



40p

FREE T
ME



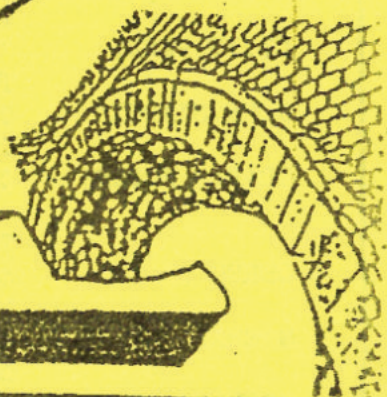
FORMER

IN 1983

SHOW PRICE 25p



THE
WHARFINGER



Journal of the Herefordshire and
Gloucestershire Canal Society

EDITION NO. 23 SUMMER EDITION 1989

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY

- VICE-CHAIRMAN: MAJOR ROBERT BARNES
Highway Cottage, Lyde, Hereford
- CHAIRMAN: TONY AUSTIN-BAILEY
7, Gaisford Close, Hereford
Tel: Hereford 269704
- VICE-CHAIRMAN: MICHAEL POTTS
3, Cranstone, Upper Breinton, Hereford
Tel: Hereford 356392
- SECRETARY: MRS. GILL SMITH
Summersfield, Miller Close, Leominster,
Hfds. Tel: Leominster 5138
- TREASURER: JAMES DUNN
Pool Cottage, St. Ethelbert Str., Hereford
Tel: Hereford 274106

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- NIGEL JEFFERIES 19 Wilcroft Park, Bartestree, Hereford
Tel: Hereford 850661
- IAN REED 22 Robinson's Meadow, Ledbury, Hfds.
Tel: Ledbury 5877
- RICHARD MORLEY New House, Rocky Lane, Shobdon, Hfds.
Tel: 056881-470
- CLIFF PENNY "Coppice", Burley Gate, Hereford
Tel: Hereford 820420
- JOHN STARTIN Conifers, Little Birch, Hereford
Tel: 0981540559
- GRAHAM ETTLES Carlton House, 117, Leckhampton Road,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Tel: 0242-512802
- DEREK GRAY 40, Hewitt Avenue, Hereford
Tel: 56007
- STEWART SMITH Summerfields, Millers Close, Leominster
Tel: 0568-5138 Hfds.
- STEPHEN FITZMAURICE 45, Princess Avenue, College Estate,
Tel: Hereford 268146 Hereford
- KAREN MCKAY Rosebank, Bridge Lane, Wellington,
Herefordshire
Tel: Canon Pyon 459

As you will see from the inside cover of this edition, we have some new members on the Committee. We have also lost some.

We welcome a new Secretary: Mrs. Gill Smith, wife of Stewart Smith who joined our Committee a short while ago. We welcome, too, on the Committee Karen McKay; she is the fiancée of Stephen Fitzmaurice who is also a Committee member. It's nice to see again at last some lady members on our Committee.

We wish to extend our thanks to Richard Morley who has stood down from his position as Secretary but is remaining on the Committee. He has done an excellent job and has spent many hours on his duties. We are glad that he has decided to stay on the Committee and give us his very valuable support.

We would like also to extend our thanks to Peter Woodfield, who has decided to stand down from the Committee. He has been on it right from the very start and has spent as much time - in fact possibly more time - than anyone else in the Society, helping to run and further its aims. Without his help as Work Party organiser we would have no work camps. His advice and expertise on canal restoration has helped our progress greatly. Peter wishes to spend a little more time with his growing family, as much of his spare time in the last few years has been with the canal. Many thanks again, Peter.

"THE WHARFINGER" is published quarterly, in March, June, September and December.

EDITOR: Mike Potts, 3, Cranstone, Upper Breinton
Hereford HR4 7PL

Items for inclusion should be received, PLEASE, by the 12th day of the previous month.

My thanks to the following for their help with this edition of The Wharfinger;
Hereford Resource Centre St Owen St Hereford
Mrs Cooper Portfield st.



The Kennet & Avon Canal Trust

"The Last Lock Appeal"

After 26 years and over £2 million the Kennet & Avon Canal linking East and West, from Reading to Bristol, is almost fully restored. Just one more year for the restoration to be completed and this magnificent Sleeping Beauty will awake.



WIDMEAD LOCK

January 1989

The last lock to be fully rebuilt will be Widmead Lock, near Newbury in Berkshire. For this the Trust needs to raise £275,000.

Can YOU help with this final push?

For further details apply to:

Cdr N.H.N. Wright
General Secretary
The Kennet & Avon Canal Trust
Canal Centre
Couch Lane
DEVIZES
Wilts SN10 1ES

The canal from Crews Pitch to Monkhide skew bridge is navigable. The towpath beneath the bridge has been repaired and the supporting brick wall rebuilt. The coping stones have been refitted into position. There is also a small boat landing stage and slipway at Crews Pitch.

The canal from the skew bridge to the end bridge at Monkhide has been dredged and the spoil is drying out. Although there is still some slipping, hardcore has been placed along the worst part in order that spoil can be put on top and will settle without further spillage back into the canal. Further dredging is planned shortly.

To the other side of the main Hereford to Worcester road Major Robert Barnes has dredged and made navigable a length of about 400 yards. Beyond this a further half mile or more has been cleared, and work is continuing here and is almost ready for dredging, although this has not yet been agreed upon. This is as far as we can go here at present as further permission is required first.

In Hereford, towpath clearance has taken place and fallen trees have been removed from the canal bed. A small amount of dredging work has taken place and some funds have been raised towards this work.

This section, next to the Roman Road, is behind Sid Wright's, Hereford Grocers and Peak Engineering on the Morbain Group estate. All these firms have helped us with our aims. We cannot continue our progress here as we are unable at present to get the landowner's permission to extend beneath the Roman Road bridge and sections either side of the bridge. We have surveyed the occupants of the houses backing onto the canal here and all are in favour of our work. It would also help to solve a mosquito problem here.

We have been very active in arranging a canal promotions day (see elsewhere in this edition) and

(Progress Report - continued)

this has taken up a lot of our time, but we are already receiving a good response to our efforts. We have also been busy arranging another coach tour and cruise. We are about to organise our stand for the National Waterways Rally at Waltham Abbey, and when the Rally has finished we shall be planning an Open Day for next year, hopefully to exceed our very successful one in 1987 when over 1,000 people attended our event.

We have also planned a 'follow-up' meeting from our promotions day to see what progress has been made, and to keep contact.

Other events are in the pipeline and we are looking at further canal stretches for resotration. We could do with more volunteers in all aspects.

The Waterway Recovery groups have played a key roll in our progress of restoration and increased this progress rapidly.

Well, that's our news so far. Please do not think, even if you are unable to play an active role in our work, that you are not helping us, because by just being a member you are supporting our aims. We would look a bit silly with just a committee and no members! You can help by promoting and discussing our canal and waterways in general. Personally I don't think we have done too badly for a handful of volunteers with just a bit of spare time amongst our other commitments.

Enough of work; I am off shortly for a week's holiday. Yes - you've guessed it: cruising..... This time on the Ouse and River Cam in Cambridgeshire.

MIKE POTTS

We wish to extend our thanks to the generosity of the members who have kindly sent a donation in with their membership renewal.



MILK BOTTLE P A S T

1880-1970

ASH GROVE VIEW, BODENHAM
HEREFORDSHIRE.

TELEPHONE 056-884 351

S. F. L. Wheeler



ANY OLD BOTTLES?

Steve Wheeler has asked me to enquire if any of our members could pass on any old MILK bottles that they may come across. Please contact him at the above address.

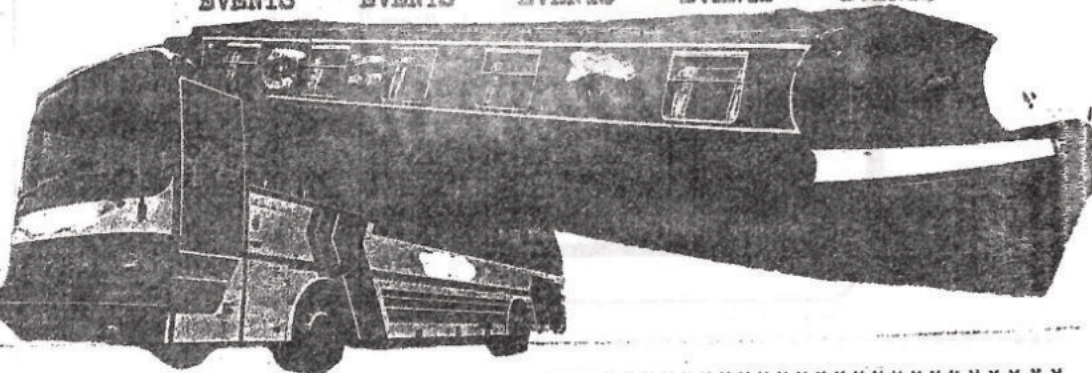
EVENTS

EVENTS

EVENTS

EVENTS

EVENTS



HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY
COACH TOUR & CRUISE SUNDAY 25th JUNE 1989
ALL SEATS TAKEN.

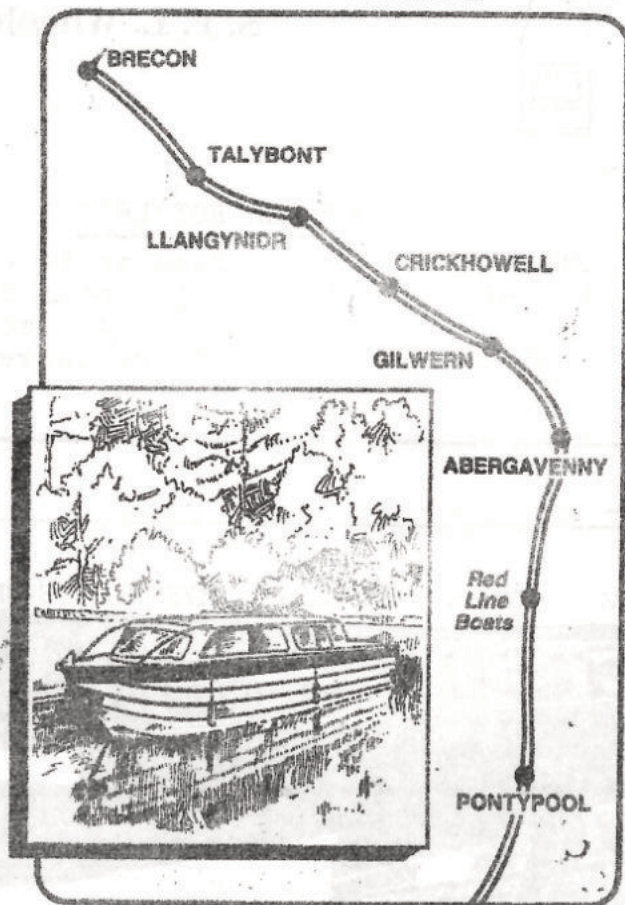
**CRUISING ON THE
BRECON & ABERGAVENNY CANAL**

with

Red Line Boats

**GOYTRE WHARF
LLANOVER
ABERGAVENNY
GWENT NP7 9EW**

TEL: (0873) 880516



NEXT EDITION: MID-SEPTEMBER (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED)

Another outing to the very pretty Brecon and Abergavenny Canal - possibly a boat trip on the newly restored section near Newport (the Monmouthshire canal)

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION
"WATERWAYS FOR ALL" CAMPAIGN

Those readers of the national waterways press will already be aware that the IWA is seeking *additional* funds to pay for the "Waterways For All" campaign - a £100,000 target has been set, a great deal of money - why is it needed and is the Canal Society involved?

Answering the first point, and cutting a long story short, the money is needed to finance an Appeal to the High Court over a legal judgement regarding rights of navigation on the Yorkshire Derwent. If it is allowed to go unchallenged, the judgement may well be used to stop rights of navigation on other rivers, lakes and (in a limited number of cases) canals.

Until this judgement, it had been assumed that the 1932 Rights of Way Act gave some protection to the *continuance* of the use of certain waterways. The ruling is that the passage of the public in boats is not "...enjoyment of a way over land covered by water..." - so established "rights of use" are virtually impossible to prove! So regular use by boaters (unlike pedestrians on a footpath) does not count as evidence of a right of way!

The IWA has obtained Counsels Opinion which suggests that there is a very good chance of getting the judgement overturned. The Yorkshire Derwent Trust is, therefore, seeking to Appeal - with the financial backing of the IWA.

Our Canal Society has received very strong support (and financial backing) from the IWA. All Canal Societies (and individual Members of the IWA) have been invited to contribute to this campaign as this judgement could be the start of a wider restriction on waterways use brought about by rich landowners and misinformed "protection" societies. Lack of funds must not be allowed to stop this important legal challenge. Your Committee has decided to donate £100 to the campaign. It may seem like "sending coals to Newcastle" but to support *our supporters* at such a critical time was considered essential if waterways were to be for the benefit of us all.



The Inland Waterways Association

D.J. Bay
The Hollies,
Church Road,
Gretton,
Gloucestershire
GL54 5EY

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH

Tel: Alderton (024 262) 405

June 1989

Thursday 27th June 7-30pm. The National Waterways Museum Gloucester (school room).

"The steam tug Mayflower. An illustrated talk by Andy King. Supervisor of her restoration.

July 1989

Sunday 9th July Annual coach and boat trip to the MON and BREC Canal. Boat trip on the OWEN GLENDOWER. Hopefully followed by two alternatives. (Possibly Big Pit). With one other Canal/Country alternative. Prices Adults £6 O.A.Ps £5 Children £5. Application forms from Gordon Lothian 111 Tewkesbury Rd Gloucester.

September 1989

Tuesday 12th September 7.30 pm.
Tewkesbury Marina Clubhouse. BRITISH WATERWAYS & REGIONALISATION & CHANGING ROLES. A talk by Andrew Stumpf. Formerly in the Marine Section, and now Waterways Manager for the River Severn and the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal.

Members and non members --- All welcome.

DON'T DUMP OUR DUMPER

Our Society dumper has lain unused in the barn for some considerable time. Why? Because awhile ago we had a puncture. When we tried to get another tyre (much needed) we found that the two wheels were both different and we were unable to find another wheel and tyre.

If you have - or know where there is - a wheel with a good tube and tyre plus, if available, another good tube and tyre, please let us know as soon as possible. The size we require is: 5.00 - 19.

Also our chain saw, kindly donated by Ian Reed, has walked..... Does anyone know of its whereabouts?

WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO THE WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUPS WHICH HAVE GIVEN US SO MUCH VALUABLE WORK IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

The work they do in a weekend camp would take us months to achieve. These enthusiastic volunteers give up their holidays to work on the waterways. They stay in the local village halls and put up with all kinds of weather and conditions. They come from all over the country to help in various restoration projects.

Some of their recent work for us has been to clear about threequarters of a mile of canal, making it ready for dredging; clearing the very thick deep mud from beneath the Skew bridge; laying bricks in the towpath wall under the bridge, and replacing the coping stones, making the towpath here very tidy. They are kindly doing a two week Summer camp for us this Summer.

Without their help our progress would be very slow indeed.

THANKS TO YOU ALL

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION RALLY
 AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND, 1989
 AUGUST 26th, 27th & 28th

This year's Rally is being held at Waltham Abbey on the Lee navigation and we will be attending again. Would anyone like to come along and give us a hand? It need not be for the whole weekend.

We raised a couple of hundred pounds last year, thanks to many of the Committee who spent a lot of their time arranging and running the stand. Despite the poor weather it proved very profitable. This year perhaps we can use the event to make more funds, as this was not our prime aim last year; with increased effort we should help our dwindling resources.

Perhaps, if you are unable to help, you might like to donate a bottle for our bottle draw - anything - pop will do. Or perhaps a prize or some toys for a lucky dip, or some cakes to sell on the day; anything to help us in our efforts.

If you want to give something please contact one of the Committee listed in the front of THE WHARFINGER.

HAS ANYONE LOST A BOAT?

Two years ago, just before our last Open Day, someone left a boat at Crews Pitch with Major Barnes. We have no idea who it belongs to, and it has been there a long time now without any movement. If it is yours or you know who it belongs to, please contact Major Barnes as soon as possible; you can reach him on Hereford 267168.

Otherwise we could have a trip boat shortly?
 (Outboard required.....)

PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE - An overwhelming success

We recently organised a public relations day aimed at local authorities. The idea was to take council officials by coach to a number of places along the Canal so they could see what we have done and what can be done; to give them lunch at the National Waterways Museum in Gloucester Docks; and to put on a programme of films and speakers in order to gain official support.

Early on the morning of May 11, those of us who had done our best to arrange this, our first such event, wondered if we had got it right.

Had we arranged a sufficiently varied and interesting programme? Would our guest speakers, Ken Goodwin, Chairman of IWA, and Peter Beresford, Chairman of the Wey and Arun, arrive on time? Would the audio-visual equipment work? Would the food be adequate? Above all, would the members of our audience react favourably to our efforts to gain their support?

We need not have worried. From the moment we picked up our first guest in Gloucester at 9.00am until the coach left the Docks at 5.15pm, everything proceeded at a cracking pace, and many were the compliments we received.

Did we gain anything from the event - was it worth the effort? Judge for yourself.

A few days later, I was taken to lunch by the civil engineering consultants for the A49 relief road, who wish to assist us. This help will probably take the form of an engineering feasibility study undertaken at cost, funded by grant aid by county authorities; it arose out of the impact our exercise had on a representative of the Department of Transport, who was one of our guests.

A senior civil servant, also present on May 11, has advised us strongly to consider obtaining a Private Member's Bill now, rather than later.

Ken Goodwin was so impressed that he offered, on behalf of IWA, to meet all the costs of incorporating, an offer since formally confirmed.

14 It was stated firmly, on behalf of the City Council, that we should seriously consider recreating a basin in Hereford as part of the zone F redevelopment. Finally, we received a very balanced centre-page spread in the Gloucester Citizen. So, all in all, a very successful day with a lot of points for us to consider and a lot of things for us to do if we are to capitalise on the goodwill created. What are the things we must do?

1. We must think seriously about incorporating, this year, particularly since it appears that we have found an auditor who will look after our books for a reasonable figure[a consideration which was holding us back a little]
2. A probable route, with alternatives, must be prepared for the entire distance, with particular regard to the Hereford City and New Mills, Ledbury, areas.
3. The follow-up meeting, provisionally planned for September, must be arranged and a detailed agenda prepared.
4. A drive for new members and volunteers must take place early in the New Year. It should involve manned displays in the centres of Hereford, Ledbury, Newent and Gloucester, and should aim to obtain sufficient extra active people to do justice to the tasks presently undertaken by hard-pressed committee members.
5. Local MP's and the IWA must be asked to advise on the matter of a parliamentary Bill.

If we adopt a professional approach and show that we mean business, I am sure that support will be forthcoming.

Finally, on your behalf, I must thank the following members for the hard work and valuable spare time they gave so generously to achieve our success on the Day. Thank you, sincerely Cliff, Derek, Gill, Graham, Karen, Mike, Nigel, Steve and Stewart[the order is alphabetical, the individual merits cannot be rated]; a special word of thanks to Mike for having the foresight to organise our new sweatshirts and teeshirts - they helped to create a very favourable image of the Society.

Tony Austin-Bailey

WATERWAYS QUIZ (ANSWERS)

From the Spring edition of THE WHARFINGER

1. Monkhide 2. Basin 3. Over 4. Wharf 5. Pound
 6. Clowes 7. Withington 8. Leaddon 9. Oxenhall
 10. Maisemore 11. Staplow 12. Ledbury 13. Dymock
 14. Hazel Lock 15. Newent 16. Frome 17. Puddle
 18. Barge 19. Wash Water 20. Tunnel

I hope you enjoyed my Quiz. If you would like to send one in I will gladly print it.

WORKING PARTIES FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

SUNDAY JUNE 4th SUNDAY JULY 2nd SUNDAY AUGUST 6th

As sites can vary for our work parties please ring one of the Committee to check the venue. Our work parties have been very poorly attended lately.

MORE HELP, PLEASE

Help is also required with our stand both in preparing and attending at the National Waterways Rally at Waltham Abbey during the August Bank Holiday weekend. Saturday-Monday inclusive.

STAMP OF APPROVAL!

Thank you for sending me your unwanted trading stamps, petrol coupons and vouchers. These will be put to good use shortly. I have eight CO-OP stamp books and four Green Shield books full already. Keep sending them in.

WEAR YOUR SHIRT AND PROMOTE THE CANAL

Have you bought your sweatshirt/tee shirt/ polo shirt yet? Many of the Committee have been wearing theirs and people have asked them about the canal from seeing the motif on their shirts.

MIKE POTTS (Editor)

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 H. & G.
and the River Wye)

COLOURFUL TEA TOWEL WITH CANAL SCENE. £2.45
Various designs, please ring for details.

POSTCARDS 10p each 1) Lydney Canal docks,
2) Gloucester docks, 3) The wave at Gloucester
docks. (Historic scenes)

All purpose GREETING CARD Hereford Canal Basin
Large, with envelope. 35p

NEW NEW NEW

BUY A SOCIETY T-SHIRT, SWEATSHIRT OR POLO SHIRT.

Printed: "Help restore the Hereford & Gloucester
canal". T-Shirts & sweatshirts in black with gold
print.

Single knit. 24-26" 28-30" 32" £4.00 S M L XL £4.55

Double knit. 24-26" 28-30" 32" £4.45 S M L XL £5.30

Sweatshirts 26" 28" 30" 32" £8.80 S M L XL £9.80

Polo shirt in navy with gold print. Short sleeved
with pocket. Adult sizes only. S M L XL £9.50

Some sizes to order, we have limited stock.

* * * * *

ALL SALES: Peter Woodfield or Mike Potts
Addresses inside front cover.
Postage extra unless we can deliver
easily. Thank you for your support.