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MEMBERS



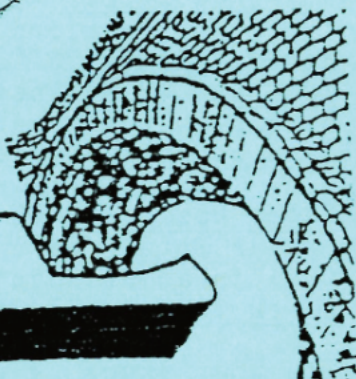
FORMED



IN 1983

THE

WHARFINGER



Journal of the Herefordshire and
Gloucestershire Canal Society

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N.B. Articles in this publication do not represent the view of the Society but of only of the writer.

COACH TOUR AND CRUISE

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Sunday the 12th of July was a warm and dry day one of very few so far this year. Our coach left Leominster Bus station at about 8.30 am and headed to Hereford where it picked a large party from the Bus station. We left just after 9.00 and headed to Ledbury to collect the remaining few of our party. Our coach had but just one empty seat, and this was unfortunately vacant because of illness.

We passed though peaceful Malvern, Worcester and arrived at Droitwich at about 10.20. Here we boarded the Droitwich Canal Trust's boat "Sabrina" and set of on our mornings cruise. We passed along side various housing estates and were soon in rural Worcestershire.

The canal was very peaceful the Sabrina being the only boat on the canal. We saw a lot of the bird wildlife and at one point a large dragonfly entered though one skylight and made a hasty exit through the next one.

We entered the cutting approaching Salwarpe village and after emurging under the bridge here turned a sharp curve in the canal here. People in nearby houses waved to our party. The whole scene being a very happy one. There were passengers of all ages aboard and all were obviously enjoying the cruise.

A little further on the boat turned and moored up at the head of Ladywood locks. Work has started to restore these locks. We left the boat and explored the flight and lock cottage here. The cottage looked very pretty and nearby were lock gates being built. We all joined the boat and headed back to Droitwich. At the approach to the boatyard the canal passes through a short tunnel under the railway and then through a culvert under the Droitwich to Bromsgrove railway line. Here there is very little extra space, one hears the occaision rub of the boat against either the culvert on one side or the towpath edge on the other. WE paused a moment a signpost had been thrown into the canal and was foating near the

centre of the culvert. With a boat hook it was soon moved and we passed on.

Our cruise was on the Droitwich (wide) Barge canal. A little further along the canal it narrowed and through a lock entered the Droitwich Junction canal, linking it to the Worcester and Birmingham canal. Work is also going on to restore this canal. When finished it would make a round trip possible again from the River Severn through these canals, along the Worcester and Birmingham canal to Worcester to rejoin the Severn again.

We rejoined the coach which took us around the town centre to the canal side again. Here we had our picnic lunch on the grassy bank.

After our lunch the coach took us on to Gas Street in Birmingham. We left the coach and explored the Basin. There were many colourful narrow boats here, there had been a lot of restoration and rebuilding work taking place here and the work was still going on.

Some of us rejoined the coach, going on to the Science Museum (along side the canal). The main party of us walked the well restored towpath passing The Longboat Inn and descending the flight of locks here to rejoin our party at the museum. Just past the museum under a huge building the canal descends through more locks and as we arrived we were lucky enough to see a narrowboat ascend through these.

We then spent a little time to explore this vast and very interesting museum. Our coach left at about 5.00pm and we travelled back to Worcester. We stopped a short while at the Comandery only to see a boat descending the lock here on towards the river Severn. We rejoined our coach and headed back along our same route arriving at hereford about 7.15 pm.

The question I was asked the most during the day was "when is the next one?" well its on September the 12th, see elsewhere in this edition. Book early unfortunately this boat can only carry 40 passengers!

We all had a very enjoyable day again. Our thanks to Lugg Valley Motors, there very helpful driver, the Droitwich Canal Trust and its family crew. Any thanks for our passengers support.....

MIKE POTTS

R I P

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It is with great sadness we announce the death of "Badger". A Jack Russell, who at the age of 17 had a full and active long life. In his younger days had participated in many an army exercise and flown on a number of occasions.

He knew the canal well and had beaten the Monk-hide stretch on many a shoot. He joined in many of the working parties right at the beginning and could be found in the thick of our work hunting for something.

In the last couple of years he slowed up considerably and as progress took us further from Crews pitch his paddling became less and less until he would just wait for our return at lunch time and at the end of the day. This meant the inevitable Mars bars, his great love. His absence will be greatly missed and no longer will we have to share our meals.

Robert Barnes.

We sadly miss Badger on our work days, he was great company and no matter where we were at work he would always be by our side. I miss very much being able to share my lunch, no Mars bar will every taste as good again when you are unable to share it with your friend. We have lost a great member of our team.

It is nice to see Nell, another Jack Russell from the same family attending our work parties now, no Mars Bars but a sausage lover.

Mike Potts

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER RESTORATION WORK

CREWS PITCH 10.00 - 5.00

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER COACH TOUR AND CRUISE
TO THE KENNET AND AVON CANAL. MORNING CRUISE
AND AFTERNOON TOUR. FROM LEOMINSTER & HEREFORD
TICKETS FROM MIKE POTTS, AVAILABLE AT CAMERA
CRAFT 53 ST OWEN STREET HEREFORD. LIMITED
NUMBER, BOOK EARLY.

FRIDAY THE 11TH OF SEPTEMBER FILM, SLIDE &
VIDEO EVENING, DRAW FOR RED LINE BOATS CRUISE
HOLIDAY / CAMERA. HEREFORD CONSERVATIVE CLUB
7.30 PM.

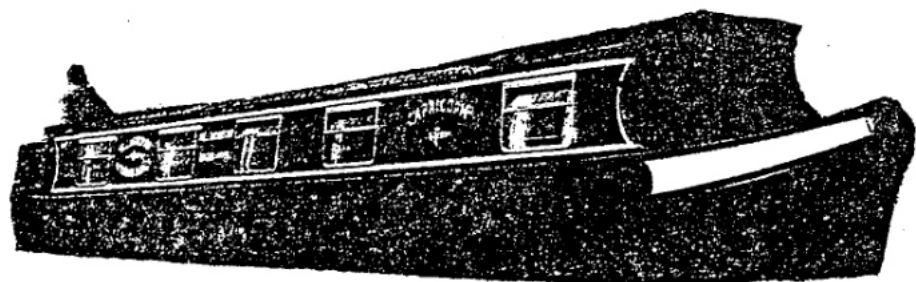
SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER CREWS PITCH RESTORATION
WORK 10.00 - 5.00

SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER DRIVE / WALK TO VIEW
THE HEREFORD AND GLOUCESTER CANAL. LED BY
RICHARD MORLEY. LEAVE HEREFORD BUS STATION
10.00 AM. BRING PICNIC LUNCH. IF YOU WOULD
LIKE TRANSPORT PLEASE CONTACT RICHARD MORLEY
ON 0568-81470

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER CREWS PITCH RESTORATION
WORK 10.00 - 5.00

WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO HAVE A WEEKLY EVENINGS
WORK, WHILE LIGHT, AT CREWS PITCH WORKING AN
EVENING EVERY EIGHT DAYS.. WED 12 AUG THURS
20TH AUG. FRI 28TH AUG. SAT 5TH SEPT, SUNDAY
13 TH SEPT, ETC.ETC. WE START AS SOON AFTER
7.00 AS POSSIBLE. SOME INSIDE WORK, I E
PLANT MAINTENANCE ETC TO BE DONE.

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY SATURDAY, SUNDAY &
MONDAY WE WILL HAVE A STAND AT THE NATIONAL
WATERWAYS RALLY AT HAWKESBURY JUNCTION NEAR
COVENTRY. A VERY BIG AND INTERESTING EVENT
WELL WORTH THE TRIP....





The Inland Waterways Association

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH

September 22 Gloucestershire I.W.A.

Tewkesbury Marina Yacht Club,

David Hutchings, will give a Talk,

Title:

Navigating the Upper Severn & Thames.

October 13 Gloucestershire I.W.A.

Tewkesbury Marina Yacht Club,

Nigel Jefferies, will give an Illustrated Talk,

History of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal.



OPEN DAY A GREAT SUCCESS.

Sunday the 28th of June was a great success and the attendance to our open day far above our expectations. Despite a few minor problems the day went well and we had good weather. We have learnt a lot of lessons to improve the next one we hold.

Despite the problems we had I think we did rather well for there were only nine of us to arrange everything. We wish to extend our thanks to the many many people who supported us and attended our event and to those who helped make it a success. To those who provided; stands, static engines, boats, catering, plant and equipment, toilets etc.

The events included canoes and boats on the canal, a display of static engines, display by the Hereford and Radnor Nature Trust, film and slide shows and the lowering of Major Barnes's narrowboat, by crane from the main road, into the canal. Without the help and support of all these and others our open day would not have taken place.

The local press gave us previous coverage and press from the Waterways Magazines were present. The television gave us coverage on the following day. The Chairman of The Inland Waterways Association, Ken Goodwin attended. We were please to see he had recovered from his recent illness.

Sadly our public address system failed after the first half hour but this will most certainly be corrected next time, but it did not spoil the event. The Cinema proved very popular. A waterways film was alternated with a slide presentation every hour and all seats were taken at each showing along with many standing.

It was very nice to see so many young people taking to the water in their canoes.

Mike Potts

TOTAL CANAL RESTORATION - AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW

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Question: "Why not restore the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal?"

Answer: "of the original 43 mile route, 15 miles have been lost to houses, industry, roads and agriculture; 6 are occupied by a former railway, leaving only 13 miles of recognisable canal.

Three houses, a factory and part of a busy by pass straddle the line, not to mention 150 acres of farm land.

Twenty three road bridges have been demolished and a similar number of farm access bridges would be needed if the canal were restored. Four Major aqueducts would need replacement, a task fraught with high technical and legal problems. A dozen lesser culverts and water supply arrangements would need construction.

A million cubic yards of materiel would need to be excavated to restore the bed and form embankments. Nineteen lock gates would need to be re-created and a collapsed tunnel more than a mile long would need to be repaired or even re-bored.

The cost of such work would be vast- not less than at least £20 million pounds at todays prices"

Question: "If total restoration is not advocated why have a canal society?"

Answer: "For a minute fraction of the above cost, the canal would be managed with the object of providing the maximum of variety and interest.

Let us restore those lengths which are eminently suited to such treatment. We have made an excellent start at Monkhide let us now continue on that fine two and a half mile stretch which includes the Ashperton tunnel.

Elsewhere several other shorter lengths and features could be made good, hopefully providing some relics of the canal near to

all the main towns and villages served;- such could include the Ell Brook aqueduct and locks at Newent, the embankment and half lock at Priors Court near Ledbury and the canal at the Roman road near Hereford.

Much of the canal could be managed most effectively as a linear nature reserve, having water at all depths, and more, providing a welcome habitat for such threatened wet-land species as frog, newt, snipe, grass snake and curlew to name but a few. We could harness the considerable energies of the local Naturalist clubs to further this work, and hopefully, rights of way could be created for the benefit of the rambling community.

Relics of original feature (such as the three locks between Withington and Crews pitch) would thus remain un-disturbed for further archeological study.

In places, private owners would utilise the canal for their own purposes (such as irrigation at Withington and fish farming at Priors court) whilst elsewhere other farmers would not feel under threat of future interference with their property."

Question: "Other canals are being sucessfully restored at hugh cost; why not ours?"

Answer; "This comes down to a question of priorities. Given that the finance could be made available, and the engineering problems overcome, could not the money be more usefully be re-directed?"

The efforts of Bob Geldorf, Oxfam and others have made it abundantly clear that for the sum required to restore our canal, Much could be done to save, and improve the quality of life for those less fortunate than ourselves.

It seems to me to be perfectly valid to use a reasonable proportion of our resources to recreat an interesting memorial to Stephen Ballard and his colleagues. In a rural area, with limited population and a superb natural Navigation (the Wye), and in a world where there are other needs, it is my view that the wholesale restoration is not only impracticable but it is profligate."

Richard Morley.

C. eng M.I.C.E. M.I.W.E.S.

RESTORATION NEWS

MORE HELP
WANTED
PLEASE



Since our open day work has been rather steady but it is very nice to see a number of new faces making regular attendances. A number of our group have been absent due to holidays etc.

We have made a start clearing some of the loose timber along the next section but due to troubles with our chainsaw this has been rather slow, repairs are in hand.

We have moved the smalley to the skew bridge and started clearing some of the soil to enable us to move the coping stones and rebuild the towpath wall. We have been busy getting our stand ready for our first attendance of the national waterways rally at Hawkesbury junction on the bank holiday weekend. ...Has anyone a good reliable trailer we could borrow to carry our stand there and back?

We have made a start on demolishing the old building at the site entrance, we would like to rebuild this into a small canal centre.

We are sorry to see Vic Chapman and his family moving from the Wharf House at Crews pitch. he has supported and helped us on many occasions.

We wish him and his family good luck in their new home.

Mike Potts

SALES

BOOKS:

"The Hereford and Gloucester Canal"

Hard backed book by David Bick.

The book of our Canal..... £5.50

"The Diary of a rowing tour from Oxford to London
in 1875" By Howard Williams. (including navigation
of the H & G and the river Wye..... £4.50

KEY RING & ADDRESS PAD (wild bird motif) 50p

Colourful Tea Towel with Canal scene. Various
£2.45

Postcards; 1) Lydney Canal Docks. 2) Gloucester
Docks. 3) The Wave in Gloucester Docks. each 10p

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

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

Historic Canal pictures. Coppies 6x8 mounted
on card. Oxenhall Lock Cottage. Canal Lock-
location unknown. Canal Wharf and Lock-location
unknown..... each £3.50

All sales; PeterWoodfield or Mike Potts.
Address inside front cover. Postage extra unless
we can easily deliver. Thank you for your support.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS.

WE WISH TO EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR
NEW MEMBERS; AMONGST THE MOST RECENT ARE;

MR & MRS HYETT 23 BURDEN DRIVE BARTESTREE HEREFORD

MR L J BOUGHEY 37 LYNDHURST ROAD WALLASEY

MERSEYSIDE.