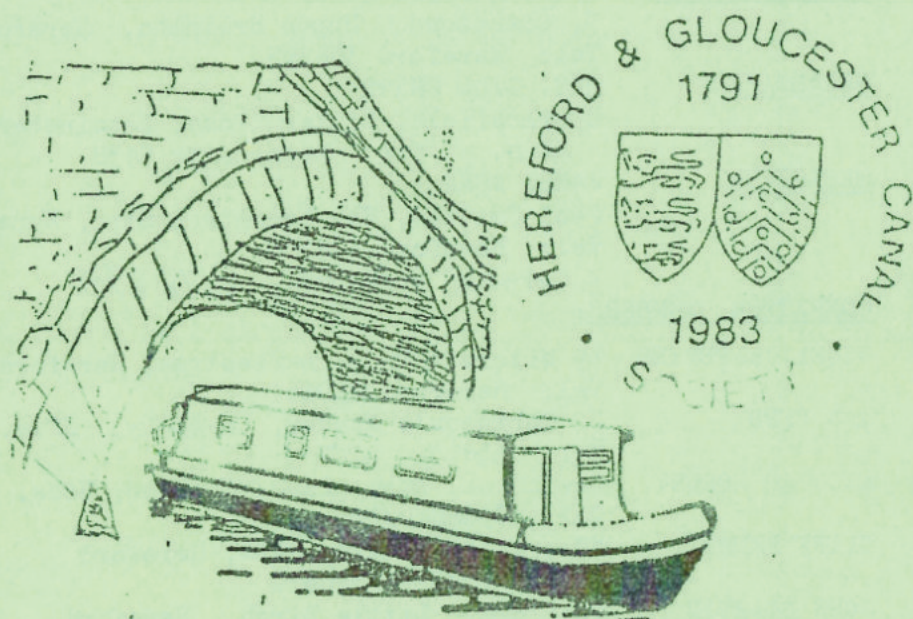


THE WHARFINGER



40p

Edition No 26
Spring 1990

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BAKE US A CAKE?

We were very kindly presented with several cakes to sell at the National Waterways Rally last year. They were all sold within the first hour of setting up.

If we can find enough members, friends and volunteers to offer to bake us one or more cakes each this would help our dwindling funds greatly. We have already been offered a number. We will provide payment for the ingredients used.

We would need to receive or arrange collection a couple of days prior to August Bank holiday Saturday, (the 25th).

If you are willing to provide any cakes please let us know shortly.

Please ask your friends, are you a member of The Womens Institute, yes, are any of your colleagues willing to help?

Mike Potts.



EVENTS



AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT!

Outings proposed for this summer.

MAY

A visit to the Birmingham Science Museum and steam rally. A gathering of steam traction engines, minature engines, various other steam vehicles and steam launches on the canal here. The museum exhibits are also in steam that day, including the pumping engine pumping water into the canal. The event is usually free but the fee for the coach is £4.00 Tickets available shortly, see below.
DATE SUNDAY MAY the 13th.

JUNE

COACH TOUR AND CANAL CRUISE. Usually very popular, book early, last year i had to turn many away and arrange a second trip (also popular).
this years outing will be to view the progress being made on the restoration of the two Droitwich canals and to cruise along the Worcester to Birmingham canal. We will cruise on one of the Dartlines boats as we did last year on the Shropshire canal, but this boat will only carry 42 people so we are limited to this number only. The total cost for Coach and cruise will be £8.00 per head.

DATE SUNDAY JUNE the 10th *

* I will have to book the boat shortly, before I sell the tickets, once booked cannot be cancelled. Therefore please purchase your tickets early so that any spares can be sold on in order that a loss is not made.



JULY

Coach tour and RAILWAY RIDE on the Severn Valley Railway from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth. View and enjoy this magnificent restored railway. Your train ticket will enable to board and leave at any station during the day. Do take a look at the pretty station at Arley.

The cost, mainly being the rail ticket, includes the coach trip is £10.00

But for this you can ride all day.

DATE SUNDAY JULY 15th (5 engines in steam this day)



OTHER PROPOSED OUTINGS:

A TRIP TO THE NATIONAL TRAMWAY MUSEUM AT CRICH IN DERBYSHIRE. NO DATE YET.

AN AFTERNOON TEA TRIP ON THE SHROPSHIRE UNION CANAL. Repeat of the very popular one last year.

These will depend upon the support of the others. Most of our outings (with a cruise) have been very popular so this year I have selected a much larger variety, please support them. The cost have risen this year and I am afraid the charges above relate this. Last years outings did JUST pay for theirseves, but only just. This relies on me selling every single ticket. If I advertise in the press i need to sell another half dozen or so tickets just to pay for the advert without putting anything into the trip costs. So this year I have had to make a small allowance towards this, never the less I am sure that you will find as always they are good value for money for a very full day out.

Any profit made will go to the Society's funds.

N.B. N.B. N.B.

THE NATIONAL WATERWAYS FESTIVAL AT GLOUCESTER
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY. SEE OUR STAND THERE.

COACH FROM LEOMINSTER, HEREFORD & LEDBURY or ROSS
SEE NEXT WHARFINGIR

CANOEING ON THE BRECON CANAL.

Any canoeing members of the society may be interested in joining the Hereford County Canoe Club for a canoe/camping weekend on the upper reaches of the Brecon canal.

A leisurely paddle amid beautiful country - side is assured - 1989 weather is not! The date being; 14th - 15th July.

Anyone interested please contact Richard Morley on Kingsland 470 nearer the time.

Richard Morley.

JOIN THE COMMITTEE NOW

Come along to the Annual General Meeting soon and take an active part in the society.

We need more members on the general committee and also to join in with our sub committees to organaise events or work parties/camps.

Please use the nomination form enclosed. or ask your friends.

.....

Our social evenings arranged for a Thursday each month at the Black Dog at Newenthave not really got off the ground. For one reason or another it seems a bad night for this. We will have to arrange a different night shortly. You are ,ore than welcome to come along to one of our sub committee meetings held at the antelope Inn in Barton Road Hereford. Contact one of the committee for the date.

.....

BIAS

Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society

Membership Secretary

Roy Webber
9 Long Acres Close
Coombe Dingle
Bristol BS9 2RF
(0272) 681954

21st January 1990

Dear Mr. Barnes,

I apologise for the delay in writing to you but various other things seemed to always frustrate my good intentions.

The purpose of writing is to record that on 12th November 1989 a party of 12 persons from BIAS visited the show bridge over the Hereford and Gloucester canal at Monkshide. The day was spent visiting remaining sites on the canal and the show bridge was of special interest and well worth seeing.

It is well worthy of preserving, long may it remain.

Yours sincerely,

Roy Webber

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

MARCH 1990

FRIDAY 16TH 7.30PM.

I W A GLOUCESTERSHIRE. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
THE NATIONAL WATERWAYS MUSEUM GLOUCESTER DOCKS
(SCHOOL ROOM)

APRIL 1990

THURSDAY 19TH 7.30PM. A FRIENDS EVENT.

SEVERN SCRAPBOOK, A TALK BY FRED ROWE. ~~BATH~~
THE NATIONAL WATERWAYS MUSEUM GLOUCESTER DOCKS
(SCHOOL ROOM)

MAY 1990

SATURDAY 12TH GLOS 90 TRIP IN CONJUNCTION
WITH SOUTH WEST REGION. COACH FROM NATIONAL WATERWAYS
MUSEUM TO HAW BRIDGE. JOIN TRIP BOAT "HEATHER SPRAY"
FOR THE RETURN JOURNEY TO GLOS DOCKS.

COST ADULTS £6.00 CHILDREN £4.00

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM; MS R EAMES 18 CLEVELAND
COURT, BATHWICK COURT, BATH, AVON BA2 6JU

TEL 0225 465572 OR

MS K JENNINGS 1 FRAZER COURT MOORFIELD STREET
HEREFORD HR4 9JL

TUESDAY 22ND 7.30PM.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
FOLLOWED BY RESTORATION COMEDY, AN ACCOUNT OF
THE FRIENDS AT WORK BY TONY CONDOR & DAVID
MC DOUGHALL. THE NATIONAL WATERWAYS MUSEUM
GLOUCESTER DOCKS. (SCHOOL ROOM)



**The Inland
Waterways
Association**

COMMITTEE MATTERS

Your Canal Society Committee meets monthly. Major issues have been reported in Wharfinger in the past as individual items (and will continue to be reported in this way; such as the Christmas Work Camp and the article on the need for action to avoid the Canal being blocked by the two roads at Hereford). However, it has been suggested that we should carry a regular brief report of what is being discussed in Committee in the Wharfinger:-

January Committee:

Among the many topics covered were:-

* The need for better organisation of Canal Work Camps. In the past we have relied on a single Committee Member to do all the organisation and "supervision" - one of those jobs where, until you have done it, you do not appreciate how much work is involved! A sub-committee has now been formed and the first draft of a form that acts as a check list of the (many) things that need to be done if a Work Camp is to be properly organised has been produced.

* The National Waterways Festival, to be held at Gloucester Docks on August Bank Holiday, is another important matter which has been entrusted to a sub-committee, details of which were "advertised" in the previous edition of Wharfinger (page 13) and are repeated elsewhere in this issue. This is a unique opportunity for us to promote the Canal Society and the restoration of the Canal - we must make the most of the opportunities that the "National" at Gloucester presents to us.

* David Penny (who has recently been co-opted on to the Committee) has written an article on the Canal which he hopes will be published in the September edition of "Canal and Riverboat" magazine - on sale during the National Waterways Festival.

...continued

11

COMMITTEE MATTERS.....continued

* Membership subscriptions have not been increased for many years. Following authorisation from the last AGM, modest increases were agreed - further details will be given at the next AGM (details of the AGM are elsewhere in this issue).

* The print quality of Wharfinger was discussed. Thanks to the valiant efforts of Mike Potts each issue costs only a few pounds. However, for the majority of Members it was the only regular contact that they have; it was agreed that we should improve the printing - can any reader help us?

February Committee:

* Arrangements for another WRG Work Camp, at the end of February, were discussed in detail.

* Further aspects of the Canal Society's presence at the Gloucester "Rally" were discussed, including prospects for sponsorship.

* Three Committee Members met Sir John Knill, a Member of the Canal Society and a founder Member of the Inland Waterways Association - he was also a "Number One" (owner/"operator" of a narrow boat pair) immediately after the war. Further details of this meeting will be released later in the year.

* Hereford City Council and Gloucester City Council have resolved to give a grant of £500 each towards an appeal that our Chairman launched late last year for donations towards our own plant and equipment - to reduce plant hire costs.

* It was agreed that our objective to become a Charitable Trust (being run as a limited liability Company) must be pursued - the Inland Waterways Association have already agreed to fund the costs involved and a number of local authorities have made it clear that they would be better able to assist a Charitable Trust.

CRP

IWAWATERWAYS
ASSOCIATION

Gloucester National Waterways Festival

'90

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

Waterway Recovery Group - Hereford & Gloucester
Canal Society Christmas Canal Camp 1989.

Do you think of navvying as a fair weather occupation? If you do, you may be surprised to learn that a group of volunteers were packing their overalls and wellingtons while you were finishing the turkey ready to set out to work on the H & G on boxing day.

Rather than put up with the relatives and turkey yet again, we had volunteered to spend time in the fresh air and do something constructive. Although our original task to clear out the west end of Ashperton tunnel had had to be postponed, we found plenty to do on Major Barnes's section at Monkhide.

With a hired J C B large amounts of dredgings, which have been a feature of Crews Pitch for some time, were removed and the site levelled. Drainage ditches were cut to allow neighbouring fields to drain into the canal both at Crews Pitch and also at Middle Court Bridge. There we found a pipe which had formerly gone under the towpath and new pipes were laid to allow the towpath to dry out.

A fallen tree was removed from the canal which allowed Jackie to discover that H&G water is not too warm! Perhaps the work which will be most obvious in the future is the slipway which we built. This still needs a further section of concrete when water levels drop (we didn't bring snorkels to allow under-water work) but should allow boats to be launched into the canal. Hopefully someone will rush forward and arrange an open day and trail boat rally in the very near future. A restored canal needs to be used so that the public appreciate why we are restoring the canal.

Bob Dewey

PS If YOU always wanted to help - but didn't know how (we have volunteers of every age,

Waterway Recovery Group cont..

both sexes and both skilled and unskilled) we hope that you will join us at Easter or at a subsequent weeken. Details from; Laurie Lavender Coach House Gussage All Saints Wimbourne Dorset.

Dtes from previous list, please check before attending.

FRIDAY - SUNDAY 23rd - 25th FEB

EASTER WEEKEND

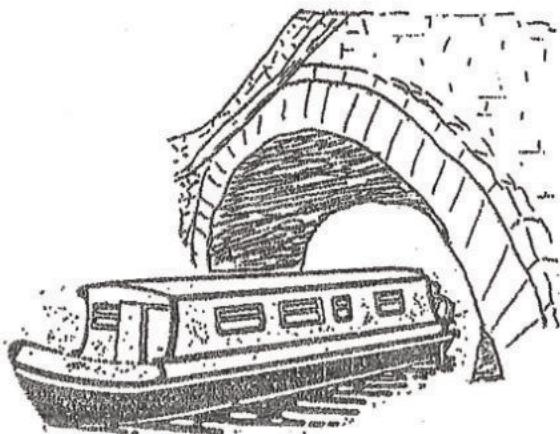
THURSDAY APRIL 12th - MONDAY APRIL 16th

FRIDAY 15th JUNE - SUNDAY JUNE 17th

CANAL CAMP

SATURDAY 21st JULY - SATURDAY 29th JULY

Dont forget the Society's work parties each first Sunday in the month.



PROMOTIONS DAY
"FOLLOW UP" MEETING

The last WHARFINGER (pages 11 & 12) contained details of our highly successful liaison meetings, held last year, with the 5 District and City Councils, and 2 County Councils, through whose area the Canal travels on its 34 mile route between Hereford & Gloucester.

We promised to tell you more about the benefits that have arisen from these meetings. The highly respected firm of Consulting Engineers, Messrs John Burrow and Partners, have just completed, free of charge, an initial ("desk-top") Feasibility Study into the problems and prospects for the restoration of the Canal, from the crossing of the River Lugg, right into the City of Hereford.

This length has been investigated since because of the prospects of development within the City obliterating the Canal route and, in addition, the proposed Roman Road highway improvements and the new A49 Hereford Bypass, will both completely obstruct the Canal.

Our Planning/Local Authority Liaison Officer, Cliff Penny, makes the point "a restored Canal, ultimately linking the City of Hereford to Gloucester (and the national inland waterways network), is something that is winning rapidly increasing support. The long-term benefits of canals to the community (NOT just boaters) is being recognised throughout the country. However, if the two road schemes obstruct the Canal then the expensive crossing of the River Lugg would be very hard to justify - so the Canal would almost certainly have to terminate at Withington. Whilst I don't wish to be rude to the inhabitants - the concept of linking Withington to the national waterways network does not have the same appeal as getting right to Hereford!"

continued

PROMOTIONS DAY
"FOLLOW UP" MEETINGS.....continued

We believe the restored Canal might also provide a much needed land drainage facility for the City, and possibly help to relieve the flooding problems, recently evident, in the Edgar Street area.

The Consultants preliminary Report generally agreed with our views. Whilst restoration to the west of Aylestone Tunnel has some particularly difficult hurdles to overcome, the problems to the east of the Tunnel are believed to be substantially less onerous provided provision is made for the Canal to pass under both the improved Roman Road and the new A49 Hereford Bypass.

Hereford City Council are planning a new City Park, in the Aylestone Hill area, alongside the Canal. We have pointed out that the restored Canal would ultimately provide a "linear water feature" for the City Park.

It has also been proposed by the Canal Society that the former towpath of the Canal could form a route for a public footpath/cycleway, linking both the Aylestone Hill and College Road areas of the City to the Sutton St. Nicholas road, passing under both the Roman Road and the new Bypass. Provided that the bridges are added to the road designs before tenders are let the additional costs will be very small.

The County Council have a policy of promoting new public footpaths, and the City of seeking cycleways away from the road network, so we have asked the Councils to support our requests for bridges to be provided where the two roads cross the Canal route. If these bridges are not provided then the whole concept of restoration of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal is clearly at risk.

Progress will be reported in Wharfinger.

CRP

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

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

HOW TO LOOK AFTER YOUR TERRARIUM

Many hours of work will have gone into the creation of your terrarium. A few minutes of your time in caring for the terrarium, and the plants within it, should give you many years of pleasure and ensure that it is a talking point wherever you display it...

POSITION is important.

Help your plants to remain healthy by avoiding excessive draughts, direct sunlight or excessive shade and do not place the terrarium too close to a direct source of heat.

[Caution - whilst your terrarium will almost certainly have been constructed and tested to be watertight, please take care if you place it on a polished surface.]

CLEANING the glass.

You should not use normal window cleaning liquids as these frequently contain ammonia which will harm not only your plants but also the patina on the terrarium seams. Most of the time a careful polish with a clean lint free cloth (or paper kitchen towels) will leave the glass sparkling clean. If essential, stubborn marks can usually be removed using a minute quantity of washing-up liquid.

Occasional very gentle cleaning of the terrarium seams with a moist soft cloth will keep the special patina

finish in optimum condition. [Do not use any form of metal polish, unless the seams are polished solder (silver coloured).] Some natural discolouration (ageing) of the patina may take place where it is adjacent to the moisture of the soil.

PLANT care.

Watering is probably the most important item to ensure the success of the plants in your terrarium. Only water sparingly when the soil looks dry or at the first sign of any of the plants drooping. DO NOT OVER WATER. Occasionally spray the leaves of your plants - before you clean the glass!

Pruning of vigorous growth may become necessary to avoid a single plant "taking over" the whole terrarium. This can be beneficial especially if young growth can be encouraged to shoot from the base of the plant. [If there is a centre "specimen" plant it may need replacing from time to time as it may not be suitable for pruning (do not throw it away, pot it up as a specimen house plant!)]]. Do not be afraid to be quite brutal with your pruning - if the plant should die, or become unattractive, it is a relatively simple matter to replace one (or all) of your plants. A very infrequent application of a small quantity of pot plant fertiliser ("Baby Bio" or similar) will help to sustain your plants in peak condition.

PLANT replacement.

Eventually your plants will need replacing, or you may just wish to ring the changes! When you change your plants:-

- * Be careful in your choice;
- * Only use very slow growing plants;
- * Use a suitable potting compost (not soil);
- * Place within it some pieces of charcoal - the secret ingredient that keeps the soil "sweet".

CHRISTMAS WORK CAMP

Wednesday, 27th December 1989 was a day when many would have been recovering from the excesses of Christmas - however a small group of Waterways Recovery Group volunteers, lead by Laurie Lavender from Dorset, chose to start a 5 day Work Camp on our Canal at Crews Pitch, some 6 miles east of Hereford.

Two bays of a reinforced concrete slipway were constructed by the team, assisted by the Society's Vice President and local land-owner Major Robert Barnes. They also restored two obstructed land drainage outlets, not only improving the drainage of the adjacent fields, but also providing two additional sources of water to the restored section of canal.

At short notice, and during what is traditionally the long Christmas and New Year break in the construction industry, one of our Committee Members managed to arrange the hire of a self-drive JCB excavator for the Camps last 3 days. Laurie Lavender is a skilled driver of such machines and, apart from the ditching and trench digging work associated with the drainage tasks, his skill also enabled the removal of a large volume of spoil from the towpath at Crews Pitch, greatly enhancing this area.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP DECISION

The Canal Society Committee decided, at its January meeting, to award an Honorary Membership of the Canal Society to Waterways Recovery Group Leader Laurie Lavender. This is in recognition of the continuing hard work that Laurie has undertaken, both on the physical restoration of the Canal as well as "behind the scenes" organising Work Camps.

CRP



BOOKS:

SALES

"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 ... £1.00
Various designs, please ring for details.

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

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.

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