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(free to members)



Journal of the Herefordshire and
Gloucestershire Canal Society

**OPEN
DAY
SPECIAL
EDITION**

HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY

President

Peter Price Esq.

Vice-President

Major Robert Barnes

Committee

Robin Andrews, 20 Tower Road, Hereford (Hereford 268854)
Tony Austin-Bailey, 7 Gaisford Close, Hereford
(Hereford 269704)

James Dunn, Pool Cottage, 5 St. Ethelbert St., Hereford
(Hereford 274106)

Nigel Jefferies, 19 Wilcroft Park, Bartestree, Hereford
Richard Morley, New House, Rocky Lane, Shobdon, Hfds.
(Kingsland 470)

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

Ian Reid, 22 Robinsons Meadow, Ledbury, Herefordshire

John Startin, Conifers, Little Birch, Herefordshire
(Golden Valley 540559)
Peter Woodfield, 60 Whittern Way, Hereford (Hfd. 275244)

CHAIRMAN: Tony Austin-Bailey
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Michael Potts
SECRETARY: Richard Morley
TREASURER: James Dunn

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EDITOR: Mike Potts, 3 Cranstone, Upper Breinton,
Hereford. Tel: Hereford 56392.

WELCOME

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Welcome to the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society. We hope your stay will be a long one.

If you have just joined or are visiting us on our open day we do hope you will consider joining our merry band. You will be made most welcome.

We need the support of our members to enable us to proceed. Without members there is no Society and the canal would be lost.

Help us to preserve and restore the canal. Canals all over the country are being restored and not only do they make cruising a very enjoyable pastime but rambling, fishing, bird watching and just relaxing enjoying the countryside.

Our society is now gaining recognition by the local councils and waterways groups.

We have had moral and financial help from the Welsh Water authority, the Inland Waterways Association, and plant loan from the Waterways Recovery Group. South Hereford District Council, Malvern Hills and Hereford city councils have stated that they will try and preserve the line of the canal.

The Roman road bridge over the canal in Hereford is to be demolished in a road widening scheme, although we are unable to save the bridge we have by negotiation been able to get a navigable culvert put beneath the new road.

Local contractors and business companies have consulted us over various canal sections.

We are at last starting to make some progress, at least now quite a number of local people know that there was once a canal that ran from Hereford to Gloucester and that there is a group trying to preserve this canal.

We cannot grow at the rate we need to without more support, for this we need more members and more helpers. Not just with restoration but in negotiating with land owners, business people councils etc, advertising and promoting the canal, arranging events, conservation, producing leaflets and publications, and generally making people aware.

So please come and join us, persuade your friends to join us.

For just a few pounds a year we can make progress and you can enjoy our efforts, we arrange various walks, outings, slide shows and social events. You will receive a quarterly copy of "The Wharfinger".

We are grateful for any of your comments or articles for production. Please send them in.

Mike Potts

EVENTS.

WORKING PARTY OPENS RITCH.

SUNDAY 7th June 10.00am - 4.30pm.

OPEN DAY MONKHIDE

SUNDAY 28th JUNE 11.00am - 5.00pm.

WORKING PARTY MONKHIDE

SUNDAY 5th JULY 10.00am - 4.30pm.

SUNDAY 12th JULY

COACH TOUR & CANAL CRUISE.

WORKING PARTY MONKHIDE

SUNDAY 2nd AUGUST 10.00am. - 4.30pm.

Other events, more information in the next edition;

Hereford & Gloucester canal guided tour in September.

Social evening and grand draw Friday 11th September Hereford Conservative club.

SEE OUR STAND AT THE NATIONAL WATERWAYS RALLY HAWKESBURY JUNCTION near Coventry on the AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND. (If you would like to help man it please contact one of the committee.)

It was a time of glory. Industry aspired and science reigned supreme. The empire spread through out the world, plundering in the name of civilisation and accumulating wealth which financed factories and machines in rural England.

Great chimneys pointed skyward and giant wheels turned, changing the landscape. Goods manufactured in England were renowned for their quality and ingenuity. To disperse those goods a reliable transport system was needed to relay them across the country.

So an intricate network of waterways was devised. Nature was an obstacle to be overcome and the Victorian engineer was a craftsman supreme. But the pace of life increased and the demand for speed made canals superfluous.

Before long the system fell into decline as the train and now the juggernaut superceded it.

As the patern of life changes there comes an element of nostalgia - a yearning to return to an age when life appears to be more than tranquil. Conservation is of indulging in the past and a practical attempt to preserve the quality of life. A true conservationist, whatever the interest that drives them, is a person aware of the heritage around us. That awareness is important if there is to be any real attempt to improve the environment.

You are conservationist but whatever you do affects something else, That's what ecology means. Ecology is a biological term which refers to the dependance of one species to another. If we destroy something, then that loss has some sort of effect on us.

Your disused canal has become a different sort of habitat, harbouring a variety of wildlife some of which could be rare. Before any work is initiated proper surveys with input from other interest groups should be made and a management plan drawn up. Sometimes difficult decisions will have to be made but at least they can be made with the knowledge and with the least conflict.

cont..

Water is an integral element of canals and very often something we take for granted. Again it was the Victorians who worked so hard to enable us to adopt that attitude. But like the canal system our water system is in danger of collapse. Much of the water we drink is drawn from rivers. In some cases the same water is treated several times before it reaches us through our taps. Unfortunately present policies have led to a deterioration in standards and as a result the quality of our water is declining. This comes out at a time when our rivers and canals are under their greatest threat. Water pollution can be categorised as follows;

- 1) Industrial - including heavy metals, toxic chemicals, oil and radiation.
- 2) Agricultural - including silage, slurry, pesticides and nitrates.
- 3) Medical - including drugs and radioactive isotopes from hospitals.
- 4) Domestic - including detergents, chemicals and drugs.
- 5) Water Authorities - including sewage and sewerage.

Although most effluent discharges come within the required legal levels there is real concern that each incident combines with those before causing a "souping up effect".

It is reckoned that only 0.04% of polluters are taken to court. With a maximum fine of £2000 plus costs it is rarely a deterrent to unscrupulous industrials looking to save on the high costs of toxic waste disposal.

In some areas the river environment and ecology has suffered severe damage effects from motorised boats. An extreme example is the Norfolk Broads, an area which is adopting protective regulations to preserve the unique aspect of the Broads.

More problems have been introduced by the use of chemicals such as Triutyltin (TBT) used to paint the hulls of the inland craft - a totally unnecessary hazard under the circumstances.

Richmond and Twickenham Friends of the Earth

are setting up a campaign to protect the water 7
environment. It is an issue that affects every-
one. With that in mind we hope to set up a net-
work of groups at grass roots level to monitor
conditions and create pressure for stricter
controls. The campaign will be centrally co-ord-
inated to build up a picture of the country. We
are already in national negotiations with anglers
and unions of the industry and would like to
bring in interested organisations to develop
policy and finance a full time campaign.

All further enquiries should be directed to;
Richmond and Twickenham Friends of the Earth
Box 31 Twickenham TW121RS

Terry Mills (F.O.F.)



THOMAS KEENE

OPEN DAY AT MONKHIDE

On Sunday the 28th of June 1987 our Canal site at Monkhide will be open to the public. 11.00 AM - 5.00 PM.

You will be able to see the first restored navigable section of the canal. See the first ever steam boat on the canal. And possibly see the first main navigation of the canal for almost one hundred years!

There will be many other attractions for people of all ages.

Canal film show, Society slide show, rally of small boats and canoes, (hopefully) boat trips, Red Cross Life saving demonstration, refreshments, Magician and other attractions.

Come and see the progress we have made in the last few years. See where our efforts and your money has been used.

From a dry overgrown depression in the ground to a navigation.

See the magnificent Skew Bridge and hopefully cruise under it.

Most important of all see YOU there.

RESTORATION NEWS

MORE HELP
WANTED
PLEASE



Despite the attendance at working parties being almost non existant! A lot has been done in the last few months.

Peter Ball has dredged the winding hole at Crews Pitch twice. The weather having beaten us again at the first attempt. He has dredged right up to the main road culvert and cleared the fore court heref Mjr Barnes has levelled the ground here and tidjed up ready for our open day. We still neen much help to prepare for the 29th!

Further along the canal more work has taken place. Peter Ball has dug a drainage channel along the entire length of canal from the skew bridge right up to the end bridge in Monkhide.

His gallant efforts have made a giant stride the the restoration programme.

Unfortunately his digger got very deeply stuck in the mud at the end of the section. It took a lot of work from Peter and his Colleagues to retreive it.

Not the first time Peter has got into trouble helping us, but nothing daunts him and we do very much appretiate his help.

Although this section looks a bit of a muddy mess at the moment it is already starting to dry out. Hopefully our open day will raise enough finance to clear this next section.

A vast change has taken place here. It is now pössible to stand on the towpath west of the Skew bridge and see past the accomodation brige in Monkhide village.

We thank Mr Clay, Mr Edge, Mrs Barnes and of course Peter Ball for their help and co-operation in this work.

Progress has speeded up despite very poor attendances during the last twelve months.

We need your help and support. Please visit us on our open day, and bring your friends too.

Mike Potts

WEST COTSWOLDS; superbly converted stone coach house. Sleeps 4/5, country dairy decor, central heating, microwave, dishwasher, washer-drier, fridge-freezer. Private lane to canal. Available long lets, weeks, midweek breaks or weekends.

Tel Hinckley (0455) 611508/616687/631373

(Please mention "The Wharfinger")

I W A DONATION

At our recent annual general meeting Mr David Ettles presented us with a most generous donation of a cheque for £50 from the Gloucester branch of the Inland Waterways Association. This will help our now flagging restoration fund.

OUR THANKS TO;

The Cathedral School.

For their help and support and for the use of thier premises for many of our meetings and events. Without thier help we would have great difficulty in finding a venue.

Mr & Mrs A WATKINS OF METALWORK SUPPLIES.

Mr & Mrs A Watkins of Metalwork Supplies.

For the kind donation of a towing bracket, enabling us to move the Smalley to various sites on the Canal.

Peter Ball.

For the tremendous amount of work he has done recently to retsore the canal and without who's help our open day would not take place.

The people of Monkhide.

For thier co-operation patience , understanding and assistance during the past few years.

A full list of helpers for our open day will appear in the next edition of "The Wharfinger"

Mike Potts

The Canal Society desperately needs a home, a base to work from, a room to store various documents, records and photographs.

At the moment all the Society's paper work is spread around the various homes of the committee's members. So many of us are un-aware of the location of many of the items often needed.

As as usual we are very poor it would have to be either rent free or at a very nominal rent (we would obviously pay for any electricity used).

A spare room, a garage, an outhouse even a garden shed would probaly be alright. Just somewhere that we can use to do some work in, to store our documents etc and a few of us to meet to discuss items occaissionally.

Do you have any spare space, in or close to Hereford would be ideal. If you are able to help or know someone that can help us please contact one of the committee.

Mike Potts

ANY UN-NEEDED ARTICLES?

I need your articles for the production of our regular magazine.

Your feelings on our work, events and any comments you have about the society. Any canal stories. Had a canal holiday you can recomend? Tell us about it. Crosswards, puzzles drawings. I am interested in all sorts so long as they are canal or waterway based .

Unfortunately i have had only one other item for this edition that i have not written myself, and other than obvious news I am rapidly running out of ideas.

EDITOR.

Please excuse my spellin and tYpIn 2.
I do my best with your Wharfinger so I
aplogise for any errors that do occur.
(Editor) Mike Potts

12 LOCKED IN or LOCKED OUT?

The section of canal we have been working on at Crews pitch is now navigable. Although not dredged to full navigation width it is sufficient for the passage of a canal boat.

We are about to take on restoration of the next section, from the Skew bridge up to the end of Monkhide. A drainage channel has already been dug and the spoil is rapidly drying out. Some of this spoil will form the towpath but vast quantities will have to be removed which will mean a lot of work and a fair amount of money. Hopefully a good response on our open day will raise us some funds towards this.

We will then have about one half mile of clear navigation with three attractive canal bridges spanning it.

We then face a major problem. At the far end of Monkhide the canal has been filled in completely and at Crews Pitch only a small culvert passes under the main road.

We have permission to clear the next short section towards the Kymin and about to seek permission to clear further. This section between Crews Pitch and the Kymin includes one lock, of which only a change in level remains unless the lock is merely buried (wishful thinking).

To navigate between our restored section and this section involves the very major problem of crossing the very fast main road. No lift bridge here!

Our immediate thoughts to this problem are;

- 1) A new bridge would have to be built.
- 2) Not enough headroom would be left for canal craft should a bridge be made.

One possible solution to this problem is the removal of the next lock and the re-position of it at Crews pitch. This would then give us plenty of headroom. A thorough survey would have to be made first but it may be an answer to our problem.

Mike Potts

CANAL CRUISE AND COACH TOUR.

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On Sunday the 12th of July our coach will leave Leominster at 8.30am, arrive at Hereford and pick up at approx 9.00 am. We then travel to Droitwich where we board the Canal Boat "SABRINA" for a three hour leisurely cruise of the recently restored section of the Barge canal. We will stop a short while to see the restoration of Ladywood locks taking place before returning to Droitwich.

After a picnic lunch we travel on to see some of the Worcester and Birmingham canal and eventually to Gas Street Basin in the heart of the Venice of canals, Birmingham. We will see the transformed canal basin only a short while ago derelict, but now restored.

Our coach will then take us home after a very enjoyable day. Arriving back at Hereford about 7.00pm Leominster about 7.30pm.

Last years outing was very enjoyable and I am sure this years will also. Please come along all ages welcome. (Not too much walking).

Tickets to include coach and Cruise are £5.00 adults and £4.00 children under 14.

Any excess left from costs will go to the Canal Society's general fund.

Tickets available from; The Canal site on our open day (last day for booking, the 28th June), from Camera Craft 53 St Owen St Hereford or from Mike Potts / Cranstone Upper Breinton Hereford by post, cheque P.O with application please!

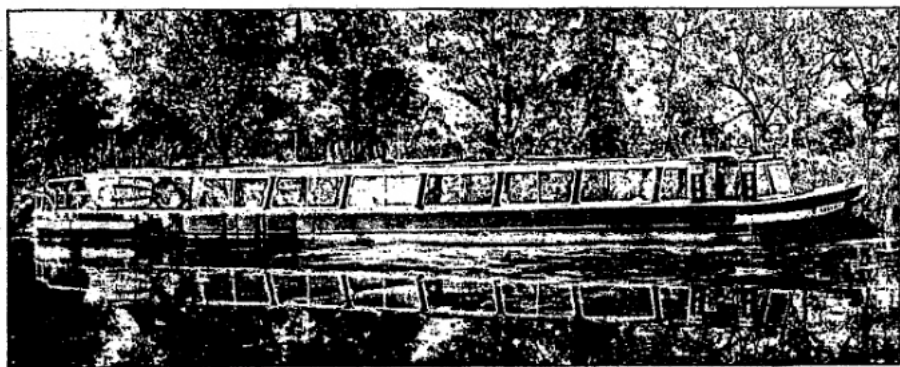
Limited number available. Please get your ticket early. Should there be insufficient bookings to make the trip viable all fees will be fully refunded.

N.B. All profits from the trip boat SABRINA go towards the restoration of the Droitwich canals.



14 DROITWICH CANALS TRUST

Enjoy the tranquility of cruising at 3 miles per hour on 'the cut' in the comfortable surroundings of the trip boat 'Sabrina'.



ON THE RESTORED DROITWICH BARGE CANAL CANAL BOAT SABRINA

Named after the Goddess of the River Severn, Sabrina is a purpose built steel passenger boat 64 feet in length with a beam of 10 feet. Seating 60, or 45 with full catering, Sabrina has all the facilities one would expect in a luxury boat; full central heating, fully equipped bar serving also soft drinks and confectionery, flush toilet and a light airy open plan seating area. The seats can be configured to suit any requirement from the small intimate party to business conferences and club outings. Souvenirs of the trip are available from the bar. A commentary on the history of the canal and the restoration will be given on request during the trip.



The Seal of the
Original Droitwich Canal Company

THE CRUISE

Sabrina travels South West down the Canal through the outskirts of the town into the peaceful Salwarpe Valley through six bridges and two swing bridges past Salwarpe Village to Ladywood where the boat is turned at the head of Lock 1 before returning to Droitwich, Total distance 6 miles taking 3 hours. The boat may be moored at Ladywood to allow passengers to walk down the Lock flight to view the restoration.

Yes folks a new look and a new name. Do not forget we are the Hereford and GLOUCESTER Canal Society so why is our magazine called "The Hereford Wharfinger"! It was really named from the Wharfingers house at Withington!

So from now on it will be called just "The Wharfinger".

We have members spread all over the country, the majority being in Herefordshire. We would like to have many more in the Gloucester end of the Canal and perhaps form a second group closer to Gloucester.

Members please!

Mike Potts

WIN A WEEKS HOLIDAY ON THE
ABERGAVENNY AND BRECON CANAL.

RED LINE BOATS of Coytre Wharf have very generously donated a weeks hire of a luxury boat for a family of four to cruise this very beautiful waterway for a week next year.

A most enjoyable week may be had exploring this waterway. Cruise south and visit Pontypool and Cwmbran. North stopping off to visit many of the pretty little villages close to the Canal. Under the lift bridge at Talybont, through Ashford tunnel. Though the short flight of locks to Brecon. A most relaxing holiday with only a few locks to operate but many canal side puts to visit!

CAMERA CRAFT of St Owenst Hereford have kindly donated a 35mm compact camera with built in flash as a second prize.

A third prize will be provided by the Canal Society.

Tickets will be on sale at our Open day and other events or from committee members.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CANAL.

SALES

BOOKS

"THE HEREFORD & GLOUCESTER CANAL"

Hard backed book by David E Rick. The book of
our canal. £5.50

"THE DIARY OF A ROWING TOUR FROM OXFORD TO LONDON IN 1875"

By Howard Williams. Including a detailed
navigation of the canal from Gloucester to
Hereford and then on to the River Wye. £4.50

KEY RING & ADDRESS PAD. with wild bird motif.
only 50p

CANAL TEA TOWEL. Selection of attractive tea
towels depicting various canal scenes. £2.45

POST CARDS. 1) Lydney Canal Docks. 2) Gloucester
docks. 3) The wave in Gloucester docks. 10p each

Large general purpose greeting card with
envelope. Picture Hereford Canal Basin. 35p

Illustrated notelets. Picture Monkhide Skew
Bridge. Ten with envelopes £1.00

HISTORIC CANAL PICTURES. Copies 6x8 mounted
on card. 1) Oxenhall Lock Cottage. 2) Canal
Lock (location unknown) 3) Canal Wharf and Lock
(location unknown). each £3.50

All sales; Peter Woodfield or Mike Potts
(see inside cover for tel/address)
Postage extra unless we can easily deliver.