

THE WHARFINGER



**Newsletter of the Herefordshire &
Gloucestershire Canal Society**

40p
free to Members

Edition 28
Autumn 1990

WHO DOES WHAT . . .

VICE PRESIDENT	R E Barnes TD
CHAIRMAN	Cliff Penny
VICE CHAIRMAN	Mike Potts
TREASURER	Karen McKay
MINUTES SECRETARY	Nigel Jefferies
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Gwyn ("Steve") Stephens

RESTORATION ORGANISATION

MANAGER	Laurie Lavender
Team:	Mike Potts, Ian Reed, Brian Fox

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MANAGER	Nigel Jefferies
Team:	Karen McKay

FUND-RAISING AND SALES

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Team:	Tony Austin-Bailey, Ian Reed, Derek Gray, David Penny

PLANT MAINTENANCE

MANAGER/TRAINING	Laurie Lavender
Team:	Bob Palmer, Ian Reed

THE WHARFINGER

EDITOR	Mike Potts
Team:	Cliff Penny, David Penny

SOCIAL SECRETARY Kay Jennings

HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST Nigel Jefferies, James Dunn

RECYCLING ORGANISER Laurie Lavender

IWA / WATERWAYS LIAISON Graham Ettles

HONORARY POSTS:-

SOLICITOR Sue Newbold STRUCTURAL ENGINEER Ron Munden
CONSERVATION ADVISOR to be appointed

For addresses and telephone numbers please see CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

GLOUCESTER '90

The National Waterways Festival at Gloucester, to be held over the August Bank Holiday (August 25th-27th, 1990), presents us with many opportunities. One is the chance to meet many of our Members, to discuss our progress and future prospects and, just to say "hello". Another is to show land owners and the local authorities just what we are up to. It is a golden opportunity to build on the recent "Promotion Day" meetings and to expand on our various representations and requests for support. Our Sales area will contain a number of new items and our ever popular "bottle stall" will offer excellent opportunities for a very good value prize. We are determined to recruit a lot of new Members too! Above all else it is a rare chance for us to promote the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal, *close to the Canal*, on a scale that has not been possible before.

The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society display (an individual 20ft. square tent) should be located in the midst of what is otherwise an open trade display area, on a central isle, close to the main pedestrian entrance from the car and coach park.

Our determination to succeed, our dedication - the increasing professionalism of our organisation - we hope that it will all be on display in a manner that is of interest to all. **Please call in and see us.**

FREE PRIZE DRAW

All existing Members (and those who join during the Festival) will be entitled to enter a FREE prize draw, with valuable prizes, when they visit our stand. All you have to do is complete a short questionnaire, to enable us to update our records and find out what you think we do well (and badly), and pop it in the special box on the stand. Further details elsewhere in this issue.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS...(ii)

THANK YOU

This National Waterways Festival edition of **Wharfinger** presents me with an opportunity to say a sincere "thank you" to the many people, outside our Society, who have specifically contributed towards our presence at Gloucester. Sufficient to say that mounting a display costs time and money. Both are in short supply! So the contributions of organisations, large and small, are gratefully acknowledged. A list appears elsewhere in this issue and will be featured as part of our display.

To our small band of Members that have created, and will "man" our display, your efforts are not taken for granted (it just seems like it!) - *thank you.*

WHARFINGER

This special edition of **Wharfinger** contains a number of regular features plus details of our proposals for the Festival at Gloucester. I hope that some of the problems that infiltrated our last edition will have been eliminated - if this edition is not perfect then *please* remember that we are all VOLUNTEERS, we are not intending to be in competition with **Canal and Riverboat, Waterways World** etc. - we all have demanding "day jobs" too; the Canal Society does not pay the mortgage!

The primary objective of **Wharfinger** is to try and ensure that our Members are kept informed, hopefully in an interesting and "readable" manner. A secondary role is to promote the work of the Canal Society. We hope that non members seeing a copy will wish to join. Obviously, certain standards are necessary if we are to succeed.

As with all we do we are constantly striving to do it better. Whether it be with pen or spade, it is only with *your* continued help and support that we *will* succeed.

Cliff Penny, Chairman/Liaison Officer

COMMITTEE MATTERS

In recent editions of **Wharfinger** our Chairman gave you a synopsis of what had been discussed at recent Committee meetings - this edition does not escape from his ever active pen...

JUNE COMMITTEE

* The IWA Solicitors had submitted slightly modified papers to the Society for consideration in respect of the formation of a Charitable Trust. This was because the previous IWA draft had been the subject of some changes by the Charity Commission in respect of a recent Canal Trust formation. There was some discussion regarding the initial directors of the non profit distributing company, the most appropriate registered office and in respect of a suitable company secretary.

* Extensive liaison was reported between the Chairman and senior Officers of the IWA regarding the threat to restoration posed by the Roman Road improvement scheme at Hereford (where a perfectly sound canal bridge - minus parapet railings - currently exists over the Canal). It was agreed that an informal meeting be sought, at senior level, with the County Council.

* The Society had been represented at a recent meeting of the organising committee for the National Waterways Festival. It was clear that the event was going to exceed previous records. Progress within your own sub committee - master-minding our display [see elsewhere in this issue!] - was reported in detail.

* Hereford and Worcester County Council had consulted the Canal Society on their proposed County Countryside Recreational Strategy - a proposed policy document that would identify the potential of informal recreational assets and plan for the next ten years. A detailed submission by the Chairman was fully endorsed.

COMMITTEE MATTERS ... (ii)

* The Committee received initial details of the Hereford and Worcester Minerals policy document, which had just been issued for public consultation. Two of the sites extended over the line of the Canal - one to a potentially serious extent. It was decided that the Chairman should write to the County Council reminding them of the various "protective" planning policies in respect of the line of the Canal. An outright objection to the proposals would only be made if the line of the Canal, and future restoration, was threatened.

* The Vice Chairman (Mike Potts) reported some difficulties in the production of the last edition of **Wharfinger** largely due to late submissions of material and lack of a comprehensive, quality, word processing facility. This meant that our much improved print quality was not fully matched by the content. However, it was agreed that the kind offer of a Member in Swindon to produce "camera ready" work, for printing by Dŵr Cymru-Welsh Water, should be taken up for the next issue.

* Due to lack of support, the recent coach and boat trip to Droitwich and Birmingham had not made any profit. Mike Potts was thanked for his considerable efforts in organising these events which were excellent value and much appreciated by those who did attend.

* The Restoration Manager (Laurie Lavender) reported steady progress on the replacement/restoration of the non-towpath wall and coping stones under Skew Bridge at Monkhide. The last of the fallen trees (from the winter gales) had been cleared in the Monkhide area. Plans were discussed for a weekend Work Camp in mid June by the Waterway Recovery Group BITM (Bit In The Middle!).

* Stephen Fitzmaurice, an active Member of our Committee, had received promotion in the "day job" and, unfortunately, that would take him out of the area. He hoped to assist whenever possible. Thank you, Stephen.

COMMITTEE MATTERS ...(iii)

JULY COMMITTEE

* The Chairman reported that there was now little chance of the formation of the Charitable Trust being completed, as we had hoped, prior to the National Waterways Festival. The IWA Solicitors who had been exceedingly helpful and had dealt with all matters promptly. There were so many fundamental decisions to be made regarding the precise method of future operation of our activities that it was agreed that it was better to proceed slowly and get it right; it was also agreed that we would liaise with some of the established Canal Trusts to examine a number of the options available to us...we will keep you fully informed on this important issue.

* Formal "Orders" had just been published in respect of the route of the proposed A49 Hereford Bypass. No provision had been made for the Canal where the road would cross the line. However, the formal "Environmental Statement" did make specific reference to the Canal and made it clear that the road was at an elevation that would permit future restoration of the Canal. As the deadline for formal objections was October it was decided to await progress on imminent discussions with the Hereford and Worcester County Council regarding the Bridge at Roman Road. The Chairman was also pursuing other aspects in consultation with the Vice Chairman.

* A further meeting of the National Waterways Festival organisation committee was reported and it was decided that our own monthly preparatory meetings should be increased to fortnightly - much work to be done!

* The Society had been approached by an "action group", opposed to the proposed County Council Minerals Plan (in respect of a specific site) - the Chairman's action in providing general details of our objectives, but in stressing our neutral stance (subject to the line of the Canal being protected), was strongly endorsed.

COMMITTEE MATTERS...(iv)

* Our Chairman, and the Restoration Manager, had taken the Chairman (and some Council Members) of the Waterway Recovery Group to see prospective Work Camp sites. Some were considered suitable for future WRG Camps (subject to confirmation). As the tour included a substantial length of "towpath" covered in 6ft. high stinging nettles, and another section where absailing techniques might have been appropriate, the favourable response from WRG was all the more appreciated!

* Another social event had received exceedingly poor support in spite of fairly extensive advertising in **Wharfinger** and externally. This was the visit to the Severn Valley Railway. In order to cut our losses it was decided to cancel the event and refund payments. Future proposals would be reconsidered by the Social Secretary (Kay Jennings) and Mike Potts.

* It was reported that the Ledbury Venture Scouts were willing to undertake a specific restoration task for the Canal Society (subject to final agreement with the land owners and general guidance from the Society) - this initiative was enthusiastically received. More details in a future issue.

* A regular contributor to the magazine **Waterways World** had approached the Vice Chairman for background information about the Canal in respect of an article that he was hoping would be published in the September edition. It was hoped this independent article would complement that written by David Penny (being carried in **Canal and Riverboat** September edition).

* Thanks to a number of our Members, and to the loan of a suitable trailer by **Wilderness Boats** of Corsham, Wiltshire, the boat donated by Sir John Knill - "Mallard" - had been collected and placed near the Canal awaiting restoration and fitting out. The Chairman had thanked Sir John for his generous and welcome gift. **CRP**

THE HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE WHAT ?

An introduction to the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society.

A small group of enthusiasts called a public meeting in 1983 to try to form a society to preserve and restore parts of the long closed canal. They were very surprised by the response and the society was formed. Very humble beginnings to explore, preserve, clear towpaths and possibly restore sections of this rural canal.

Within a few weeks permission had been given to restore the first section. First of all the towpath was cleared and a preliminary dredging took place. In December 1984 we purchased a small dumper, a modest start but quite useful. In June 1985 we held our first open day, quite a small event really but never the less a start. The public were becoming aware of us and the canal. Local knowledge of the canals existence was very limited but was now starting to grow, much effort had gone into public awareness.

June 1986 saw the restoration of Tunnel Cottage Ashperton. This belongs to one of our members, he had purchased this very derelict property and restored it carefully, we were invited to place one of the society's plaques on the building. These plaques, made by one of our committee are now appearing on many sites along the length of the canal, marking out its line.

June 1987 saw our second open day, the first canal section was now dredged and made navigable. This event was much more successful and the attendance much more than expected, over 1,000 people visited the site, press and TV coverage gave us much publicity.

H & G WHAT ? cont.

The first boat was launched on the canal for over a century, the canal began to live again. Christmas 1988 saw our first visit by one of the waterway recovery groups, we have received a great deal of very useful assistance from them on numerous occasions since.

The society has received much help, morally, supportively and financially from the Inland Waterways Association. Welsh Water has given us much help and support and so have many others.

We have visited a number of canals our first being a cruise on a restored stretch of the Kennet and Avon Canal in June 1986. We have also had many canal side walks and other events. We have attended the National Waterway Rally festivals at Coventry, Manchester, Waltham Abbey and this year at Gloucester. We are becoming known on the waterway map of the country, more and more owners are giving us permission to restore their sections of the canal.

In 1989 we held two canal promotional days where we invited members from local councils, tourist organisations, parish councils and British Waterways to examine our project. We had a coach tour to view sites along the canal and two meetings to view our restoration programme. We had some time ago agreed that we should have the ultimate aim of full restoration, whether or not we ever make it remains to be seen but we must try. We have since received a great deal of support from the members attending these two meetings.

We are about to become a charitable trust, the documents are at present with the charity commission.

H & G WHAT ? cont.

A trip boat has been donated to the society and restoration work will take place during the winter hopefully to make it available for our next open day/weekend in 1991.

Come and join us if you are not already a member, visit our canal, see what beautiful countryside it passes through.

Please be aware that almost all of our canal is in private ownership and it is only with the co-operation of these land owners that we can restore this waterway. Please do not trespass and keep to the country code.

Mike Potts

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WORKING PARTY DATES 1990

Saturday/Sunday 15/16th September.

(London Waterway Recovery Group). Work site to be arranged.

Saturday/Sunday 6/7th October.

NEWENT - clearance work.

Saturday/Sunday 10/11th November.

ASHPERTON TUNNEL AREA - clearance work.

Every first Sunday in each month. We welcome volunteers to assist with our restoration work. Please contact the Restoration Manager, Laurie Lavender, on Hereford (0432) 268123, in advance of the date in question to confirm arrangements.

The Canal Society wishes to thank the **Land Owners** (and neighbours) without whose co-operation our work would not be possible.

GLouceSTER '90

Our display at the National Waterways Festival at Gloucester this year has, in no small part, been made possible by the generous help of many firms, both large and small. We wish to thank them all for their help towards making 'GLouceSTER '90' our most successful publicity and fund-raising event to date (we hope!).

Main Sponsors:-

Allprint Supplies, Slough;

Hereford Map Centre;

IWA Rallies Limited;

Jewsons, Hereford;

Roland (UK) Ltd, Brentford;

★ ★ and:- ★ ★

Inland Waterways Association
[Gloucester Branch];

★ ★ also:- ★ ★

Folly Lane Stores, Hereford; M. & G. Stores, Hereford; Normans Supermarket, Withington;
J. Sainsbury, Hereford; Tanners Wines; Three Counties Bookshop, Ledbury; Threshers, Ledbury;
Whitecross Stores, Hereford.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This list contains only those who have finally confirmed their willingness to help us by the end of July. Those offering their assistance after this date (or those that I have mislaid in my mind [forgotten!]) will be thanked in the next (winter) issue of the Wharfinger.

David R. Penny.

FREE[★] DRAW

Just by visiting the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society stand at the National Waterways Festival

[and completing a short questionnaire, available on our stand]

Members[★] can enter our **FREE DRAW**

VALUABLE PRIZES

WHY? ★ We would like to see you

★ We want YOUR views

★ We wish to encourage NEW MEMBERS[★]

ALL PRIZES MUST BE WON

FIRST PRIZE:

BLACK & DECKER HOME SAFETY KIT

containing :-

*Kindly
donated
by our
Chairman,
Cliff Penny.*

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FIRE EXTINGUISHER**

Including batteries, full instructions & fixings.

**RETAIL
VALUE
£ 40**

SECOND PRIZE: 35 mm COMPACT CAMERA

Kindly donated by HEREFORD AND MONMOUTH CAMERA CENTRES.

THIRD PRIZE: A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE

Kindly donated by TANNERS WINES

RULES: *Only one entry per Member; Family Membership & Corporate Membership is regarded as TWO Members.*

Entry is CONDITIONAL on the QUESTIONNAIRE being FULLY COMPLETED by the Member AT the FESTIVAL.

Postal entries are NOT acceptable. Committee Members (and their family) are not eligible. THE DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE AT 4.45pm on MONDAY 27th AUGUST.

Questionnaires will be drawn from the box and prizes awarded in order, commencing with the first prize.

**★NEW
MEMBERS
ALSO
ELIGIBLE**

VANDALS!

Perhaps it was inevitable that we would be subjected to some form of vandalism as our activities expanded. There have been a number of incidents in the Monkhide area during recent months.

Coping stones that had been carefully removed 24 hours prior to a weekend Work Camp, ready for realignment and re-bedding, were in the bottom of the Canal by the next morning (just another challenge immediately resolved by *the ladies* from WRG getting rather wet!) - supplies of sand for bricklaying pushed into "the cut" - a bag of cement (rather foolishly left by the Canal Society near the Canal) met with the same fate a few weeks later. Stop planks, barrow boards, bricks and anything else in the vicinity have all ended up in the Canal.

The County Council erected a new "no tipping" sign for us near Middle Court Bridge (to deter the slightly older "vandals" from depositing garden and builders rubbish) - this is now the target for the local air rifles. Whilst some likely offenders have been encouraged to join us and use up their excess of energy in a positive manner this has had little effect. Reluctantly, therefore, the Police have now been advised of all of the incidents and of the fact that, where Canal Society property is involved, we *will* seek prosecution of the offenders.

CRP

"THE HEREFORD and GLOUCESTER CANAL" by David Bick

The hard back account of "our" Canal, first published in 1979, is now becoming hard to obtain. The Author has advised us that it is *exceedingly unlikely* that it will be reprinted in the foreseeable future. (The costs of publishing such specialist limited sale books have escalated). We will have *our last remaining copies* on sale at the Festival. To assist our fund raising the few remaining will be for sale with a requested premium. CRP

WITH A LITTLE HELP . . .

In May of 1989 the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society held a "Promotion Day" to which local authority Officers and Members were invited, along with representatives of British Waterways, Department of Transport, Welsh Water, Tourist Boards etc. Both of the County Councils were represented, as were each of the 5 local authorities along the 34 mile length of the Canal. After a tour of notable points along the Canal our guests were entertained to lunch at the National Waterways Museum at Gloucester Docks. In the afternoon we had a number of presentations, mainly about canal restoration. One of the speakers was our (now) Chairman - here is an extract from his talk (slightly updated)...

With a little help from a lot of people (Inland Waterways Association, Waterway Recovery Group, local authorities, Dŵr Cymru-Welsh Water, National Rivers Authority (Welsh Region), Morbain Construction, Messrs John Burrow and Partners (Consulting Engineers), businesses on the new Roman Road estate in Hereford, landowners - as I said, a lot of people (and the list is certainly far from complete) - the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society have made a good *start*, at a number of locations, in their work towards restoration of the Canal. Roman Road (Hereford) and Newent have seen a limited amount of work, whilst the Crews Pitch/Monkhide area has been the subject of *many* hours of hard *VOLUNTEER* labour.

Much needs to be done before we will be satisfied. However, areas of previously overgrown *inaccessible* "wilderness" are slowly becoming more recognisable as a canal. In particular, the *heritage* of the famous brick skew bridge at Monkhide (reputed to be the "skewest" on the inland waterways system) has been preserved and opened up to public view*. Due to the persistence of the Canal Society this remarkable bridge was eventually "Listed" by the DoE. *A lot of people helping a little here and there is beginning to produce results.*

*THERE IS NO PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ALONG THE TOWPATH AT THIS LOCATION.

WITH A LITTLE HELP...(ii)

The support of Hereford City Council and Malvern Hills District Council in adopting *positive planning policies* to protect the line of the canal between Hereford and Ledbury must be regarded as *more* than a little help! Forest of Dean District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council have also indicated their willingness to consider appropriate policies. Hereford and Worcester County Structure Plan and the Rural Development Area Strategy Committee all give support to the Canal. We sincerely hope that South Herefordshire District Council will follow in the near future. A similar policy is virtually *essential* throughout the 34 mile length of the canal - right to the point of connection with the River Severn at Gloucester - in order to protect the line of the Canal (and, where absolutely essential, at a very small number of locations, the line of an agreed diversion route).

London Docklands, Swansea, Cardiff Bay, Birmingham, Milton Keynes, Manchester, Bristol, Gloucester... and many more - what do they have in common? *WATER*. Dockside, riverside, canalside developments. *WATER*. Water has added many thousands of pounds to land values. Developers are scouring the country for canalside sites that, a few years ago, would have been regarded as disadvantaged by the very presence of a canal.

Whilst the Canal Society is not suggesting, for one minute, that large scale development should be encouraged at any point on "our" canal it *is* suggesting that developers, land owners, Planning Officers... should regard its presence as a *major ASSET* - not a ruddy nuisance!

Don't forget ancillary benefits; efficient land drainage of adjacent fields, emergency water supplies for fire-fighting, to name but two. With a little bit of help from developers and land-owners *short* sections of canal can, rather than being obliterated, be incorporated into development proposals to mutual advantage!

WITH A LITTLE HELP...(iii)

Leisure time is increasing - so they tell me! Seriously, it clearly is *the* expanding industry of the past decade - and for many years to come. So what have we to offer, *with a little help* (of course!)? - *A LOT!* Long before a boat moves along a restored section of canal we can offer walking, jogging, bird-watching, wildlife in abundance, fishing - *a multi-purpose, informal, linear recreation facility!* [Subject to formal access agreements.]

Add the boats and we can then talk of *tourism!* Two for the price of one! It is a proven fact that the presence of a canal, especially in a scenic area, generates significant *additional* tourism with added employment potential and general support to the existing facilities (shops, pubs, restaurants...) If you think I exaggerate just ask British Waterways what the shopkeepers of Llangollen said when the canal leading to them was breached a few years ago... Decisive action and support *now* can be turned into a major benefit for the community in the future - *leisure, tourism, employment! With a little help!*

WITH A LITTLE HELP? Of course my definition of "*little*" is open to question! Just what does this chap think he's going on about - with just a little help? It's all relative! In relation to what we can provide - both in the intervening stages of the restoration of isolated sections of canal - and in the longer term, a connection to the inland waterways network - the request is quite modest in relation to what the ultimate objective *will* bring to the community!

CONCLUSION

I have repeated, once or twice(!), the suggestion that all we need, *please*, is a little help. So what help are we seeking? Why have we asked you here today? Well, ladies and gentlemen, with **A LITTLE OF YOUR HELP** we can accelerate our progress and convince others that they too should support us. Whether it be the protection of the

WITH A LITTLE HELP...(iv)

line of the Canal; persuading developers and landowners to co-operate; securing canal ownership/leases; persuading the community that the canal is a long term informal recreational, tourism and employment asset; physical assistance by the donation/loan of equipment - **we even accept money!**

With YOUR support, that of all the local authorities, organisations, businesses - with YOUR encouragement - *together* we will succeed and restore the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal for the benefit of the community and future generations - **WITH A LITTLE HELP!**

-----oOo-----

POSTSCRIPT

So what has happened since May 1990? Well, we decided that it would be a good idea to have a "follow up" meeting later in the year, just half a day, in Ledbury. No coach tour, no lunch, no guest speakers, just a few members of your Canal Society Committee with, we hoped, the same representatives of the local authorities etc. - the idea being that we had a frank exchange of just what could be offered to us...hopefully - a little help!

When the October afternoon came one or two of us wondered if we would be faced with a near empty room - in fact the reverse was the case - every organisation once more represented and, in some cases, in larger numbers! Our local authority colleagues will, I hope, forgive me for saying that progress can be painfully slow and that is the case in many instances. However the *professionalism*, the *determination* and the *credibility* of the Canal Society was firmly demonstrated. Contacts were established that will, hopefully, be maintained on an individual basis and, occasionally [we hope to have another meeting in the spring of 1991] as a group. Progress will continue to be reported in **Wharfinger**. CRP

A SPECIAL THANK YOU . . .

When all of our efforts are by volunteers it is all too easy to take things for granted. Yet to print a formal "thank you" can sometimes be a problem in that it is all too easy to offend those who have been missed out (or to embarrass those who are mentioned).

Within hours of the final deadline for this edition of "The Warfinger" many things happened - some good, some not so good. Further details of both will appear in the next edition; not to keep you deliberately in suspense but there is insufficient time to write the article now. So watch this space!

However, it would be quite wrong to delay a couple of special "thank you's". The first is to Sandy Wooldridge, of Creative Labels, Rotherwas, Hereford for designing and producing the artwork for our new front and back covers. Sandy is not even one of our members (yet!). What is all the more remarkable is the fact that he did so following a request from me (Cliff Penny) asking the impossible. Please do it for nothing; please incorporate a (poor quality - we will be doing better next time) photograph AND please can we have a proof within 48 hours and the final version within a week. All requests were readily met! Many thanks Sandy.

The second big "thank you" is to Angela and Adrian "boots". Not only have they been the sole volunteers (who do not live locally) to work for the weeks work camp at Crews Pitch. But they volunteered [foolish thing to do when the Chairman is around] to return home with the challenge of getting an improved style for the inside pages of **The Warfinger**.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU . . . (ii)

At the time of writing I obviously do not know what it is all going to look like and, as usual, it needs to be done by a very restricted timescale. So it is not very fair to expect everything to be right first time. The fact that they are willing to help us after a long week of exhausting work is greatly appreciated.

Finally (yes, I know that I have missed people out - I will grovel in the next issue!) a HUGE vote of thanks to Peter Ball at Monkhide. Although he has a construction plant business to run he has devoted, at short notice, a considerable amount of his time (and machinery) to assist us in making progress on our recent Work Camp. I am confident that Laurie Lavender (our Restoration Manager) and his Team will join me in expressing sincere thanks to Peter for all his willing help and advice.

Cliff Penny

NATIONAL WATERWAYS FESTIVAL

The National Waterways Festival "Gloucester 90" sees the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society in the limelight. We hope that many members will visit the Festival and call in to see our display - the result of months of hard work by a small band of people. When visiting our display be sure to enter our **FREE DRAW** (members only). This is intended to encourage new members to join but existing members will be equally welcome! Please come and see us if you can.

"Our" Canal will be featured in the August issue of **Freetime (Herefordshire)** as well as the September issues (published mid-August) of **Canal and Riverboat, Waterways World, IWA Waterways** and we hope the Festival Newspaper etc. **CRP**

CANAL & RIVERBOAT

If you're besotted with Braunston . . .

Head over heels with Harecastle . . .

Mad about the Macclesfield . . .

In love with the Leeds & Liverpool . . .

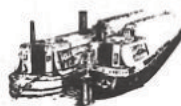
Swooning over the Southern Stratford . . .

Or hooked on the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal ,

then

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WORKING PARTY INSURANCE

We have been advised that the Inland Waterways Association Insurers (our insurers) are going to introduce tough new regulations regarding the training of persons driving and operating plant and machinery.

Unless the regulations are strictly followed *the Canal Society will not be insured - the person driving and operating the plant and machinery will not be insured.* (It does not matter who owns the plant and machinery.) It is ESSENTIAL that anyone who wishes to drive and operate plant and machinery arranges to be tested/trained and has a special certificate issued *before* they can drive/operate plant for us in the future. *Full details from the Restoration Manager, Laurie Lavender.*

PLAQUE UNVEILING AT MIDDLE COURT BRIDGE

On Monday, 9th April, Bob Aspey, the Chairman of Yarkhill Parish Council, kindly unveiled another of our cast metal plaques at Middle Court Bridge, Monkhide. Whilst a photograph of the event appeared in a subsequent issue of the "Hereford Times", the text that accompanied it was, unfortunately, rather inaccurate - suggesting that we had placed the plaque there to commemorate the *completion* of restoration of that stretch of the Canal. Anyone looking over the parapet of the bridge would see that was not true; the section from Middle Court Bridge to (at least) Skew Bridge was the site of our major 1990 Summer Work Camp - assisted by volunteers from the Waterway Recovery Group. Further work is planned, in the near future, to make this our "showpiece" length of the Canal.

We are exceedingly grateful to Committee Member Nigel Jefferies for designing and casting these impressive plaques (courtesy of the Headmaster of Aylestone High School) as a lasting reminder of the Canal - and of all our volunteers hard work.

CRP

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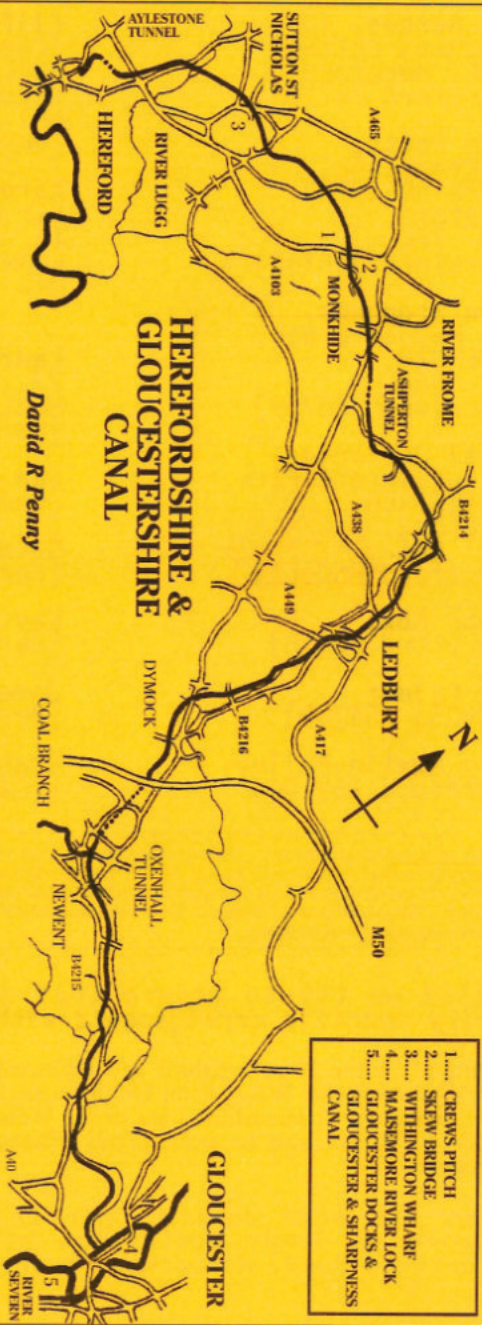
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Whilst we try to ensure that dates are correct please verify specific arrangements with the relevant Organiser.

Published by the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society. Printed by Dŵr Cymru-Welsh Water Print Department, Brecon for our print sponsors Land and Leisure Tir A Hamdden [one of the Welsh Water group of companies]. Our thanks to them, and to print room Manager Martyn Roberts, for all their assistance.

Front and back covers: our thanks for the design and artwork to Sandy Wooldridge of **Creative Labels Ltd.**, Netherwood Road, Rotherwas, Hereford.



David R Penny

Please Note: We are working on the Canal with the permission and co-operation of the land owners. Unless specifically indicated it should not be assumed that there is any public right of way along the Canal towpath. Please help the Society to maintain its good relationships with the local land owners.

Work began on the Canal in 1792 but there were many problems which meant that it was not completed until 1845 making it the last major route to be built in Britain but for the Canals of Birmingham and the Manchester Ship Canal. The Canal stretched for 34 miles and utilised 22 locks and 3 tunnels to overcome the problems posed by the undulating fields of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.