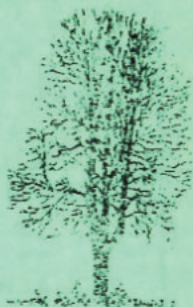




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FREE TO
MEMBERS



FORMED



IN 1883

THE

WHARFINGER



Journal of the Herefordshire and
Gloucestershire Canal Society

EDITION NO. 19

SPRING 1988

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY

PAGE ORDER

AS

ORIGINAL!

CHAIRMAN:

VICE
CHAIRMAN:

SECRETARY

, Hereford

lon
rdshire.

TREASURER: James Dunn,
Poole Cottage, 5, St. Ethelbert St.,
Tel: Hereford 274106 Hereford.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Nigel Jefferies, 19, Wilcroft Park, Bartestree,
Tel: Hereford 850661 Hereford.

Robin Andrews, 20, Tower Road, Hereford.
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John Startin, Conifers, Little Birch, Hereford.
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⊗ Graham Ettles, Carlton House, 117, Leckhampton
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Road,
Tel: (0242) 512802

— Derek Gray, 40, Hewitt Avenue, Hereford.

— Stephen Fitzmaurice, 45 Princes Ave College Est
Tel: Hereford 268146 Hereford.

⊗ (Wales) Paul. IWA.

+ David Kirk.

It is with very deep regret that I have to report the death of Mrs Dorothy Webb. This sad news was given to me as I was preparing this edition for printing.

Mrs Webb very kindly produced the last edition of this Wharfinger, she had done a very professional job and brightened up our little magazine with her pictures.

I had only known her a short time but I found her to be a very pleasant kind lady. She took part in our drive/walk on our canal later last year and was very interested in our activities.

She wrote a very nice and complimentary article in the last edition, about our Society.

Our sincere condolences to her family.

Mike Potts

Welcome to our new members.

We wish to extend a hearty welcome to the following new members;

Mr & Mrs Weaver, 17 Paschill Lane Twynning
Nr Tewkesbury Glos.

Mr H Hughes & Mrs D Whyatt, Meyrick House
Meyrick St Whitecross Hereford

W P Depper, The Old Forge Walkers Green
Marden Herefordshire.

W H Williams, Birch Lea Monkhide Nr Ledbury
Herefordshire.

Mr & Mrs Rowlands. Wharf House Yarkhill
Herefordshire.

Mr C W Smith, Coopers House Monkhide
Nr Ledbury Herefordshire.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. AGM AGM AGM

Wednesday April 27th 1988 7.30 pm.

Studio Theatre Cathedral School

Castle Street Hereford

OUR FIRST "WRG" CAMP

Our Society had a most welcomed boost of support over the new year in the form of a "Waterways Recovery Group" winter camp.

This was the first time we have arranged for WRG to come and help us. Peter Woodfield did most of the spade work organising the event and booking the Yarkhill Village Hall, formerly the village school as a base and somewhere to eat and sleep after a long hard day's work. This accommodation proved to be very satisfactory indeed.

A group of nine people led by Jane Dorsey. Arrived on Sunday the 27th of December to be greeted by members of the Society with a barrel of cider. They were treated to a slide show and talk on the canal by Nigel Jefferies. This they found most informative.

Work started on Monday with the kind permission of Mr Edge to clean up and clear back the bank on the opposite side to the towpath East of Skew Bridge.

On Tuesday while this was being finished, a small team successfully pumped out all the water from beneath the dams either side of the bridge. This proved that the dams held water. Our special thanks to John Palmer with his pumps and generator.

Wednesday 30th December was a very special day, for the WRG team started to clean the next 400 yards of canal towards Barr's Lock. A slightly embanked piece of canal with a deep ditch running parallel on the Northern side. This section to Barrs lock belongs to Mrs Gram of Whitwick Manor and it was with her kind permission that we were allowed to clear the canal bed.

The team set about this task with most professional enthusiasm. Bonfire were lit every 30 yards or so and the brambles and scrub burnt. Fortunately the canal bed remained mainly dry as the canal had been temporarily diverted into the ditch alongside.

This mammoth task continued until Saturday

cont..13

Tewkesbury meeting cont..

With this as a precedent, surely no obstacle can any longer be insurmountable?

There are now no less than ninety one canal restoration schemes afoot in the U K! Staggering isn't it?

By comparison with other similar schemes the obstacles we face with the H & G are minimal and relatively easy to overcome! It could however take an estimated twenty five years to complete, based on other completed similar schemes.

However a navigable length of only three miles is sufficient for an enjoyable half day trip, as the Droitwich Barge canal society amply demonstrated with their purpose built trip boat "Sabrina".

I came away from that meeting most encouraged, both by what I had learned from our "advocate" and by the interest shown by our hosts.

To some people "total restoration" may seem to be an unrealistic pipe dream but many things which were impossible "yesterday" have been (or are being) achieved today. So let us concentrate first upon those stretches of canal which are still visible, and relatively easy to restore, and then piece by piece, progressively tackle the more difficult parts.

The more progress we make the better the chances of overcoming those seemingly "impossible" obstacles. Who can say that those "impossible" obstacles of today will still be as daunting two decades from now?

Derek Gray.

PLEASE CAN I HAVE MORE (SOME) LETTERS
OR ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT WHARFINGER.
Date for inclusion 12th of May please.



SKEW BRIDGE FACELIFT

The forgotten Masterpiece is being given a facelift by the Highways department of the Hereford and Worcester County Council. Skew Bridge, Monkhide was built by Stephen Ballard in 1843 and is the skewiest brick built bridge in the U.K. and has an angle of more than 60°. The Bridge was listed as a direct result of the endeavors of the Canal Society on the 10th of January 1986, as a building of Special Architectural Interest.

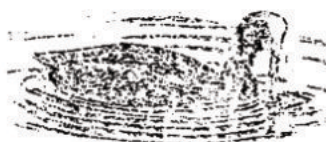
As a result of my request an Executive from County Hall came and inspected the bridge last year and confirmed the fear that water was running off the camber of the road and seeping through the bridge structure. In winter, with hard frosts, this was causing considerable damage to the brickwork and was not going to improve.

So Mr Don Quinton and Mr Chris Harrison were sent from Worcester to remedy the problem. The weather to date has been most unkind to them, but not withstanding this, the bridge is starting to look magnificent. The parapets on either side have been raked out and repointed. The soil down to the arch has been removed and filled with concrete and kerb stones have been laid across the bridge giving a sightseer room to view the canal from a parapet without being swept away by a passing motorist.

Eventually, when the job is completed, the pavements will be sealed from the foot of the parapet to the kerb with concrete and sprinkled with green chippings. Then the Skew Bridge will no longer be a forgotten masterpiece.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the County Council for doing such a splendid job and in particular Mr Attwood who has given such consideration to the task.

R E Barnes



EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

WORK PARTIES

Sunday 6th March	Crews Pitch Monkhide	10.00 am.
Sunday 3rd April	" "	" "
Sunday 1st May	" "	" "
Sunday 5th June	" "	" "

Evening work parties will start again when enough evening light is available. Quite popular last year.

EXTRA WORK PARTIES

16th and 17th of April
15th of May

Please contact the work party organisers to check time etc before attending these. Stephen Fitzmaurice or Peter Wood field, address and Tel no. in front cover.

SUNDAY 10th of April

DRIVE / WALK / CRUISE ON THE BRECON AND MONMOUTH CANAL.

It proved so popular and everyone had such an enjoyable day in the Autumn of 1986 that I have decided to repeat the event.

A car drive from Hereford (Swimming baths car park at 9.30 am.) Please let us know if you require transport, usually plenty of spare space.

To view the canal and the restoration of further lengths of the canal. A visit to the canal Centre at the Rogerstown Locks near Newport. a picnic and a cruise from Goytre Wharf.

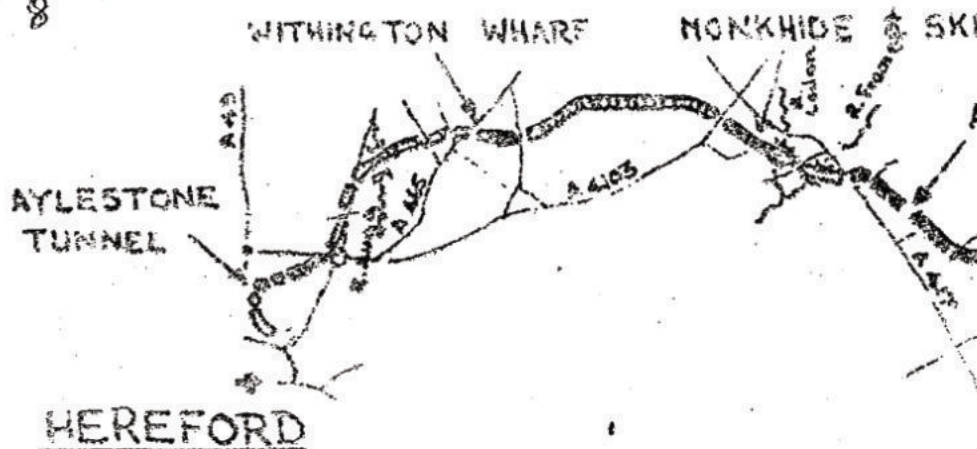
Please let me know before the 19th of March with cruise fee. To enable me to book the boat/boats. Tickets by post or from Camera Craft (Hereford Camera Centre) 53 St Owen St Hereford.

Fee Adults £3.50
Children 14 & under £3.00

Any left overs to the society funds.

Don't forget BOAT TOUR AND CANAL CRUISE in July details in the next edition and the Admag. Last year overfilled the Boat/coach so please book early.

8



DYMO

COAL E

THE HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCE

SCALE :- ABOUT 2 ²/₃ MILES

W BRIDGE

7

SHPERTON TUNNEL

PRIORS COURT EMBANKMENT

A 438

LEDBURY

A 443

A 415

M 50

OXENHALL TUNNEL

OXENHALL LOCK

ANCH

NEWENT

GLoucestershire CANAL

TO 1 INCH

GLOUCESTER

DRAWN BY RICHARD MORLEY. JULY 1987.



River
Severn

I W A DONATION

As reported earlier, the Inland Waterways Association donated £2,00.00 for restoration work at Monkhide. This will enable us to fully dredge the Canal from Skew bridge to Monkhide for navigation standard.

Chairman, Tony Austin Bailey received a cheque from I W A chairman Ken Goodwin.



WORK PARTY REPORT DEC-JAN

Due to an excellent effort by the people who attended the Waterway Recovery Group work camp at Christmas about 400 mtrs of tree and scrub clearance was completed on the section about 600 mtrs to the west of Crews Pitch, also a section of hedge was tidied up to the east of the Skew bridge.

In January the task of clearing the silt and rubbish from between the dams at the bridge was started, with the aid of a 6" Sykes pump, and although only able to use it for three days, quite significant progress was made although there is still much more to be removed before the work camp in May.

More bricks were laid at the towpath edge beneath the bridge to above water level.

P Woodfield

The February work party was well attended, the members attending were Ian Reed, Mike Potts, Nigel Jefferies, Stephen Fitzmaurice, Tony Ausin-Bailey, Fred Smith.

Also attending were Robert Connall and members of the Leominster scouts and Venture scouts as listed below. We would very much like to extend our thanks to them for helping us again and for showing such keen enthusiasm! They even want to come again!

Philip South	Andrew South	Oliver Bell
Shane Rees	Billy James	David Pugh
Daniel Pugh	Nick Smith	
Andrew Faulkner	Kevin South	Adrian Banks
Patrick Pritchard		

Our thanks to everyone and apologies to anyone that I have missed, my memory not being very good.

Work achieved was, many of the felled trees on Mr Williams's land west of the main road were cut up and the small wood burnt, more wood was removed and scrub burnt from the newest canal section further west. Also two ditches were dug. One next to Mr Blair's house to relieve flooding here, one to a land drain from Mr Clay's field on the recently dredged section.

GRATEFUL DONATION.

We are very grateful for yet another kind donation from Miss K Colley of Westfields and for her enthusiastic support to the society and its aims.

Editor.

TEWKESBURY MEETING.

It was recently my priveledge to join our Vice Chairman at a meeting in Tewkesbury with representatives of Gloucester County Council.

The purpose of the meeting (an informal one) was to show them what progress had been made together with what remains to be done;- to let them know that we will in the future be seeking their assistance with that part of the canal which is in their area, and to sound out their reaction.

Our project was exceedingly well explained by Michael Handford, an authority on canals and Author of canal books, chairman of the projects committee of The Inland Waterways Association. It was he who arranged the meeting and he knows "our" canal pretty well, having walked it with the late President some years before our society was formed.

During the meeting it was impressed upon me that a complete change of "official" attitude towards canals had taken place in recent years!

Canals nowadays are viewed by both local and national authorities as potentially valuable amenities and tourist attractions, funds are now made available to capitalise on this aspect!

Who would have ever dreamed that Government sanctions would be given for the raising of a section of low-level motorway so as to provide a navigable culvert beneath it to join up two restored sections of the once derelict canal which the building of the motorway had completely blocked? The enormous expenditure incurred is officially justified for the reasons given above.

cont...

WRG CAMP cont.

evening, Friday (new years day) being taken as a holiday Saturday it rained as if it had never rained before. So much that the temporary dam built at the head of this section broke and the newly cleared section became an instant canal overnight.

Spencer Collins was the first to slip in and the first to swim the new stretch! Sunday morning arrived a little more clearance took place along with some of the Society members and then the WRG group packed their kit up and headed home. Members of the Society had taken turns during the week helping and getting to know some of the volunteers.

Time and weather stopped the complete clearance of the section and a small area remained. Never the less it was a splendid achievement and we in the canal society are deeply indebted to the WRG winter camp for giving up their Christmas holiday to work on our canal.

Members of the team were; Jane Dorsey, (Worcester team leader), John Palmer (Stockport), Spencer Collins (Andover), Paul Sillitor (Telford, Barry Scoles (Norfolk), Richard Fox (Luton, David Nash (Lincolnshire), David Wedd (Surrey), Chris Davsy, Colin Walmuth, J Cossey.

In conclusion I would like to thank everyone who took part in the winter work camp and not least, the members of the society who took part during the week.

A very successful operation that I hope will be repeated.

R E Barnes

RESTORATION NEWS

MORE HELP
WANTED
PLEASE



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Meyrick St Whitecross Hereford

W P Depper, The Old Forge Walkers Green
Marden Herefordshire.

W H Williams, Birch Lea Monkhide Nr Ledbury
Herefordshire.

Mr & Mrs Rowlands. Wharf House Yarkhill
Herefordshire.

Mr C W Smith, Coopers House Monkhide
Nr Ledbury Herefordshire.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. AGM AGM AGM

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Castle Street Hereford

IWA

THE INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

Gloucestershire Branch

MAY 10th. 7-30pm.
Tewkesbury Marina Yacht Club.
Bredon Road.

WATERWAYS in AMERICA. (Illustrated).
A Personal View.

By David Gerry.

Members & non members welcome.

JUNE 14th. 7-30pm.
Tewkesbury Marina Yacht Club.
Bredon Road.

Waterways for All
(Derwent Rights Campaign).

A talk by Ken Goodwin.

I.W.A. Chairman.

Members & non members welcome.



The Wharfinger is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The last date for copy to reach the Editor, Mike Potts, is the 12th of the previous month.

Produced by Mr. Bernard Warburton at the Ross-on-Wye Resource Centre.

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

SALES

BOOKS:

- "The Hereford and Gloucester Canal"
by DAVID BICK
The hard backed book of our Canal £5.50
- "The Diary of a Rowing Tour from Oxford
to London in 1875" by Howard Williams £4.50
(including navigation of the M. & G
and the River Great Ouse)
- * * * * *

KEY RING and ADDRESS PAD (with Wild Bird
motif 50p

Colourful TEA TOWEL with Canal Scene
Various £2.45

POSTCARDS: 1) Lydney Canal Docks }
2) Gloucester Docks } 10p
3) The Wave in Gloucester } each
Docks }

All-purpose GREETINGS CARD. Large, with
envelope
Picture: Hereford Canal Basin 35p

Illustrated NOTELETS, 10 with envelopes
Picture: Monkhide Skew Bridge £1.00

HISTORIC CANAL PICTURES: Copies 6"x8"
mounted on card

Oxenbail Lock Cottage }
Canal Lock - location unknown } each £0.50
Canal Wharf and Lock - location }
unknown }

* * * * *

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Addresses inside front cover.
Postage extra unless we can deliver
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