

THE WHARFINGER



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

40p
free to Members

Edition 29
Winter 1990

WHO DOES WHAT . . .

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

RESTORATION GROUP

Brian Fox, Laurie Lavender, Bob Palmer,
Mike Potts, Ian Reed

EVENTS GROUP

Tony Austin-Bailey, Kay Jennings

PRESS OFFICER

Nigel Jefferies

SALES

David Penny

THE WHARFINGER

Cliff Penny, David Penny, Mike Potts

HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST

Nigel Jefferies, James Dunn

IWA / WATERWAYS LIAISON

Graham Ettles

COMMITTEE MEMBERS *[in addition to those listed above]*

Derek Gray, Stephen Fitzmaurice, Karen McKay

*For addresses and/or telephone numbers please see
CONTACTS on the inside of the back cover.*

HONORARY POSTS:-

SOLICITOR Sue Newbold STRUCTURAL ENGINEER Ron Munden

CONSERVATION ADVISOR to be appointed

[This list is currently under review]

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

THE THREE, NO FOUR, "M's"

A great deal of this issue contains reports and comments on the National Waterways Festival - Gloucester '90 - held over the August Bank Holiday. I make no apologies for this ! Whilst the Canal Society have attended previous "Nationals", at various locations around the country, the 1990 event was the closest that it will come to "our" Canal for many years.

Our established Members will know, from previous reports in *The Wharfinger*, that we planned a major presence at Gloucester. Those who were able to call in and see us will make their own judgement on how it all turned out. A very great deal of time and effort, by a very small number of people, resulted in the largest [and, judging by results] the most effective promotion of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society to date . . .

There have been suggestions that the "Nationals" are losing their campaigning spirit; anyone who was involved with, or visited, the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society marquee would surely disagree. All three essential ingredients were there - the three "M's" - Money, Members and Mutual support; no, let's make it the four "M's" - MAGNIFICENT !

WELCOME

Thanks to the hard work at Gloucester (and subsequently) we have gained over 100 new Members, including fourteen Corporate Members, in the past two months. A very warm welcome to you all.

You are very welcome "just" as an "armchair Member". However, a number indicated that they might be able to assist us in some way. We will be in touch ! Please do not hesitate to contact one of the Committee [see Contacts on the inside of the back cover] if you feel able to assist - we are all volunteers and all offers of help are very gratefully received. Don't just think of the obvious "muck shifting" (although you will be found plenty !); we can put almost any skill or facility to good use - please give us the opportunity. Thank you.

continued on page 2

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS... (ii)

DOWTY GROUP PLC AND MICHAEL STIMPSON & ASSOCIATES

Two of our new Corporate Members have already shown their willingness to assist our Society. The Dowty Charitable Trust have donated £500 to our funds as a direct result of the Dowty Group Chief Executive visiting our display at Gloucester. Dowty are an international group of advanced technology companies. It is very rewarding to receive such a generous gesture of support.

Michael Stimpson & Associates specialise in inland marine insurance and were sponsors to the National Waterways Festival. Michael Stimpson has personally ensured that Membership forms for the Canal Society are included in correspondence with his Clients - having provided him with over 200 he has now started printing them, at his own expense, by the thousand ! Thank you.

In addition to the most welcome support, mentioned above, both Companies have paid for advertising space in this issue. It is now up to us to maintain the confidence to ensure that such welcome assistance continues.

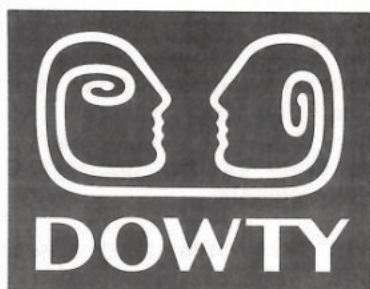
SOUTHERN CANALS MEETING

In mid October we were hosts to the Autumn Southern Canals Meeting. This is a gathering of Canal Societies/Trusts and senior Officers of the Inland Waterways Association. Apart from visiting different canal restoration/conservation schemes the meetings present a valuable forum for the interchange of ideas and the obtaining of advice. After so many years of successful canal restoration in this country there is no point in trying to re-invent the wheel ! I was delighted that we should have been given the opportunity to show so many (nearly 50) visitors the start of our work; they were able to give us valuable advice on a number of critical topics.

My sincere thanks to Robin Higgs, the Chairman of Southern Canals, for bringing his colleagues to see us. It was a clear example of our motto coming into effect:-

Working together in the present, to revive
the past, and secure a better future.

Cliff Penny, Chairman/Liaison Officer



It's astonishing
how much can be
achieved when
people put their
heads together.

DOWTY GROUP PLC
ARLE COURT, CHELTENHAM
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

COMMITTEE MATTERS

Continuing the practice established in recent editions of *The Wharfinger* our Chairman proves that Committee life goes on - right through the Summer holidays...

AUGUST COMMITTEE

■ Our Honorary Solicitor (Sue Newbold) had confirmed her willingness to act as Company Secretary when the Charitable Trust/Company is finally formed. She was also considering a draft Agreement (obtained from another Society) that might be suitable for use with our many land owners.

■ There had been preliminary discussions with senior County Council Officers and Michael Handford (IWA Restoration Committee Chairman) and Ken Goodwin (Restoration Committee Vice Chairman), plus our own Chairman and Vice Chairman, regarding the Roman Road bridge at Hereford. A further meeting was planned for the end of August.

■ There had also been meetings with three land owners and both Hereford City and South Herefordshire District Council regarding the threat that the Roman Road and A49 Hereford Bypass schemes posed to future restoration of the Canal.

■ Our New Social Secretary (Kay Jennings) submitted her programme for the Autumn.

■ In the absence of the Restoration Manager, the Chairman gave a detailed report regarding serious problems that had dogged the main Summer Work Camp at Crews Pitch. The Society had clearly marked the raking stay wires to an overhead line electricity pole (which had been the subject of an incident at a weekend Work Camp in June) yet a dumper struck one of the wires and caused a second power failure in the area within 5 weeks. Whilst the costs were covered by insurance the Chairman and Vice Chairman had to spend a considerable amount of time apologising to the (understandably) annoyed local residents. There had been adverse publicity in the local press to which the Vice Chairman responded positively. Progress on the dredging work had been much slower than intended but by the end of the Camp the extensive winding hole area had been completed and further weekend working was planned to complete the work as far as Middle court Bridge.

■ It was re-affirmed that our priority was to restore the Canal from Crews Pitch Wharf (A4103) to Middle Court Bridge.

■ The Society had mounted a display in the foyer of the Hereford City Library/Museum - Mike Potts and Gwyn ("Steve") Stephens were thanked for their substantial efforts in assembling the display.

continued on page 5

COMMITTEE MATTERS . . . (ii)

SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE

■ Michael Handford, Ken Goodwin, Cliff Penny and Mike Potts had met senior Officers of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Council, at the end of August, for further discussions regarding the Roman Road bridge. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to the County Council confirming our understanding of the current position.

■ South Herefordshire District Council Planning Department had now indicated that they would be prepared to recommend that the route of the Canal be the subject of protective Planning Policies. Provided this was confirmed by the Council it would mean that all three District Authorities, in the county of Hereford and Worcester, now recognised the need to acknowledge the Canal in their formal Planning Policy Documents.

■ Messrs Redland Sand and Gravel had donated a load of ready mix concrete, following an approach to the Company Chairman by our Vice President, to enable the last bay of the slipway to be poured at Crews Pitch.

■ It was agreed that there was a need to review the various groups that had been set up within the Committee earlier in the year. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to have efficient teams, working under policy guidance from the main Committee, especially in respect of Restoration and Publicity/Events.

■ More formal systems for the placing of orders for goods and services, and the payment of accounts, were discussed and will be introduced in the near future.

■ Arrangements for the Southern Canals Meeting, to be held on the 14th October were reviewed.

■ The Vice Chairman reported on a meeting that he had attended, on the Canal, with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. It was considered inappropriate to take up their offer of assistance at present.

■ Arthur Dungate had again offered his services to make a video of the Canal. This was considered to be premature but would be reconsidered once the Crews Pitch to Middle Court section had been restored.

continued on page 6

COMMITTEE MATTERS ... (iii)

SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE *continued...*

■ A detailed discussion took place in respect of the Canal Society presence at the National Waterways Festival "GLOUCESTER '90". [See reports elsewhere in this issue]. A significant donation had been made by a major Gloucestershire based Company following a visit to our display by their Chief Executive. Further details to follow.

■ It was unanimously decided to book a similar sized display for the 1991 event, to be held at Netherton, near Dudley. Our Chairman (and his family) were particularly thanked for "sacrificing" two weeks holiday.

■ For the first time for a number of years, there would not be a Work Camp on the Canal at Christmas. It had not proved possible to make arrangements as both the Restoration Manager and the Vice Chairman would be away and there were no other volunteers to arrange the Camp.

OCTOBER COMMITTEE

■ Sir John Knill had written congratulating the Society on the display at Gloucester. The Chairman had reassured Sir John in respect of certain matters relating to the potential trip boat that he had donated to the Society.

■ Cliff Penny confirmed that he had written to Hereford and Worcester County Council regarding the Roman Road bridge. It was too soon to expect a reply. He had also registered a formal objection with the Department of Transport regarding the proposed A49 Hereford Bypass which crossed the Canal at an adequate elevation but without any provision for the Canal. The Society would, if necessary, make a full and detailed submission to the Public Inquiry.

■ Following the restricted report to the last Committee Cliff Penny reported that the "significant" cheque (£500) had been from the Dowty Charitable Trust. He had since shown a Dowty Group Director parts of the Canal and further discussions were ongoing as to possible additional assistance from the Company. The Committee warmly welcomed this important gesture of support from such a prestigious Company.

■ Another Corporate Member, Mr. Michael Stimpson (of Michael Stimpson Insurance Brokers) had suggested that he might include a Membership Application Form with all of his marine insurance correspondence - within a few weeks some ten new Members had been welcomed thanks to Mr. Stimpson's kind efforts.

■ The Chairman confirmed that he had booked a similar "Trade" space for the 1991 National Waterways Festival - there were some problems in the precise allocation of space and he was pursuing this.

continued on page 20

LETTERS to the Editor . . .

[Whilst we welcome letters on any topic relating to our work and the Inland Waterways System any opinions expressed do not represent the policy of the Canal Society unless specifically stated.]

Dear Editor,

PUBLIC INQUIRY - WYE INVADER

Now that the Gloucester Festival is behind us, I should like to direct your attention to the saga of the WYE INVADER, the Dutch Barge seeking to establish a floating restaurant on the River Wye at Hereford. [For background information refer to articles in *Waterways World* - August '89; January '90.]

Society Member Frank Barton has made two Planning Applications and has lodged an Appeal. There will be a Public Inquiry in mid January, 1991.

Those who are in favour of this enterprising venture are asked to give their support by writing to the Department of the Environment, Planning Inspectorate, Room 10/13, Tollgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol, BS2 9DL marking letters for the attention of Mr. David Shawland and quoting Planning Application reference HC900096PF in respect of the application for "Change of Use of River Bed to enable a Floating Restaurant to become established".

Further details can be obtained from Frank on Hereford (0432) 273745 - work
(0831) 502631 - home
or myself.

Kay Jennings [Hereford (0432) 270907]

HELLO AND GOODBYE . . .

As reported in our Committee Matters pages our Treasurer, Karen McKay, has moved to Nottingham to attend a full time course. Karen will be returning to the area on a regular basis and has expressed a wish to continue to serve on the Committee. Our thanks to Karen for administering our affairs in a competent and professional manner over the past months when financial activity has been exceptional.

We are delighted to welcome Liz Wood as our new Treasurer -
thank you for volunteering!

CRP



The Duke of Bridgewater

The Duke of Bridgewater and his Canal

At the National Waterways Festival 1990 I obtained the adjacent engraving of Francis Egerton, the Duke of Bridgewater, in later life.

It is to the Duke that credit must be given for initiating the "modern"¹ canal era. Before the construction of the Bridgewater Canal in 1761, the other canals completed in this country, (the Exeter Canal and the Sankey Brook), had been built as lateral cuts alongside existing rivers. Accounts relate that the Duke was a loser in love and as a result, he turned his back on the fashionable society of the day to develop his estate at Worsley, near Manchester. Coal mines existed on the Duke's estate, but the cost of transporting the coal from the mines to the then burgeoning town of Manchester was prohibitively expensive. Road transport from Worsley to Manchester, a distance of only ten miles, doubled the price of coal. The Duke received part of his education abroad and he had completed a "Grand Tour of Europe", during which he inspected the Canal du Midi in France. Consequently, he would have been aware of the advantages of canals. Just one advantage is that on a canal, a single horse can pull more than sixty packhorses could carry. In 1759 the Duke successfully applied to parliament for an Act enabling him to construct a canal.

It would seem that credit for the idea of constructing a canal that would actually enter the mines, to not only allow the boats to load, but also drain the mines and at the same time provide the canal with a source of water, should be given to the Duke's factor and estate manager, John Gilbert. Gilbert was responsible for introducing the Duke to James Brindley, a semi-literate millwright who was experienced in mine drainage. Brindley was, in effect, employed as surveyor and consulting engineer. As originally planned, the canal was either to terminate at Salford, (on the opposite bank of the River Irwell from Manchester), or to run into the river, so that canal traffic could cross and proceed to a stretch of canal on the other side. In the case of the former, the canal would terminate some way short of its goal and with the latter scheme the Duke would be in the hands of the proprietors of the river navigation. However, Brindley, (who it is recorded retired to bed to resolve the problems), was confident it would be feasible to carry the canal over the Irwell and into Manchester. Consequently, in 1760 a second Act of

The Duke of Bridgewater and his Canal (continued)

Parliament was obtained to authorise this change. This resulted in the construction of the major feature of the canal, the Barton Aqueduct. This masonry structure, 200 yards long, carried vessels 39 feet above the River Irwell. The spectacle it presented caught the imagination of the public and its success inspired these lines:

Vessels o'er vessels, water under water,
Bridgewater triumphs, art has conquered nature.

The canal, when completed, carried coal the 7½ miles to Manchester in a south-easterly direction and had the advantage of being completely level, without the need for locks. The result of completion was to half the price of the Duke's coal in Manchester, where it could now be obtained for 3½d per hundredweight. This not only greatly increased the Duke's sales, but also proved to be of great benefit to the people of Manchester.

Later canals, (like the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Navigation), were built by joint stock companies financed by a broad spectrum of the investing public - landowners, businessmen and the professional middle classes. However, the Duke financed the construction of his canal personally. The year after the opening, (1762), he was apparently £27,000 in debt. Before the original line was opened, however, the Duke obtained a further Act of Parliament to build a branch to meet the Mersey estuary at Runcorn and thus provide a canal/estuary route for general trade between Manchester and Liverpool. This was completed in 1776, by which time the Duke had invested £220,000 - a considerable fortune at that time. However the success of the canal was almost immediate. In the year ending 4th October 1776, he cleared £12,500 by carrying goods between Manchester and Liverpool. Besides handling freight, the Duke put on two packet boats for carrying passengers and during the same period obtained £950 from passenger trade between Runcorn and Manchester. By 1792, the passenger traffic amounted to £1,500 per annum and that of freight £80,000! The success of the Bridgewater Canal led others, such as Josiah Wedgewood, to promote and invest in the construction of canals and this resulted in the building of a network of canals. Britain was the first industrial nation and

continued on page 11

The Duke of Bridgewater and his Canal (continued)

for the greater part of the industrial revolution, (until they were replaced by the railways), the canal system formed the arteries along which the raw materials and finished products of the nation coursed.

An indirect link exists between James Brindley and the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal, for as David Bick relates in his book,² it was Hugh Henshall, Brindley's brother-in-law who in 1792 was asked to resurvey the line of the canal after the capital had been fully subscribed.

¹ I have discounted the canals/drainage channels which were built during the Roman occupation of Britain.

² See page 9 of "The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal ..." by David E. Bick.

Nigel C. Jefferies

RESTORATION DAYS

As we now have a few sites which we are working on, I would suggest if you would like to join us please contact one of the following before making any distant journey. New faces always welcome. Less strenuous tasks are available for the less agile of us.

SUNDAY WORK PARTIES 10.00 am. start.

Sunday 2nd December, 1990
Sunday 6th January, 1991

Sunday 3rd February, 1991
Sunday 3rd March, 1991.

More news of future work camps will appear in the next edition of "The Wharfinger"

Contacts:-

Mike Potts, Hereford (0432) 356392
Ian Reed Ledbury (0531) 5877 MP

IN SYMPATHY

It is with deep regret that I have to report the recent death of two of our members.

A letter recently received informs me of the death of Mrs. Dorothy Betts and shortly afterwards her husband Mr. Colin Betts.

Mr. and Mrs. Betts lived in Hereford and were members for a number of years and were keen enthusiasts of our aims. The Committee sends its deepest sympathy. MP

THE *GLOUCESTER '90* STORY... OUR DISPLAY...

We appreciate that many of our Members were unable to visit the National Waterways Festival at Gloucester over the August Bank Holiday. So, our Chairman, Cliff Penny, takes you on a brief guided tour of our display; the most ambitious - yet ! Built entirely by Society Members it was erected under the glare of floodlights and was not completed until midnight.

On the front of the twenty foot square marquee a sign proclaimed "you are here" to indicate, on a large scale map, that the Festival site was but a stones throw from the start of the Canal. The unsuspecting visitor was then directed to another map, showing the whole 34 miles of Canal, a further enlargement of the "Hereford end" and then on to an exhibit that had been code-named "Mikes Thing" (after Vice Chairman Mike Potts who had created it) ! "What every Canal Society needs" was the clue in the panel heading. A hole in the display panel, at head height, tempted the unwary to peer through. They instantly found themselves wearing a safety helmet, clothed in a boiler suit and wielding a shovel - it is amazing what can be done with a skilfully placed mirror !

Once past the gimmick the visitor was treated to two panels illustrating, with numerous colour photographs, the marvels of the Skew Bridge (at Monkhide, some 6 miles east of Hereford) - reputed to be the skewest bridge on the inland waterways network - set at an angle of less than 30 degrees to the towpath. The following display panels then showed the Canal Society (and WRG) at work at this and a number of other locations. Other panels touched on the social side of the Canal Society, the essential (and increasingly effective) liaison with the local authorities and the very extensive publicity that had been obtained, both locally and nationally, in the weeks leading up to **Gloucester '90**. A continuous slide show and an extensive history of the Canal completed the display.

continued on page 13

*An unusual Christmas Present ? Why not give a gift Membership ?
Please see the enclosed Christmas Sales List.*

THE **GLOUCESTER '90** STORY...OUR DISPLAY...continued...

Society Members, in their distinctive black sweatshirts with golden yellow lettering, encouraged potential members into an "information and rest area" at the rear of the marquee - few emerged without enrolling ! This resulted in a substantial increase in membership.

The colourful sales area, bottle draw and home made cake stall completed what was regarded as an impressive contribution to the Festival - and added significantly to Society funds. The gamble of taking a full trade display marquee amongst the multi-thousand pound narrow boats must be regarded as successful. The Canal Society also met its objective of showing the general public, and the local authorities, that it is a responsible, credible organisation worthy of further support.

Many people helped to make our presence such a success. Whether you baked a cake, helped to build or erect our display, "manned" the stand - to those who helped - our sincere thanks.

There have been many suggestions that the "Nationals" are losing their campaigning spirit; anyone who was involved with, or visited, the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society marquee would surely disagree.

Hopefully the benefits of the National Waterways Festival will extend for many months to come and I should like to take this opportunity to thank Gloucester '90 Chairman, Des Pinnock and his team - our success would not have been possible without all their very hard and dedicated work - a sincere "thank you" to you all.

CRP

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED US SINCE THE LAST AGM

Mr. A.D. Baines, Ross-on-Wye; Mr. D.F. Ball, Storrington, Sussex; Mr. R. Barlow, Peterchurch; Mr. F.O. Barton, Hereford; Mr. & Mrs. Beard, Tibberton, Glos.; Mr. & Mrs. Bezani, Monmouth; Mr. J. Bixby, Chelmsford; Mr. & Mrs. Booth, Leominster; Mr. & Mrs. Bott, Bromsgrove; Mr. Mark Bower, Ross-on-Wye; Mr. Peter Brown, Wellington Heath; Mr. D. A. Bunday, Longhope, Glos.; Mr. & Mrs. P. Burke, Gloucester; Mr. R.R. Burnett, Gloucester; Ms. M. Butcher, Cheltenham; Mr. E. Canning, Newnham on Severn, Glos; Mr. D.J. Chapman, Maisemore, Glos.; Mr. & Mrs. A. Chester, Dymock; Mr. & Mrs. Coker, Ross-on-Wye; Mr. & Mrs. Colman, Streatham; Mr. R. Connors, Hereford; Mr. H.M. Coombe, Newent; Mr. & Mrs. Crathorn, Hereford; Mr. & Mrs. A.T. Crow, Hereford; Mr. D.G. Duddles, Worcester; Mr. R.M. Fairclough, Hereford; Mr. J.A. Fletcher, Ross-on-Wye; Mr. K. Fletcher, Ross-on-Wye; ...

continued on page 19

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Following our presence at **GLoucester '90** the Canal Society is very pleased to welcome the support of the following Corporate Members:-

Messrs V E and JE Arnold, Roman Road, Hereford
Black Prince Holidays, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, Worcs.
Boatserve Ltd., Canal Wharehouses, Coventry.
Bridgewater Boat Builders, Worsley, Manchester.
Colwall Park Hotel, Colwall, Malvern, Worcestershire.
Dowty Group, Arle Court, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
Lady Dockers Restaurant, Thames Barge, Gloucester Docks.
Lister Petter Marine, Thrupp, Stroud, Gloucestershire.
Marine Services, Hempstead Dry Dock, Gloucester.
J L Pinder, Boatbuilder, The Old Basin, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove.
Springer Engineering (Boatbuilders), Market Harborough, Leics.
Starline Narrowboats, Upton on Severn, Worcestershire.
Michael Stimpson Insurance Brokers, Rickmansworth, Herts.
Ward Marine, Fishtoft, Boston, Lincolnshire.

Please support our Corporate Members whenever you can - and tell them that you are a Member too! We have a very good selection for you. You never know when you might want a computer modem or specialist seal from part of the Dowty Group; a new boat from one of our boat building Members; an engine and all the fittings to go in it; a dry dock to paint it in; a marine insurance specialist to insure it for you; a boating holiday to get away from it all (or a holiday on dry land close to the Malvern Hills) - or just a cream tea right in the midst of Gloucester Docks. . .

The support of our Corporate Members has already extended well beyond our expectations - detailed elsewhere - *thank you.*



MICHAEL STIMPSON and ASSOCIATES

SPECIALISTS IN INLAND MARINE INSURANCE

Corporate Members of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Society
and Sponsors of the "Gloucester '90 National Waterways Festival"

NARROW BOATS

Cover including personal effects with a no claims bonus of up to 40%, a choice of excesses on own damage claims and no excess on third party claims.
Private Pleasure, Residential, and Commercial - no increased premiums for vintage craft.

CRUISERS

Our latest policy for canal cruisers with 20% no claims bonus after only two years including cover for personal effects and also for trailers if required.

HOUSEBOATS

In addition to the boat itself, we are able to provide cover for Mooring Liability, Replacement as New Contents Cover, Personal Liability, All Risks etc.

LEGAL PROTECTION

All our policies have the option of Legal Protection cover and are backed by a Major British Insurance Company.

Commercial covers and boatyards, marine engineers, surveyors, boatbuilders and repairers.

Perhaps we should be talking !

Write or telephone now (9.30 - 6.30) for details:-

149a High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 1AR

Tel: (0923) 770425 & 770255 Fax: 721559

SUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS REQUIRED . . .

In the last couple of months we have gained a lot of new Members. May I wish them all a very warm welcome.

There have been a number of Members who wish to help in various ways and until recently we have not made good use of this. We are now starting to organise a number of Sub Committees to help take some of the load off the main Committee. There is no reason why a Member cannot join a Sub Committee without being involved in the main Committee.

We now have a Sub Committee for restoration work and one for organising events. We could also use more help with the formation of a group to look after publicity.

It will take some time to make full and best use of the willing volunteers we have but we are making a start. Please, if you are interested in a particular part of our activities contact a member of the Committee or Sub Committee. There are many tasks and often it is a matter of fitting a volunteer into his or her best role.

So please come and join us.

Mike Potts, Vice Chairman.

PRIZE *GLOUCESTER '90* **FREE DRAW** **WINNERS**

All Members visiting our display at the National Waterways Festival had the opportunity to enter our FREE draw. Nearly 100 did - *thank you*. The three prize winners were:-

FIRST PRIZE: Black and Decker Home Safety Kit;
Mr. A Graves, Swindon, Wiltshire.

SECOND PRIZE: 35mm compact Camera;
Mr. T A Fletcher, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire.

THIRD PRIZE: A bottle of Champagne;
Mr. L Smith, Springer Engineering Ltd.,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

By pure coincidence, we had an existing Member, a new Member and a Corporate Member win our prizes - a very fair result! To everyone who took the trouble to complete the questionnaire; thank you. They have been read with great interest. A number of Members offered to assist in some way - a special thank you to them - we will be in touch in due course !

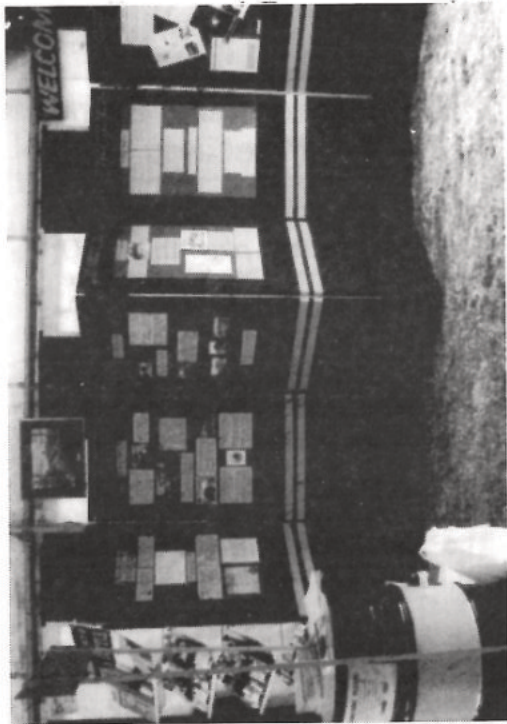
CRP

THE *GLOUCESTER '90* STORY... A SUCCESS...

Over 100 new Members joined the Canal Society, either at the National Waterways Festival, or as a direct result of our promotional effort during the three days.

We took over £1,500 by way of sales, bottle draw and new Membership - however the costs were high. After deducting the (subsidised) cost of the Trade Space, the construction of the display (costs much reduced thanks to sponsorship) and the purchase of sales stock, we will have made a modest profit. However, the success of our significant presence at Gloucester must not be measured just in terms of the money taken - as will be seen elsewhere in this issue !

CRP



Promoting the Canal Society at the National Waterways Festival



Work gets under way at the Summer Work Camp 1990

Photograph:
[National River Authority (Welsh Region)]



The Inland Waterways Association

Gloucestershire Branch Meetings

Tuesday 18th December 7.30pm

IWA and Museum Friends Christmas Social *plus* the MAD Christmas light and sound spectacular including a sequence on the Severn bore - Museum Schools Room, Gloucs. Docks.

Tuesday 15th January 7.30pm

GLOUCESTER '90 The Video. Our own Waterways Festival. See the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society stand and much more! Presented by Graham Ettles at the Tewkesbury Marina.

Thursday 14th February 7.30pm

Birmingham's First Bypass - The Tame Valley Canal. Talk and slides by John Foley - Museum Schools Room, Gloucs. Docks.

Friday 15th March 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting of the Gloucestershire Branch, IWA at the Museum Schools Room, Gloucester Docks.

FOR DETAILS OF OUR OWN EVENTS PLEASE SEE PAGE 24

1991 PROMISES TO BE [YET ANOTHER] BUSY AND INTERESTING YEAR FOR THE CANAL SOCIETY:- FORMATION OF THE CHARITABLE TRUST OUR OWN OPEN WEEKEND: MEMBERS VISITS TO OUR OWN AND OTHER CANALS IWA BLACK COUNTRY NATIONAL WATERWAYS FESTIVAL *and much, much more...*

RESTORATION NEWS . . .

I would like to start off by saying a big thank you to the following firms; Peter Ball, Jewsons of Hereford and Hughes Bros. of Whitbourne for helping us out with our Summer Work Camp this year.

This years Work Camp was held at Crews Pitch. The winding hole and 500 yards or so of canal was dredged to full depth. This is the first time that we have dredged to the correct and original depth. Since this, the canal, with Peter Ball's help has been dredged to full depth from Crews Pitch to Middle Court Bridge. The only way this could be done within our time and financial limitations was by putting the removed spoil on the towpath to be removed later.



continued on page 19

RESTORATION NEWS ... (ii)

Since the Work Camp we have removed some of the spoil but at present have come to a temporary halt due to lack of finance and deciding on the correct type of equipment to do the work most efficiently.

Our thanks goes out to all the volunteers that took part in the Camp and to Members of London Waterway Recovery Group volunteers for helping us to do some recent clearance work at Newent. Our next weekend Camp was on Saturday and Sunday the 10th and 11th of November.

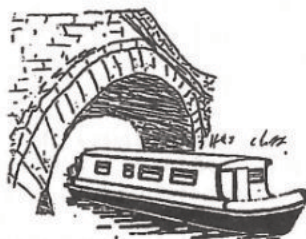
For information on Work Camps and restoration days please contact:-

Mike Potts on Hereford (0432) 356392

Ian Reed on Ledbury (0531) 5877

A small group of us are going on a narrow boat holiday just after Christmas, we hope to celebrate the New Year in whilst afloat. We still have two places left if any of you would like to join us on a cruise to Llangollen. Please contact me or Mike Potts for more details.

Laurie Lavender.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS... continued

Mr. David Fox, Hereford; Mr. K. Frazer, Leighton Buzzard; Mr. E. Garland, Erith, Kent; Mr. C. Gibson, Pewsey, Wilts.; Mr. M.A. Good, Rickmansworth, Herts.; Mr. & Mrs. P. Gould, Gloucester; Mr. Ian Graham, Corsham, Wilts.; Mr. Adrian Graves, Swindon; Mr. Colin Greenwood, Swindon; Ms. V. Hardy, Chichester, Sussex; Ms. Ann Harris, Rickmansworth, Herts.; Mr. Nigel Hayes, Newent, Glos.; Mr. & Mrs. C. Holmes, Hereford; Mr. & Mrs. K. Horner, Salisbury, Wilts.; Mr. Roger Hughes, Drybrook, Glos.; Mr. & Mrs. A. Hunt, Churchdown, Glos.; Mrs. S.A. Hurlbatt, Ballingham, Hereford; Mr. Adrian Jones, Filton, Glos.; Miss Angela Jones, Swindon; Mr. David Jones, Forthampton, Glos.; Mr. D. Jones, Hardewick, Glos.; Mr. Lenton, Cullompton; Mr. Lewiks & Miss Love, Guildford; Mr. Alan Lines, Canon Frome; Mr. M.J. Lovesy, Brockworth, Glos.; Mr. Roy Massey, Hereford; Mr. Ian McDoward, Leicester; Mr. Ray McEniff, Rickmansworth, Herts.; Mrs. P.L. McKay, Wellington, Hereford; Mr. Tim Meadows, Warnam, Gloucester; Mr. K. Miles, Leominster; Mr. & Mrs. Millican, Quedgeley, Glos.; Mr. & Mrs. R. Mills, Tewksbury, Glos.; Ms. Pamela Moore, Tewkesbury; Mr. Rory Moore, Tewksbury; Mr. R.P. Morgan, Cuddington, Cheshire; Mr. & Mrs. R. Moses, Ross-on-Wye; Mr. J. Nixon, Huyton, Liverpool; Mr. J.R. Noyce, Newport Pagnell, Bucks.; Mr. P.H. Ogden, Rowington, Warwick; Mr. S.D. Owens, Amersham, Bucks.; Mr. A.E. Parker, Hereford; Mr. & Mrs. J. Penman, Minsterworth, Glos.; Mr. R. Plumb, Gloucester; Mr. J. Pomfret, Durham; Mr. & Mrs. L. Powell, Withington, Hfd.; Mr. R.E. Poyner, Bromyard; Mrs. S.J. Purnell, Newent, Glos.; Mr. Guy Putland, Pontrilas, Hfd.; Mr. Peter Radley, Newnham, Glos.; Mr. T.R. Randles, Gloucester; Mr. D. Rogers, Newent, Glos.; Mr. Andy Screen, Chorlton-cum-Hardy; Ms. Stella Sherry, Rickmansworth, Herts.; Mr. D.M. Smith, Rowington, Warwick; Mr. & Mrs. D. Smith, Ross-on-Wye; Mr. Barrie Stanton, Dorridge, W. Midlands; Mr. G. Stephenson, Cheltenham, Glos.; Mr. Brian Stevens, Redhill, Hids.; Mr. & Mrs. Swatton, Highnam, Glos.; Mr. & Mrs. P. Tanser, Chichester, W. Sussex; Ms. R.M. Taylor, Charlton Kings, Glos.; Mr. & Mrs. A.N. Thatcher, Cheltenham; Mr. Tucker, Cheltenham, Glos.; Mr. D.H. Vaughan, Breinton, Hereford; Mr. M.T. Wale, Scowles, Coleford, Glos.; Mr. A.J. Walker, Loudwater, Rickmansworth, Herts.; Mr. David Watts, London; Ms. L. Williams, Welland, Worcs.; Ms. Elizabeth Wood, Hereford; Mr. B.J. Yapp, Hereford.

Members joining after the end of October will be included in a future issue of **The Wharfinger**.

COMMITTEE MATTERS... (iv)

OCTOBER COMMITTEE continued...

■ Mr. Jim Mason, the proprietor of a boatbuilding and repair business (Brent Marine) near London, had attended one of our Work Camps and had offered to fit out the trip boat free of charge - subject only to the Canal Society providing the materials. As it had been estimated that the materials could cost nearly £500 in total it was decided to mount an appeal in The Wharfinger [you've guessed - elsewhere in this issue !].

■ Cliff Penny reported that he had delivered a set of Maps to the Planning department of Forest of Dean District Council indicating the line of the Canal - this was in response to a request from the Council who are considering a suitable Policy for inclusion in the District Wide Local Plan.

■ The Society had been approached to see if it would form an angling section to fish restored sections of Canal. It was decided that this was premature but a matter that should be considered when Agreements with land owners were formulated.

■ Karen McKay, our Treasurer, has commenced a full time course at Nottingham; Liz Wood had kindly volunteered to take over as Treasurer. A vote of thanks was recorded and it was confirmed that Karen hoped to continue as a Member of our Committee in the future.

■ Concern was expressed at the significant increase in costs of plant hire in respect of the Summer Work Camp and subsequent work in the same area. The new Order system was considered to play a vital part in the control of expenditure. The Members of the Restoration Group were asked to urgently review the position.

PLEASE HELP US TO FIT OUT THE TRIP BOAT

As reported above, Mr. Jim Mason has kindly offered to fit out the boat ("Mallard") that Sir John Knill has given to the Society for use as a trip boat. We have a sound hull and engine (with hydraulic drive) but no internal decking, seating or canopy.

Jim estimates that he will need five 2.4 x 1.2m sheets of 20mm thick WBP plywood; one sheet of the same material but 25mm thick; four lengths of pine 75mm x 50mm x 5m long and two lengths of pine 50mm x 50mm x 6m long. In addition we need a relatively small amount of fibre-glass matting and resin for limited repairs and strengthening to the hull. Jim is kindly donating the seating for the twelve seater boat.

Are you/your Company able to assist with the provision of the materials, please? Any offers of assistance (to the Chairman, please) will be greatly appreciated.

continued on page 21

COMMITTEE MATTERS... (v)

NOVEMBER COMMITTEE

■ South Herefordshire District Council had formally objected to the Department of Transport regarding the obstruction of the Canal by the proposed Hereford (A49) Bypass. Cliff Penny had recently discussed the "protection" of the line of the Canal with Senior Officers of the Council and it was hoped that an appropriate Policy would be included in the District Wide Local Plan.

■ Forest of Dean District Council had thanked the Society for providing details of the route of the Canal. It would be necessary for a meeting with Officers of the Planning Department to agree potential diversion routes and to ensure that the line of the Canal would be "protected" in the District Wide Local Plan.

■ Details were given of ongoing liaison with the Dowty Group and Michael Stimpson Esq.

■ The National Rivers Authority (Welsh Region) had confirmed that they were willing to have a joint meeting (with NRA Severn Trent Region) and the Canal Society once an Engineering Assessment was available.

■ Those Members of the Committee who had contributed to the Southern Canals Meeting (hosted by the Society) were thanked for their efforts. It was felt that the day had gone well and had been of considerable benefit to the Society.

■ Arrangements were made for a special meeting of the full Committee to consider a paper written by the Chairman regarding the appointment of a possible Project Officer and to progress matters relating to the formation of the Charitable Trust.

■ The Vice Chairman reported on the recent "fine tuning" of the various Committee Sub-Groups. Significant progress was being made by the Events Group in particular. The Chairman expressed grave concern over certain aspects of the Restoration Group structure. He asked the Group to reconsider the matter in order that changes, which he considered to be essential, be agreed at the December Meeting.

■ Arrangements for a Work Group weekend in November were discussed. It would involve clearance work near the locks at Newent. A number of newly recruited Society Members, who had expressed an interest in restoration work, had been personally invited to take part.

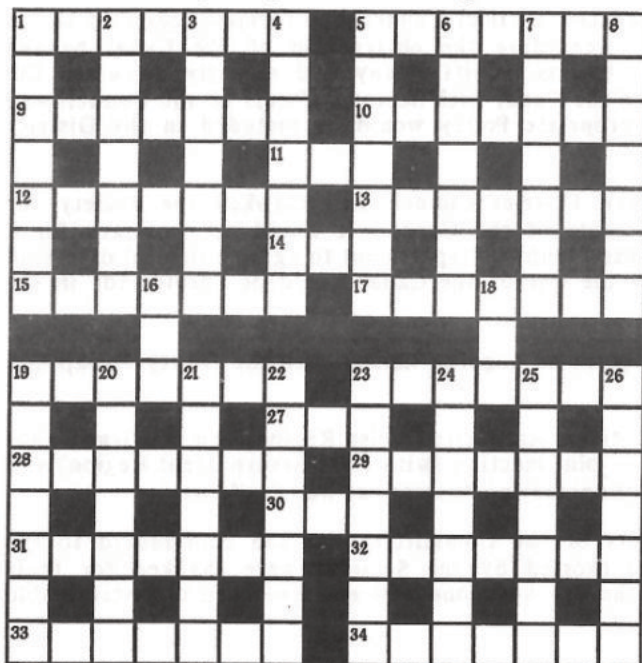
■ Mike Potts pointed out that Nigel Jefferies was the sole Member of our Committee who had been on the original Committee when the Society was founded in 1983. A vote of thanks was expressed for Nigels continued support.

■ A new land owner, adjacent to the Canal at Hereford, had approached the Society for advice and physical assistance in improving a very short length of the Canal.

CRP

WINTER CROSSWORD

By Tony Austin-Bailey



ACROSS

- 1 Is canal town literate?
- 5 Mars food given backwards to number ones.
- 9 Descriptive of area beyond the planet.
- 10 Ivy from the gun carriage after the century.
- 11 Allowed Wogan back.
- 12 Ruined offspring destroys gate for actor's workplace.
- 13 Ian and the duchess reformed in eastern Europe.
- 14 Hooligan with half a century less has finished innings.
- 15 & 33 Nineteenth century greats.

- 17 Man stood upright before thinking.
- 19 Starting price peruses the preserves.
- 23 Alan leaves shortly down under to settle in Europe.
- 27 One third of a pop group.
- 28 Royal Academy added or substituted in this enclave.
- 29 Diplomacy on the French island, in a sense.
- 30 Fish study from garden.
- 31 No sense of unreality here.
- 32 A muddled Denise will attract dogs.
- 33 See 15.
- 34 Badge of office where the young man was directed.

DOWN

- 1 Make good about a shop.
- 2 Adds weights to first letter and gathers.
- 3 Copy sounds self-centred at gallery.
- 4 Ship has four quarts around the Orient.
- 5 Lay down the law to the secretary.
- 6 Cookable soil?
- 7 Furniture at No. 10.
- 8 Pleasant shock gives no rise to the donkey but beats all.
- 16 The young man of 34 returns on foot.
- 18 Creature with eighteen appendages and existences.
- 19 Flier puts strut before line.
- 20 Russian goes to untrained pole to produce fresh plan.
- 21 Ernie's join, unspirited; modern transport fleet.
- 22 Is this Antipodean always jolly?
- 23 A magnet by the treatise.
- 24 Representative group not cross for a part.
- 25 Sounds like this clothing is what Raymond intended.
- 26 One repairer makes a change.

THANKS...

Since the last edition of "The Wharfinger" an unprecedented amount of support has been received in both cash and kind as illustrated below.

DOWTY GROUP

Donation of £500 from their Charitable Trust.

SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE D. C.
£500 towards plant hire costs.

NRA WELSH REGION

£750 towards Summer Work Camp at Monkhide.

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

£250 towards restoration of the Canal.

MICHAEL STIMPSON

Printing of 1,000 Membership Forms, circulation of 1,200 Membership Forms, and the recruitment of many Members!

The above is in addition to all the generous help that has been given by so many other firms and individuals in the first 9 months of the year (and during the "National") who have been thanked in previous editions of "The Wharfinger".

Without this tremendous amount of support the achievements of the past year would not have been possible.

A very big

THANK YOU

HAS ANYONE GOT...?

As we mentioned in an earlier edition of *The Wharfinger* Sir John Knill has donated the manuscript of his memoirs for the Canal Society to publish, in an agreed form, to raise funds for restoration of the Canal.

The manuscript comprises some 150 pages of typewritten text. We would like to scan these pages into an IBM compatible computer (to avoid re-typing) to permit editing and would prefer to have the text in a format that would be compatible with WordStar 2,000; or in ASCII.

If you have access to a suitable scanner and optical character recognition software, and would be prepared to assist the Canal Society, please contact Cliff Penny, the Chairman [see Contacts list on the inside of the back cover.] *Thank you.*

If you are reading this before Christmas, then the Canal Society Committee would like to take the opportunity to wish all Members, and those who have supported us over the past year

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

However, if you are reading this in 1991 then we wish you

A HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Why not give a Canal Society gift Membership - an original and unusual gift - and support our work at the same time? *Full details in the Sales List enclosed with this issue.*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY . . .

CALLING ALL ARMCHAIR MEMBERS

The Society does not exist merely for the benefit of active restorers; it exists **FOR ALL MEMBERS**. Many of you have supported our efforts for a number of years, many more of you will have swelled our numbers this year at the National Waterways Festival - GLOUCESTER 90.

To new and old members alike we are grateful for your support but we owe you more than just 'The Wharfinger' four times a year.

Therefore a Social sub-committee has been formed of Kay and Tony to put together a programme of events which we hope will interest ALL our members. Our aim will be to have something different each month, indoors during the winter evenings, outdoors during the longer summer days; venues too will be varied enabling members to attend these events without having to travel too far.

Thursday, 6th December, 1990

Christmas Social at Antelope Inn, Barton Road, Hereford at 7.30p.m.

Thursday, 10th January, 1991

Illustrated talk, slides and video, "How we saved the Dredger" by David McDougall, Friends of the National Waterways Museum. Beauchamp Arms, Dymock, B4215 Hereford/Gloucester Road. at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 26th January, 1991 - DEADLINE for the Spring edition of The Wharfinger
--

Thursday, 21st February, 1991

Illustrated Talk 'Conservation' by Dr. Anthea Brian, Herefordshire Nature Trust. Antelope Inn, Barton Road, Hereford, at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 21st March, 1991 * *To be arranged.*

Thursday, 25th April, 1991 *

Annual General Meeting followed by Gloucester Festival 90 Video - Graham Ettles Chairman of Gloucestershire Branch, IWA.

* SEE THE NEXT EDITION OF THE WHARFINGER FOR FURTHER DETAILS
--

Should any member have a problem with transport/Members travelling to **EVENTS** with **EMPTY SEATS IN CARS**; We would like to hear from you. This would enable co-ordination of Members transport needs. We would like to see as many of you as possible in the coming year.

LOOKING forward to meeting many **NEW FACES** in the months ahead;

CONTACTS:-

Kay Jennings Hereford (0432) 270907
Tony Austin-Bailey (0432) 269704

KJ/TAB

This edition of The Wharfinger was compiled by Cliff and David Penny using JETSETTER software. Our thanks to Sandy Wooldridge, of Creative Labels Ltd., for producing the "halftone" for pages 8 & 17

CONTACTS

R E Barnes, TD.,
"Highway Cottage",
LYDE,
Hereford
[Hereford 267168]

Mike Potts,
3, Cranstone,
UPPER BREINTON,
Hereford,
HR4 7PL
[Hereford 356392]

Gwyn ("Steve") Stephens,
11, Meadow Close,
HEREFORD,
HR2 6AA
[Hereford 268739]

Brian Fox,
[Hereford 58628]

Tony Austin-Bailey,
[Hereford 269704]

James Dunn,
[Hereford 278274]

Laurie Lavender,
(contact via Mike Potts)

Bob Palmer
[(0905) 354709]

Graham Ettles,
[(0242) 512802]

Cliff Penny/David Penny,
"Coppice",
BURLEY GATE,
Hereford,
HR1 3QS
[Hereford 820420]

Liz Wood,
16, Stratford Road,
HEREFORD,
HR4 9TW
[Hereford 271657 -
Telefax Hfd. 342154]

Nigel Jefferies,
19, Willcroft Park,
BARTESTREE,
Hereford,
HR1 4DG
[Hereford 850661]

Kay Jennings,
[Hereford 270907]

Ian Reed,
[Ledbury (0531) 5877]

Karen McKay,
[(043271) 459]

Derek Gray,
[Hereford 56007]

Stephen Fitzmaurice,
[Hereford 268146]

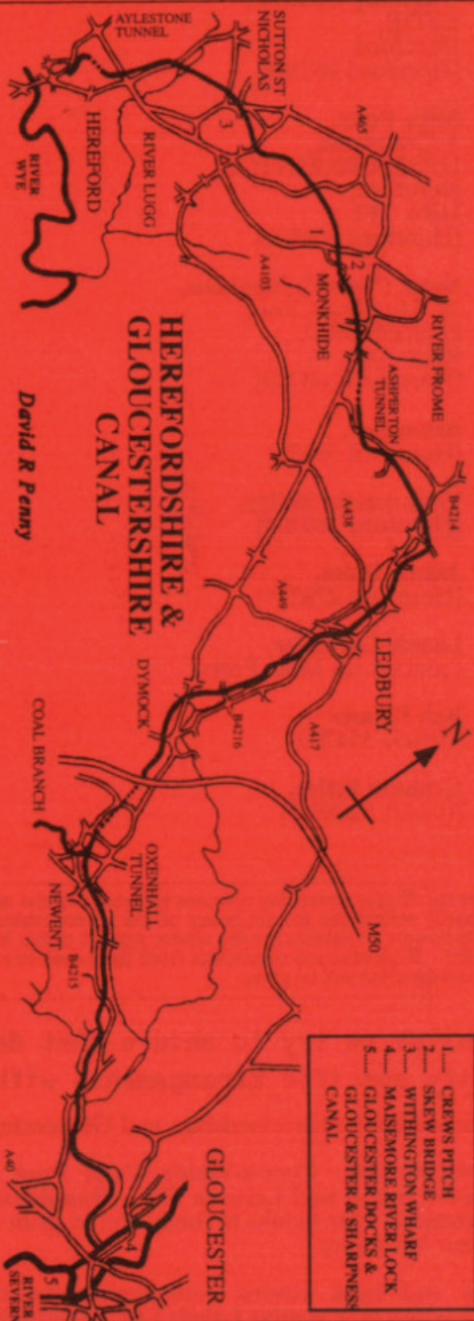
Unless specifically stated any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the formal policy of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society. The Society accepts no liability for any matter printed in this newsletter nor for any advertising that may be included. Reproduction of extracts from the newsletter is welcomed on the understanding that full acknowledgement will be given.

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.