

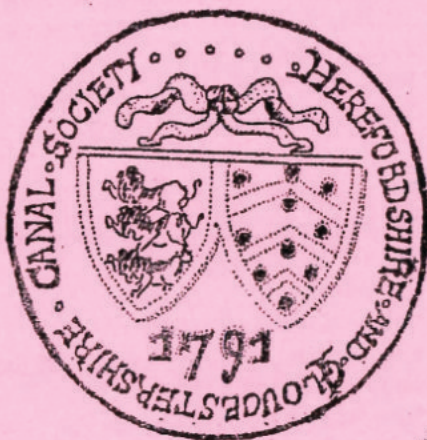


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FREE TO  
MEMBERS



FORMED



IN 1983

THE

WHARFINGER



Journal of the Herefordshire and  
Gloucestershire Canal Society

EDITION NO. <sup>25</sup> WINTER 1989

2  
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# WHAT A WHARFINGER!

Whatever happened to the last edition of your Wharfinger?

Well it's a long story but I will condense my story.

1) Late. The last edition had as usual been intended for the end of August. As usual very little had arrived for inclusion by the 12th. I wrote articles ready but it was agreed then to hold the magazine over until after the National rally in order we could include a report. After spending what spare time was available to help at Waltham Abbey and towing the caravan back the following day I awaited promised articles with despite promises never arrived, hence;

2) Blank centre pages, kept open.

3) Event; The strange thing about our events to which I am sure very few are aware is that at the time I actually write the article there are few if any events organised and at that very moment I try and come up with some ideas. I was at that time unable to organise the dates and forgot after to add them before printing. I must admit we did discuss this at our last committee meeting and agree that we would arrange events earlier, ready for the wharfinger and agreed to organise some. Yes Mr Nobody.

I do have offers of help from others and I am very grateful. There are times though when either it is not convenient or someone is on holiday or ill. I usually write most of the articles, type them all out on A5 size to fit the Wharfinger. I am very grateful here as often Mrs Cooper of Portfield St helps me by doing this, and correcting my spelling.

I then take the finished pages to the Hereford resource centre. They kindly print them for us. I usually colate, fold staple and envelope them. They then are posted out to our members. Jim Dunn has all the envelopes written out ready with any stuffers already in them.

They are nearly all posted. We have tried in

as fast to deliver many but this causes untold problems. Getting in touch with volunteers and passing on batches to them, relying on them to be available to distribute them in a reasonable time and then posting the rest. We decided the sure method was to post them.

Well thats the potted (or Potts-ed) history of your magazine. So please be patient I will do my best to ensure that these errors do not occur in the future.

Editor Mike Potts

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## SUB COMMITTEES

We are trying to form some sub committees, these will include members from the general committee and need to include others of which we have already received some offers. If you would like to offer your help in one of the following groups please let one of the committee know.

### Events committee

To organise various outings, events, sales stands, attendance at rallies. To raise funds and promote the society. Possibly include a press officer.

### Work Party Organiser.

This has in the past been done by one person but it is just too much to expect from anyone so a small group could arrange work parties, arrange camps and accommodation for them (hiring the parish hall) and ensure that the work and materials are ready.

### Litterature and Magazine production.

A small group prepared to help produce additional litterature, help with the production of the Wharfinger and perhaps a small booklet on the efforts ready for next years National Festival.

### Season group.

We already do have at least two of our team with



are very active in this field but could do with more help. The team need to organise the future restoration prospects of the canal, by negotiating with local land owners, councils, contractors, supporting companies, water authorities, The inland Waterways Association etc.

Any help is welcome no matter how small even if its asking friends to make some cakes for a sales stall.

Come along to a social evening, see elsewhere in this edition.

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### CHRISTMAS DINNER.

To be held again at Country Fayre Widemarsh St Hereford. Between the multi storey car park and Conningsby Street.

We have had several Christmas dinners here and all have been enjoyed. A good meal at a reasonable price. You do need to bring a bottle as there is no table license.

Date.... JAN 13th (SATURDAY)

Time.... 8-00 PM

Cost..... £6-50 per person.

Tickets, well in advance please from the editor or book at Hereford Camera Centre 53 St Owen St Hereford.

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### SOCIAL EVENINGS.

It is rather difficult for me to book a room on a regular basis for our social evenings. We have tried in the past and many have been poorly attended. It means that any landlord should at least get some benefit from the attendance by the purchase of drinks etc, or by charging us a small fee for the use of a room. Of course many pubs will let out there rooms to well attended groups who

6  
are more certain of bringing them trade. This is of course understandable.

STOP PRESS SEE PAGE 15

### RESTORATION PROJECTS.

Volunteers require;

Sunday 3rd December.      Crews Pitch 10.00-4.00

Friday 29th Dec - Sunday 1st Jan Work camp  
Ashperton tunnel, west end. All welcome.

Sunday 7th Jan.      Crews Pitch 10.00-4.00

Sunday 4th Feb.      Crews Pitch 10.00-4.00

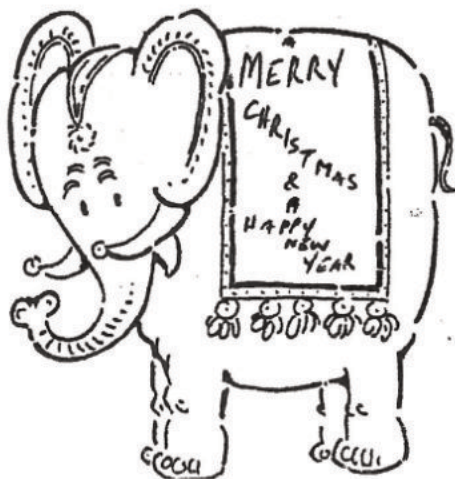
Sunday 4th March.      Crews Pitch 10.00-4.00

The answer to the last edition's Wordsearch has not arrived in time for this edition. I will try and ensure it appears in the next edition.

Please send in your items for the Wharfinger to the editor;

Mike Potts 3 Cranstone Upper Breinton Hereford

Last date for inclusion is the 12th of the month.





## NOT JUST CANALS...!

In this issue of Wharfinger we see the start of a new, occasional, column; NOT JUST CANALS...! The idea, as the name implies, is to show that you, our Members, really do have hobbies other than canals. It is to be hoped that YOU will write to the EDITOR (preferably typed, or at least a legible scrawl!), explaining one, or preferably more of the following;

What other hobbies you have;

What your hobbies involve;

Why you enjoy them;

Any history of their origins that you are aware of;

Details of any associated local clubs, or groups;

And / or any interesting stories relating to your hobbies.

If you do not feel able to write a full article (it need not be more than 100 words or so) then we will do our best to form an article out of any text you can give us.

Please send your contribution(s) to the EDITOR:-

MICHAEL POTTS

3, Cranstone,

Upper Breinton,

HEREFORD.

Thank you in anticipation of YOUR contribution(s). Don't forget that Wharfinger is YOUR magazine, for YOUR Canal Society. Don't leave it all to the Committee - and in particular MIKE POTTS. We need YOUR contribution(s), please, ... NOW!

*ps. If your hobby involves making anything that could be sold by the Canal Society as part of it's fund-raising efforts then we will be even more pleased to hear from you!*

DAVID

NOT JUST CANALS...!  
DO MEMBERS REALLY HAVE OTHER HOBBIES?

In this edition of Wharfinger David Penny, the 17 year old son of a committee member, proves that HE does and explains the origins and construction methods of his hobby of making terraria...

THE HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS OF  
MODERN-DAY TERRARIA

TERRARIUM (pl. -a or -ums)

Terra: earth; arium: place.

The word is generally used, in the modern language, to describe a totally, or mainly, enclosed small ornamental glass "house" providing a protected - or semi-protected - environment for plants. The terrarium evolved from the fully enclosed, independent eco-system, Wardian Case. A mainly open "terrarium" is termed a planter as it no longer fulfils the role of providing a protected environment.

In the 1830's an English surgeon, Dr. Nathaniel Ward, in order to observe a sphinx moth hatch from its chrysalis, placed a cocoon, along with some soil, into a sealed jar. From this soil a fern sprouted and, with no additional water or fresh air, prospered for four years until the experiment abruptly ended upon an accident occurring to the jar.

Dr. Ward proceeded to develop this further - his results, complete with drawings, being published in 1842. Thereafter his small portable "greenhouses" came to be known as Wardian Cases.

The Wardian Case was extensively used during the latter half of the 19th and early 20th century by explorers and



botanists to bring back exotic plants for the aristocracy. They however soon wanted more beautiful and ornate cases in which to display their rare plants within their homes. In order to achieve this lead came (extruded or milled lead of an "H" cross section) was used to enable the glass panes to be held together in more ornate 3-dimensional patterns.

The aristocratic collectors, with their collections becoming ever greater, desired ~~to~~ger "walk in" collection houses, and so tame about the huge ornate conservatories (cast iron, or wood, and glass) so often associated with large houses.

The more common, modern-day, construction method came about at the end of the 19th century when Louis Comfort Tiffany developed the use of soldered copper foil joints for the construction of his "Tiffany Lamps" (very ornate, many pieced, multi-coloured glass light shades). This method, as used in the construction of modern-day terraria, consists of:-

The very accurate cutting of the glass into the appropriate sized panes, followed by the application of self-adhesive copper foil to all the edges of the glass.

The taped panes are then held together in their final 3-dimensional shape by tacking (application of a small "blob" of solder), in two or three places, wherever two panes meet.

The perfectly fitting panes (it is essential that those that are not are re-cut) are then "bead soldered". This is achieved with the use of a soldering iron held at a 45 degree angle to the joint to be soldered. (This joint must be perfectly horizontal as the molten solder will flow to the lowest point - this usually turns out to be one's legs!)

NOT JUST CANALS...! continued...

The solder only runs along, and adheres to, the flux cleaned copper foil, so with this evenly wrapped onto the faces of the glass, bead soldering of a constant width will result.

The solder framework of the completed "Tiffany technique" terrarium is certainly as strong, if not stronger than, a similar lead came terrarium, and is very attractive once either polished or treated with a copper or black patina. (Black patina gives an antique bronze colour.)

The finished terrarium, once planted with suitable plants, (these depend on its size and whether it is completely air tight, or partially open to the air - thus reducing its humidity) is an asset to any room.

[In the next edition of Wharfinger I will explain how to look after terraria, which are now becoming increasingly popular.]

DAVID R. PENNY.





11

## PROMOTIONS DAY "FOLLOW UP" MEETING

As most readers will be aware, the Canal Society held a highly successful Promotions Day in May of this year. We took invited guests on a coach tour of our canal and finished with a number of presentations at the National Waterways Museum at Gloucester Docks. The idea was to ensure that the local authorities, parish councils, British Waterways, tourist organisations etc. were aware of our canal, of our canal society and, most importantly, of the great potential that exists for the canal to be restored as a leisure, recreational and tourism asset for the community.

On the 31st October we held a "follow up" meeting at Ledbury Community Centre. The idea was to inform our guests of the various initiatives that have arisen directly out of the May meeting and, in particular, to seek their further help in our efforts, to both promote the aims of our canal society and to secure the future of our canal.

We were very pleased to have represented at the October meeting every local authority along the whole line of the canal (at both district and county level). In addition, British Waterways, The National Rivers Authority (Welsh Region), The Association for the Promotion of Herefordshire, and a parish council were present, as were "our" consulting engineers - Messrs John Burrow and Partners. Apart from our Chairman, Tony-Austin Bailey, our speakers included Mike Potts (Vice Chairman) and Cliff Penny, the society's Planning/Local Authority Liaison Officer.

We also invited Mr. Colin Powell, the full-time Canals Officer from Neath Borough Council, to speak at the meeting about his job and the benefits of having a full time co-ordinator (also a hint to the local councils!).

A most welcome, and unanticipated, guest speaker was Ken Goodwin (who had only recently announced his retirement as President of the Inland waterways Association). Ken had supported us by attending the meeting in May and we

PROMOTIONS DAY "FOLLOW UP" MEETING *continued...*

knew just how busy he was; after all - like the rest of us he is a volunteer - so it was very kind of him to find the time to also attend this "follow up" meeting. He was a most welcome visitor and speaker. Thank you, very much, Ken.

As Ken Goodwin remains the Chairman of the IWA Restoration Committee, his very keen interest in our canal is particularly encouraging.

A large number of topics were discussed at the October meeting, including:-

- \* Promotion and publicity
- \* Leasing of canal sections
- \* Grant aid
- \* The need for protective planning policies
- \* Register of canal route landowners
- \* The formation of a Trust of charitable status
- \* Plant and machinery
- \* Feasibility studies
- \* The provision of office facilities
- \* How could each organisation present help us?

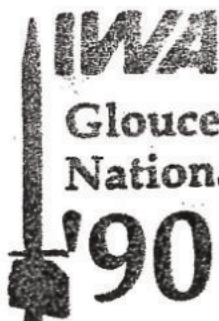
One of the many topics covered was the need for the canal society to have some form of legal agreement to work on sections of the canal, so that our efforts (and hard won money!) were not wasted if, due to subsequent changes in ownership etc., a future landowner was not so sympathetic to our aims. [Details of other items will be given in future issues of **WHARFINGER**].

This latest meeting - with every local authority represented, together with important national bodies, continues to show the immense interest in our current and proposed restoration work on the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal. Much hard work lies ahead, and we must not allow this interest to reduce due to lack of effort on our part.

[Elsewhere in this issue are details of how YOU can help us prepare for our stand at the National waterways Festival at Gloucester in 1990 - an opportunity that we must not fail to turn into a great success!].

GRP





THE INLAND  
WATERWAYS  
ASSOCIATION

13

## Gloucester National Waterways Festival

ONE OF THE AIMS OF THE NATIONAL WATERWAYS FESTIVAL AT GLOUCESTER IN 1990, IS TO "...FOCUS ATTENTION ON RESTORATION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT BY ...THE HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY."

1989 has been the year when we have promoted our canal with great initial success. The National Waterways Festival (the proper title for what many will refer to as the IWA National Rally!) is being held on August Bank Holiday 1990 at Gloucester Docks. This gives us a golden opportunity to build on the successes of 1989 - an opportunity that must not be missed.

If your business (or employer) could sponsor part of our stand, or assist with printing publicity material, or donate (or provide at low cost) suitable items for sale at the National Waterways Festival, then we would like to hear from you now.

Your Committee have established a special Sub Committee to master-mind our display - as usual it is the same handful of people that are doing all the work. This is YOUR opportunity to help - the Sub Committee hope to meet monthly, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, at 7.30 pm at the Antelope Inn, Barton Road, Hereford. Please come along, you will be most welcome. [It might be wise to check with a member of the Committee first in case we have had to change the date or venue].

We need ideas, support and assistance - this is YOUR chance to help us make the most of the magnificent opportunity that we have to put the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal on the map in 1990 (and to raise substantial funds towards restoration and essential feasibility studies), please don't let it slip away. CRP

## A WORKING CHRISTMAS

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Yes and not at double or even single time! On December the 29th members of The Inland Waterways Association WRG will start work on restoring a section of canal at Ashperton. They will start removeing much of the rubbish that has been dumped in the western enterance of the tunnel.

These dedicated volunteers give up their spare time helping our and other restoration groups with their projects. They work in cold damp conditions, they stay in the local parish hall when they could be tucked up in a nice warm bed at home.

They will work on until Jan the first, you are welcome to come along and give a hand at any time if you wish, if not, spare a thought as you tuck into the remains of the turket and settle in the comfort of your favourite chair to the warth of your home fire.

We extend our thanks to the various waterway recovery groups who have played a very active and invaluable part in the restoration of our canal, and we wish them all a very merry chistmas and a happy new year.

Mike Potts





# EVENTS

SOCIAL EVENINGS.

EVERY SECOND THURSDAY  
IN THE MONTH.

THE BLACK DOG  
NEWENT.

(LOUNGE BAR 8-00PM)  
(NO BINGO)



# Gloucester National Waterways Festival

## '90

25th -27th August 1990

GLOUCESTER, an ancient cathedral city and port on the River Severn - now the home of the National Waterways Museum - has been chosen to host the Inland Waterways Association's National Waterways Festival in 1990. The Festival is a celebration of Britain's industrial achievement in the 18th and 19th centuries, the part canals played then together with their new role as an amenity to be enjoyed by young and old.

### AIMS:

1. To publicize the advantages to the inland waterways network of imaginative conservation as exemplified by the restoration of the Gloucester Docks complex.
2. To raise funds for the I.W.A.'s National Waterways Restoration and Development Fund, to assist with waterways projects in various parts of the country.
3. By a varied programme of events, to encourage both young people and the disabled to appreciate and to make use of the facilities available on the inland waterways network.
4. To promote the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal for leisure and commercial use and to focus attention on restoration work being carried out by the Stroudwater-Thames and Severn Canal Trust and the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society.



Those following the exploits of Frank Barton in his endeavour to navigate the Dutch Barge, now named the 'Wye Invader', up the river to Hereford will have been enthralled, as we once were by the improbable achievements of Hereford United in the 1972 Cup Season, or Ian Botham's during the 1982 Test Match series. All knowledgeable advice had been to the effect that there was no way that the 230-ton barge, nearly 40 metres in length, could successfully be brought up the Wye to the proposed resting-place upstream of the old Wye Bridge.

With interest we tracked its course down the English Channel to Falmouth and thence to Penzance, which was reached on March 21st. This was a fine effort, but in view of the hazards of the Lands End tide races presumably this must be its final resting-place.

But then it was reported at Tintern on the 29th. Evidently it had come up on the high tide and, having battled and barged its way under the old bridge, it moored on the left bank of the river. A fine effort, but seeing the hazards of the shallow water ahead, supposedly this must be its final resting-place.

However, on April 7th, having benefitted from a late flood, it had advanced a further eight miles and was parked at Redbrook. A fine effort, but considering the hazards presented by Monmouth Bridge, this must be its final resting-place.

Only two days were to pass before, egged on by half the population of Gwent, it had overcome this obstacle. A fine effort, and in view of the hazards of Symonds Yat Rapids ahead, surely its final resting-place?

Yes, and then the drought did begin to bite; though the barge managed to stagger another mile and a half to Hadnock, here it became stranded for six months. A fine effort, but positively its final resting-place.

And then came the rains. On October 22nd I was able to locate the traveller immediately upstream of the Symonds Yat Rapids and it was soon tied up at the Garth Cottage Hotel. A fine effort, but in view of the

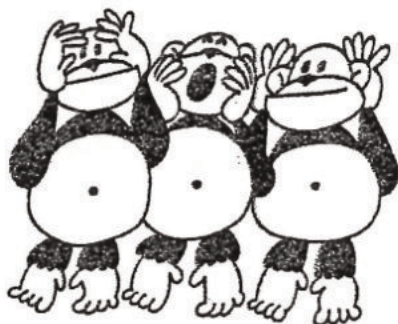
hazards of the large fishing crags at Lydbrook, this will be its final resting-place.

On November 1st, having travelled an incredible fourteen and threequarter miles, it was reported to be attempting to shoot the Wilton Bridge at Ross, cheered on by half of Herefordshire. It failed. A fine effort but, knowing the hazards presented by that bridge, this MUST be its final resting-place.

As I write these lines on November 10th, it has just passed through Wilton Bridge and is secured to the left bank, just before the Rowing Club. A fine effort.....

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The Canal Society has been advised that it cannot restore the Canal. About a mile or so has been cleared in the Monkhide area and a little bit near the Roman Road. A fine effort.....





# INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL WATERWAYS FESTIVAL

GLOUCESTER 1990

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

The Inland Waterways Association (I.W.A.) is a registered charity, over 20,00 members strong, dedicated to the conservation, maintenance and restoration of the British Inland Waterways network. The I.W.A. seeks the conservation of the canals and river navigations of Britain for all its users; it is not just a boating organisation, but it is dedicated to their use by everyone, for both commercial and leisure use.

The success of our activities since our start in 1946 is evident in the existing waterways saved from closure, the restored mileage and the countless people that get pleasure from them by walking, fishing or boating on them. Whilst, unfortunately, the waterways system is no longer used for major commercial carrying, it has become a significant and growing basis for a range of leisure industries.

I am sure you will realise that such a large field of operations take a lot of effort and finance to be effective. The money we require comes from many sources, but the main one is our Annual Festival. This consists of a Trade Show, Arts and Crafts events, a Boat Rally, and a host of satellite entertainments. The Festival, which annually attracts in excess of 80,000 people, is no backyard affair and needs both the commitment of the I.W.A. and the help of local people, organisations and businesses to make it happen and to be successful.

In 1990 the Festival will be held over the holiday weekend of 25th-27th August, based on the Gloucester Docks area and the Ship Canal, with the major activities and Trade Show on Castle Meads. The organisation is in the hands of the local branch of the I.W.A., that for Gloucestershire. The actual planning and control of the Festival is in the hands of an Operations team of some fifteen Department Managers, all volunteers, working in their spare time.

DAVID WILKINSON

## SALES

### BOOKS:

"The Hereford and Gloucester Canal"

by DAVID BICK

The hard backed book of our Canal.....£5.50

"The Dairy of a Rowing Tour from Oxford to  
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.....£1.99

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

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BUY A SOCIETY T-SHIRT, SWEATSHIRT OR POLO SHIRT  
Printed; "Help restore the Hereford & Gloucester  
Canal". T-Shirts & Sweatshirts in Black & Gold  
print.

Double knit: 24-26" 28-30" 32"..£4.50 S M L..£5.50  
Sweatshirt: 26" 28" 30" 32"...£8.95 S M L..£9.95

Polo Shirt in Navy with Gold print. Short Sleeved  
with pocket. Adult sizes only. S M L..£9.75  
Some sizes to order, we have limited stock.

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