water-way
Now filled with rotten elm.

Until the navvies work again,
And man tries to avenge,
The ghosts of bargees evermore
Will always seek revenge. .

(JOHN PARRY)



RESTORATION

We are now gradually acquiring a small amount of plant thanks to the generosity of our members and donations kindly given by others.

Our plant now consists of;
 An extremely useful dumper truck,
 A chain saw, saving much effort,
 A fair quantity of Stafford Blue bricks
 (for rebuilding beneath the tow-path),
 Several Wheel barrows.

We wish to convey our thanks again to the Water Authority for a substantial contribution towards the tow-path restoration and channel clearance beneath the Skew Bridge.

NEWS

During the last few working parties we have been removing much of the silt and rubbish from beneath the Skew bridge. We have installed stop planks and a length of bypass tubing. This takes much of the water away, but due to the amount flowing at this time a fair amount still flows over the planks. Never the less a substantial amount of silt has already been moved and the next few working parties should see the removal of most of this silt.

A new ramp has been constructed of heavy timber, with grips to enable the wheelbarrows to move easier and safer from the canal bed.

Our Christmas working party-party was enjoyed by a fair number. Nineteen in all, including the children.

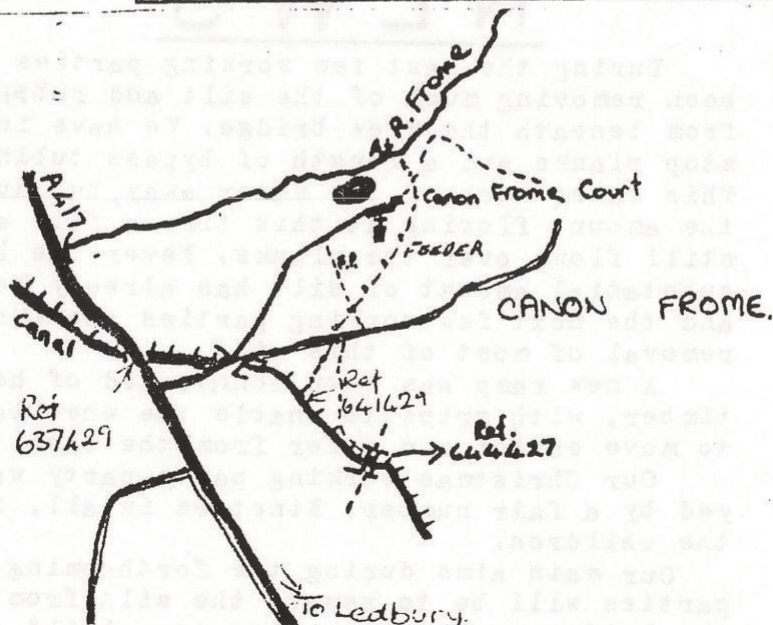
Our main aims during the forthcoming working parties will be to remove the silt from beneath the bridge enabling us then to rebuild the tow-path supporting wall and eventually replace the coping stones and level the tow-path.

CANON FROME

To find the canal at Canon Frome follow the A417 from Ledbury past Ashperton to Blacklands (grid ref; 637429) and turn right towards the village of Canon Frome. In just over 300 metres you cross the bridge over the canal. There is a plaque on the bridge in the blue brickwork capping saying "B.W. Blades of West Bromwich 1883"

The canal here is very reedy but the course can clearly be seen either side of the bridge. Looking eastwards a hump can be seen in the road surface. This passed over a culvert which fed water into the canal at grid ref 641429, from the river Frome (in the grounds of Canon Frome court).

A footpath does cross the field at the point where the hump in the road appears but care must be taken not to interfere with the crops. There is a bridge for farm vehicles (grid ref 644427) from where the canal can be seen clearly. It is very wide here suggesting a landslide further on toward Ashperton and is clearly a haven for a variety of wildlife, especially water birds, insects and water plants.



MARILYN SLINN
(GLOUCESTER)

WELCOME

15

We wish to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members to our society;

Mr & Mrs E J BROWN "WELDON" 181 ROSS Rd HEREFORD
Mr & Mrs H S FIELD-RICHARDS 8 HOP POLE GREEN
LEIGH SINTON MALVERN WORCESTERSHIRE.
Mr JOHN PARRY PRIORS COURT STAPLOW LEDBURY HEDS
Mr G J JONES NORLEY AVENUE STRET福德 MANCHESTER
Mr & Mrs MILLS & Miss WOODHOUSE MOUNT PLEASANT
STONEY LANE KILCOT Nr NEWENT GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Mr M B Mc CANN BLAENGWASTOD FARM FERRYSIDE DYFED

WATERWAYS SUMMER:

This year the Inland Waterways are holding Waterways summer 85. There will be many events taking place all over the country to encourage the use and restoration of the inland waterways of Britain. Please show your interest by attending wherever possible.

Annual Subscription Rates.

We're sorry, but it had to happen sooner or later. Membership rates, which we've managed to hold at their 1983 level until now, are having to rise this year.

The main reason is rising costs. Production and distribution of the Wharfinger, although done as economically as possible, is only just covered by the annual subscription, and we would soon have found ourselves in the situation where funds raised for other purposes were having to be diverted to subsidise it.

The committee have thought long and hard, and proposed increasing the annual membership rates to the levels shown on the enclosed form. It is done reluctantly, but with the best interests of the society as a whole at heart. We hope it will meet with your approval.

.....

SALES

SALES SECTION

BOOKS.

" The Hereford And Gloucester Canal"
by David E Bick £3.95

"Walking Canals "

by Ronald Russel £5.95

"Stroudwater and Thames and Severn Canals Towpath
Guide by Michael Handford and David Viner
£5.95

" The Diary Of A Rowing Tour From Oxford To
London in 1875 " by Howard Williams. £4.50

"The Thames And Severn Canal" by Humphrey Household
£9.95

Key ring, address pad. Wild bird motif. 50p each.

" A New Map Of The Kington - Leominster. - 'Stourport
Canal " Geo R Kendrick £1.95

Illustrated society notelets with envelopes.

Pack of ten £1.00

Society pens - few left to clear 10 pence each

SLIDES

Set of 4 colour slides of the H. and G. canal
Set One

Hereford canal office (1984) , Staplow wharf
house , sluice at Canon Frome(dated 1843)
Oxenhall lock cottage with mock plaque (1960)

Set Two.

Roman road bridge, Canal milestone,
Monkhide skew bridge ,Monkhide in the 1960s
(fine water filled section)

Please add postage to your order;

books 60pence each

other items 60 pence total.

Maximum postage £2.00

Please make cheques or P.O. to Herefordshire
and Gloucestershire Canal Society.

Orders to .- Mike Petts

3, Cranstone , Upper Breinton Hfd.

or

N. Jefferies

19, Wilcroft Park, Bartestree Hfd.

(Refund will be made where postage is less.)