

THE HEREFORD WHARFINGER-



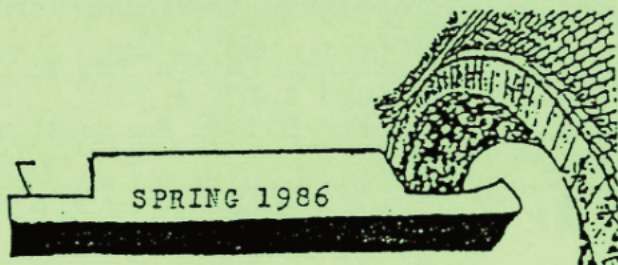
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THE JOURNAL OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE
CANAL SOCIETY



25p

(FREE TO
MEMBERS)



SPRING 1986

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NO



HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE
CANAL SOCIETY.

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Mr Ronald Munden, BSc(eng), C.Eng, M I. Struct.E.
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Phillip Ashurst, 1 Stopford Close Hfd (57245)

Richard Morley, New House, Rocky Lane, Shobdon
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Bishopstone Hfds (Bridge Sollars 386)

John Startin, 'Conifers' Little Birch Hfds
(Golden Valley 540559)

Peter Woodfield, 60, Whittern Way, Tupsley
Hereford (275244)

The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal

A brief history.

- 1777 - Robert Whitworth, (a pupil of James Brindley) suggested a canal from Stourport-on-Severn to Hereford via Leominster, with a return link to the Severn near Gloucester, making a semi-circular route of at least seventy miles.
- 1789 - Richard Hall submitted plans for a route from Hereford via Ledbury to the Severn near Gloucester. Shortly afterwards the course east of Ledbury was revised down the Leadon Valley to Gloucester, with a branch to Newent.
- 1790 - At a meeting held on the 18th March Hall's plan met with general approval and a share subscription of £100 shares was opened. The presence of a coalfield of sorts at Newent may have been used as a ruse to encourage investment. Josiah Clowes was appointed as engineer and he estimated the cost of a canal following Hall's route, for boats 70'x3'x3'6" draught to carry 35 tons as £69,997.13.6.
- 1791 - In April the enabling Act of Parliament was passed without amendment.
- 1792 - The capital was fully subscribed by the summer and Hugh Henshall, (James Brindley's brother-in-law), was asked to re-survey the route. Henshall advised taking the canal by way of Newent, necessitating the construction of a tunnel at Oxenhall.
- 1793 - The enabling Act for the revised route was approved and by the autumn the first $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of canal from the Severn at Over, near Gloucester was complete.
- 1795 - The canal was opened to Newent, but construction was falling behind schedule.
- 1796 - The construction of the Oxenhall tunnel was meeting considerable difficulty and incurring ruinous expenditure. At a meeting in November the shareholders were informed of the company's predicament. For an expenditure of £100,000 more than Clowes' original estimate for the whole line, the half-way town of Ledbury had not been reached.
- 1798 - As a result of raising a further £4,000 the canal was opened to one mile short of Ledbury on the Ross-on-Wye road.
- 1827 - Stephen Ballard, (aged 23) was appointed clerk.

- 14
- 1829 - Ballard submits a detailed report on the completion of the canal which he estimates would cost £53,000.
- 1831 CANAL EXT TO LITTLE WOLFE RD LEBURY
- 1838 - On the 29th September, Ballard and the civil engineer James Walker, walk an alternative route from Prior's Court to Hereford which Ballard had proposed. However, Walker advises adherence to the original line.
- 1839 - In May the Act enabling the company to raise £50,000 by mortgage and £45,000 by a further share issue, in order to complete the canal to Hereford passed. On the 17th November re-building commenced.
- 1841 - In February the first barge loaded with coal arrived at Bye Street wharf Ledbury.
- 1842 - In August, the feeder from the river Frome, (within the grounds of Canon Frome Court), to the summit level of the canal was completed.
- 1843 - The canal was opened to Canon Frome wharf in January.
- 1844 - In February the canal was opened to Withington wharf.
- 1845 - On the 22nd May the Hereford basin was filled with water and the canal completed. The cost of completion was £141,436 - virtually three times Ballard's estimate. Following completion, trade barely improved at all and the company sought to sell the canal to one of the railway companies for conversion into a railway. However, the early schemes to build a railway to the city came to nothing. Consequently, the company concentrated on bolstering trade as best it could.
- 1847 - Income was sufficient to pay mortgage and interest charges.
- 1849 - After March, trade had increased to such an extent that it was necessary to introduce a timetable for the passage of boats in each direction through Oxenhall tunnel, which had been built to a bore of only 9' and proved to be a troublesome bottleneck.
- 1851 - The delivery in September of 130 tons of rails for the Hereford - Shrewsbury railway brought a transient increase in income.
- 1853 - The Hereford - Shrewsbury railway was opened in December.
- 1854 - The Newport, Abergavenny & Hereford railway opened.

— LOCAL QUIZ —

5

TO BE FOUND IN HEREFORDSHIRE.

- 1) Satisfied cannibal after visit to Cathedral?
- 2) Monastic inmate's reaction to similar visit?
- 3) Whence he may be seen?
- 4) Improbable use of crustacean to form part of candle?
- 5) "Food, battle, eat".
- 6) Unravel Wye lobe.
- 7) Reverse rep in ash ton.
- 8) This mixed up thing may be found in a wit on a hill.
- 9) Part of the face.
Some rivers
- 10) Part of the face. (slang)
- 11) Early missile.
- 12) Quarry.
- 13) Starts from Exeter.
- 14) Can be found in the common now that spring is coming.

Some larger places.

- 15) Heavy fruit.
- 16) Heavy Monarch.
- 17) Venue for worshipful lions?
- 18) Mix my bar rod.
- 19) In there for dinner.
- 20) Finally this ends all this dross.

Richard Morley

- 1) Eaton Bishop 2) Monkhide 3) Hole in the wall
- 4) Shelwick 5) Bred/war/dine 6) Weobley (anagram)
- 7) Ashperton 8) Withington 9) Eye 10) Luce
- 11) Arrow 12) Wye 13) Frome (from Exeter)
- 14) Monnow (the common now) 15) Led bury
- 16) King ton 17) Loemaster 18) Bromyard
- 19) Hereford (there for dinner) 20) Ross

ANSWERS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

COACH TOUR AND CRUISE ON THE KENNETT AND AVON CANAL.

SUNDAY THE 8th of JUNE (Date to be confirmed)

Our coach will pick us up early on Sunday morning and take us to Bath. Here we will pick up our guide for the day.

We will see various sites along the canal and be told about the history and progress being made in its restoration.

We hope to visit one of the two pumping houses, visit Dundas aqueduct, Caen Hill flight and various other canal sites. After a pub lunch or picnic we will cruise on one of the Trust's narrowboats picking up our coach to take us home.

Advance booking is required. Tickets will be available from the 1st of April until the 1st of May only. Available at CAMERA CRAFT 53 St OWEN STREET HEREFORD or by post from M R POTTS 3 CRANSTONE UPPER BREINTON HEREFORD. Please include payment with booking.

All welcome. please bring your friends and help to make it a well supported and memorable day.

Although I do not yet have a price for the tickets it is likely to be about £5 or so.

Further details will appear in the Admag, and on posters in the libraries around the county or you may telephone me on Hereford 279123 day time or 56392 evenings.

Mike Potts

WORK PARTIES FOR SPRING & SUMMER

10.00 a.m. start every first Sunday in the month at Crews Pitch. Approx $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the Newtown Cross roads. A417 junction on the Hereford to Worcester road.

March 2nd - April 6th - May 4th - June 1st
July 6th - August 3rd & 10th - September 7th

MORE HELP PLEASE

Help

Enclosed with your Wharfinger is a letter from the Friends of Hereford Record Office. We hope you will help give them some support.

If you have not yet paid a visit to the record office then hurry along soon. We have used the office on a number of occasions and found them extremely helpful.

They have local record of alltypes. In fact on my last visit I even found a plan that had been submitted for a proposed canal from the river Wye at Whitney to Brecon to join up to the brecon and Monmouthshire canal.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19th.

On Wednesday, March 19th, we are holding another MISCELLANEOUS SALE at THE SHIREHALL, starting at 10. 00. A.M. Please support your Society by either coming along on the day, or by ringing PETER WOODFIELD on Hrfd. 275244 if you have any saleable items such as Nearly New, Cakes, Produce, Bottles, Games, etc which I can collect.

I shall also be pleased to see anyone who can spare some time to actually help out on the stall even if it is only for half-an-hour.

PINT AND A CHEAT

Come along and meet other members of the society for a social evening. Bring along your friends, all welcome. Come and talk canals, give us your ideas and advice, but mainly just come and enjoy yourselves.

At the Antelope Inn Barton Road Hereford
8.00 p.m. on Wednesday the 2nd April. (Lounge bar)





**NATIONAL WATERWAYS RALLY
GLOUCESTER '87**

**NEWSLETTER No 1
January 1986**

INTRODUCTION: You may have heard about the proposals for the 1987 National Rally in Gloucester for the August Bank Holiday (29th - 31st). Although not fully approved there is now a local committee committed to the Rally, including most of those who were involved in the successful event in July 1985. We are now in the preparation phase and are investigating various options for the site.

SITE: Previous Gloucester rallies have been based around the main dock basins, but because of the re-developments expected there over the next few years, we are looking at two sites nearby. Our preference is to use Llanthony Wharf beside the canal and part of the adjoining grounds of Llanthony Priory. In case this turns out not to be possible, we are also looking at the former power station site on Castel Meads which is just across the River Severn from the docks.

AIMS: To promote the recreational and commercial use of inland waterways, particularly the River Severn and the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal. To campaign for adequate Government funding for the British Waterways Board to allow them to improve routine maintenance and to repair major structures. To raise money for waterways restoration projects, and to publicise the restoration work being carried out by the Stroudwater, Thames and Severn Canal Trust. To encourage the provision of waterside amenities in the Gloucester area, with particular emphasis on the establishment of a Waterways Museum at the docks.

MEETINGS: We are at present holding a series of informal meetings to discuss the many aspects of running the event. So far these meetings have been over a drink at the Gloucester Yacht Club at the Docks. The next meeting is:

The 11 Feb 7:45pm - Finance, supplies, volunteers, publicity and progress reports on other topics.
Do come and have a chat about the event and get involved with the early planning.

HELP: We are seeking help and ideas from as many people as possible, particularly the following:

Electrician	Plumber	Sign writer	Working party organiser
Builder	Writer	Journalist	Graphic artist
Photographer	DIY Handyman	Typist	Driver with van
Advertising agent		Willing workers.	

We shall be contacting Gloucestershire Branch members individually in due course, so please be ready to offer what help you can.

Hugh Conway-Jones 1 Grovelands, GLOUCESTER GL4 7JF
Glos GL4 7JF
Marilyn Slinn 12 Eardisland Rd, Tuffley, GLOUCESTER GL4 0BZ
Glos GL1 0BZ
Graham Ittles 117 Leckhampton Rd, CHELTENHAM, Glos GL53 0DD
Chelt GL53 0DD

- 1855 - The rails of Brunel's broad gauge reach Hereford in June, from Gloucester, via Ross-on-Wye.
 - 1858 - Traffic on the canal during the year reaches 47,560 tons, but only as a result of rate-cutting incentives.
 - 1860 - Financially the most successful year for the company, with income amounting to 27,081 but largely due to carrying materials for the Worcester & Hereford railway.
 - 1861 - The Worcester & Hereford railway completed.
 - 1862 - On the 17th January the canal company concluded an agreement with the Great Western and West Midland railways, for the future conversion of the canal to a railway between Ledbury and Gloucester, subject to parliamentary approval.
 - 1870 - The Great Western Railway (Hereford & Gloucester Canal Vesting) Act passed, enabling conversion of the canal to a railway. The railway company to pay the canal company 35,000 per annum rent in perpetuity.
 - 1880 - The last complete year of business on the canal.
 - 1881 - On the 30th June the canal was closed to permit the construction of the Ledbury - Gloucester railway. The canal company continues distributing the annual rent of 35,000 received from the Great Western Railway.
 - 1948 - Nationalization of the railways and closure of the canal company's books.
- The above is very largely taken from David Bick's book entitled "The Hereford & Gloucester Canal" and published by The Pound House, Newent, Gloucester.

N.C. Jefferies - December 1983.

FUND RAISING.

Enclosed with this issue of the Wharfinger, are some books of Draw Tickets which we hope you will try and sell on behalf of the Society.

If however you are unable to do this, then you may consider returning them to the promoter's address.

IWA The Inland Waterways Association

GLOUCESTER BRANCH

Friday 14th March 7.30 p.m.

A G M followed by John Gagg on "Odd Waterway corners."

Wheatstone Hall Gloucester.

Thursday 17th April 7.30 p.m.

"The Hereford and Gloucester Canal"

William Frecknall.

Tewkesbury Marina Yacht Club.

Friday 9th May 7.30. p.m.

Sam Llewellyn, author of "The worst journey in the midlands".

Wheatstone Hall Gloucester.

Friday 30th May

I W A 40th Anniversary - on the Onedin Line Trail. (Details later).

Sunday 13th July

Branch Coach trip. Black Country Museum and Dudley tunnel. (Details later).

Saturday & Sunday 19-20th July

Welsh Waterways Festival.

For details of these events contact;

Marilyn Slinn Gloucester 411040

WELSH WATERWAYS FESTIVAL RALLY 1986

Pontymoile

Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal

19-20 July 1986

RESTORATION NEWS



Although our Christmas work party went quite well and we all had a very good time the weather has not been very kind to us.

The Smalley still remains at Crews Pitch so we have been making good use of it. A few of us have been out several Sundays, despite the weather. We have excavated a slipway at the end by the Cahalside building. It leads directly into the winding hole.

We hope then to be able to launch a small boat, after further dredging.

We are trying to organise a weeks work-in for later in the summer. The date provisionally is 3rd - 10th August inclusive. If you are available and would like to give a hand please let us know.

We would like to see more new faces at the work parties. Please come along and/or encourage more to join us.

Mike Potts

Don't forget our annual general meeting next month. We require more volunteer for our committee.

We wish to extend our very grateful thanks to William Frecknall for his help as chairman. Will is standing down due to a change of workplace.

His job now being at Bewdley makes it impossible for him to attend our meetings. We wish him good luck.

Kindly
Printed by Bernard Warburton
at the Rose on Eye resource centre

Mike Potts

SALES & GIFTS

BOOKS

- "THE HEREFORD AND GLOUCESTER CANAL"
by David E Bick £3.95
- "Walking Canals"
by Ronald Russell £5.95
- "Stoudwater and Thames and Severn Canals
Towpath guide" By Michael Handford & 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

- Wild Bird motif, with address pad 50p

MAPS

- "A new map of the Kington-Leominster-
Stourport canal" Geo R Kendrick. £1.95

POSTCARDS (Historic)

- The Docks Lydney. 10p
- The Docks Gloucester. 10p
- The Wave in Gloucester Docks. 10p

ILLUSTRATED NOTELETS

- Monkhide Skew bridge. Pack of
ten complete with envelopes. £1.00

- Greetings Card (no message) Canal
Fasin picture. With envelope.

35p

Please add postage to your order.

Books 50p each, other items 50p total.
Maximum postage £2.00. Refund if less.

Orders to; Mike Potts or N Jefferies.

SUPPORT THE SOCIETY.