

# The Wharfinger

**Newsletter of the  
Herefordshire and  
Gloucestershire  
Canal Trust**



**Edition 58 • Summer 1998  
50p – free to members**



# WHO DOES WHAT ...

## VICE PRESIDENTS

*Viscount Portman*

*R. E. Barnes TD.*

## CHAIRMAN

Vacant

## VICE CHAIRMEN

Brian Fox, Tom Bennett

## FINANCE:-

Treasurer/Chairman  
Committee

Liz Connors

Brian Fox, Tom Bennett, David Penny, Nigel Jefferies, John Meager

## RESTORATION:-

Mid-Week Group Co-Ordinators  
Plant & Training Manager

Tom Bennett, Brian Fox,  
*Simon Hayward*, Mike Potts  
*Dave Young*, *Bill Rudd*  
Tom Bennett

## SPECIAL PROJECTS:-

[Oxenhall Locks Site]

Chairman  
Vice-Chair  
Secretary  
Committee

*Peter Moore*

David Penny

Steve Gittins

*Richard Hamblin*, *Bill Cronin (FoDDC)*,  
*Steve Delacourt-Smith*, *Roger Tutt*, Alan Lines, *Simon Hayward*, *Steve Lambert*

David Penny

*Bob Willis*

*Bill Rudd*

Steve Gittins, John Meager,  
*Steve Delacourt-Smith*

Steve Gittins

David Penny

David Penny, Cliff Penny

Brian Fox

## HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER

## LOCAL AUTHORITY LIAISON

## PLANNING LIAISON

## LANDOWNER LIAISON

## PUBLICITY:- Social/H&GCS Events

## MEMBERSHIP:-

Secretary  
Covenants

*Elizabeth Lloyd*

Nigel Jefferies

Liz Connors

## FUNDRAISING

## SOCIAL:-

Events  
Outings

David Penny, John Meager

*Steve Delacourt-Smith*

Mike Potts, *Joyce Potts*

Tony Austin-Bailey

Will Frecknall

## MINUTES SECRETARY

## IWA NOMINATED MEMBER

## THE WHARFINGER:-

Editor  
Postmasters:- Leader  
Team

Cliff Penny, David Penny

*B & M Sanderson & family*

*D & M Gray*; *I & F Roper*;

Nigel Jefferies, Mike Potts

## TALKS/WALKS

Those in italics are not Directors on the Council of Management, although they may be co-opted members

**THE TRADING COMPANY**  
**H & G CANAL [SALES]**

*H & G*

**DONATING ALL PROFITS**  
**TO THE CANAL TRUST**

## TREASURER/MANNING

Liz Connors

## MAIL ORDER SALES/SALES GOODS

*Penny Shetliffe*

## CRAFT FAIRS

*Joyce Potts*

## COMMITTEE

*Tom Bennett*, *Chris & Mark Blunden*,  
*Steve Gittings*, *Derek Gray*, *Derek Weaver*

## BOATS:- Chairman

*Dick Skeet*

## Committee

*Ray & Barbara Moses*, *Pat Skeet*, *Derek Gray*

Please see **CONTACTS**, inside back cover, for addresses/phone numbers.

## HONORARY POSTS:-

AUDITOR *Davies, Edwards & Co., Leominster.*

## SOLICITOR

*Sue Newbould, GABB & CO., 25 King Street, Hereford.*

## ONE DOWN...

One down and four to go could have been the motto of the grand opening ceremony for Phase One of the Oxenhall House Lock Project! Held early in April, in torrential rain, it marked the successful completion of the restoration work to the upper approaches to the (Listed) House Lock. This enabled the stop planks to be inserted, the temporary earth dam to be removed and for water to pour over the previously lost, and now totally restored, byweir for the first time in over 100 years. The ceremony was well attended by Council Officials and Councillors, representatives of the local community and, last but not least, representatives of those whose hard work had made it all possible. *[Further details on p.17-18 - photo's p.19.]*

## LOCK COTTAGE

All of the work that we planned to complete prior to the sale of Lock Cottage at Oxenhall was also completed in early April - thanks to valiant efforts by our Restoration Group. This means that the Cottage was officially placed on the market immediately before Easter and appropriate national advertising is in hand. Additional details (regarding Tender deadline etc.) can be found in the updated advertisement on p. 3 of this issue.

## WITHINGTON DEVELOPMENT

Details of our successful representations to protect the Canal at the site of the former Wharf at Withington were carried in edition 56 (Winter 1997/8). Even though the Planning Inspector had rejected

those proposals another Appeal was lodged and the Canal Trust again submitted a detailed statement to the (new) Inspector. This Appeal has also been rejected - firmly establishing the need to protect not only the line of the Canal but also the historic Wharf and associated small basin at this location. We have made it clear that the Canal Trust is not totally opposed to some development on the adjacent site and hope that it will now be possible to work with the land owner to produce a mutually beneficial proposal that will harness a restored section of the Canal with a sympathetic and attractive development. In fact, as was demonstrated at the Over Hospital site, the only way of obtaining planning permission may be the pursuit of a joint scheme.

## AGM

The necessary formal notice was given in the last edition that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 21st May in Ledbury - full details are contained within the centre pages of this edition. Please do come along, your support really is appreciated and we do our utmost to make the evening as enjoyable as possible.

## NWF

The National Waterways Festival, organised by the Inland Waterways Association (our "guardian" body) each August Bank Holiday, is to be held in Manchester this year. However, it has just been announced that it will be much closer to home in 1999 - Worcester being the location (for the first time). We developed our large (award



# Editorial

winning) display for the NWF when it was held at Gloucester in 1990. It is intended to ensure that we don't let the side down at Worcester! Further details (including how you can assist us in achieving this vital objective!) in a future edition of *The Wharfinger*.

££££££££££

Thank you to those who have already returned Draw tickets and money to Liz Connors. Also to those who have added a donation - the one to beat being £5 for tickets + £100 donation - an especial "thank you" being due there! We make no apologies for repeating our request to all Members and supporters to please sell as many Grand Holiday Draw tickets as possible - thanks to

the support of the prize sponsors and the support of MEB in paying for the tickets to be printed we can guarantee that every single pound raised will go towards the restoration of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal. With so many volunteers hours being recorded on site our fuel and essential maintenance costs are, understandably, rocketing!

## SIR JOHN KNILL

For many years Sir John has been one of our Vice Presidents and, in spite of his advancing years, an active supporter of our voluntary efforts. It was with great sadness that we learnt of his death just as this issue was about to go to press - a tribute is below.

■ CRP

## SIR JOHN KNILL Bt.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of one of our long-standing Vice Presidents; Sir John Knill Bt. Sir John passed away on Wednesday 15th April aged 85. He had suffered a heart attack some weeks earlier and was making a slow recovery when he suffered a relapse.

Sir John was a "Number One" - the owner-operator of commercial carrying boat pairs - in the difficult late 1940's. He joined the Inland Waterways Association and was soon on the Council - looking after the interests of working boatmen and trying to promote the benefits of carrying goods by water. Disaster came during the winter of 1954 when his boats were iced in for over 6 weeks and the banks called in a loan. He sold his waterside home at Braunston and returned to the ancestral family home at Knill - in Herefordshire.

In the early 1970's, together with his wife and family, they moved back to the waterways - buying a cottage alongside the Kennet and Avon Canal at Bathampton. From there they operated a refreshment shop and two 12 seater trip boats in what turned out to be a highly popular operation; one of these boats he later donated to the H&G Canal Trust.

Sadly his wife predeceased him and he moved into a small self-contained flat a few years ago; remaining very independent and highly supportive of the inland waterways. On a number of occasions he wrote excellent letters supporting the activities of the H&G Canal Trust. He was also the President of the Commercial Narrowboat Operators Association and was active to the end arranging loads and supporting commercial carrying on the inland waterways from his wheelchair. CRP



# **FOR SALE**

## **Lock Cottage, Oxenhall**

During late April 1998 the Canal Trust cottage, adjacent to House Lock at Oxenhall, was formally placed on the market. The property stands on a narrow plot with gardens principally to the sides, and containing a re-constructed outhouse. In addition to overlooking House Lock (which is currently the Trust's primary focus of restoration) the property also enjoys views of the newly restored lock byweir.



The property is sold with the benefit of listed building consent, and building regulations approval, for its restoration, including new windows to the rear and the conversion of the bakehouse.

Upon completion this will provide the restored property with:- Bathroom, kitchen and two reception rooms to the ground floor, and two bedrooms and WC to the first floor. The proposals provide for the unusual feature of both bedrooms having windows to front and rear, this enables the property to fully benefit from the magnificent views afforded over the rolling countryside surrounding it.

**CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS: 12 NOON 5th JUNE**

To receive full details please write to:-

Julian A Phillips Esq.,  
(Re. Lock Cottage, Oxenhall),  
Phillips & Co.,  
5 Church Street,  
Newent,  
Gloucestershire.  
GL18 1PU

# Over The Years - part II

By David R Penny

*In the last edition of The Wharfinger I described the events at the Public Inquiry and the "midnight oil burning" that took place to secure the legal Agreement for the former Over Hospital site on the outskirts of Gloucester...*

Having signed the Agreement all we could do was wait for the Inspector to make his decision - hopefully before Christmas. Christmas came and went, but one morning in the middle of January there was a phone call from Alan Watts, the Director of Bradenham Investments, the lead advisers to the Secretary of State for Health (with whom we had been working closely to secure the Agreement). *The heart beat quickened, had it all been a waste of time - 5 years work down the drain, or had we secured the largest deal in the history of the Trust?*

As reported in the last edition of The Wharfinger, the development

had gained consent and the s.106 Agreement was now in force. During the next 48 hours all the other advisers to the Secretary of State for Health, whom we had been working with, telephoned to give their thanks for our assistance. An indication that we had made a difference?

Well the next day when the decision letter arrived it was clear the Inspector had thought we had. He had taken considerable note of the content of the Agreement and the benefits it presented, and made clear he had also placed weight upon the Canal Trust's support for critical aspects of the Developer's proposals.

## DUMPERS!

THWAITES, BENFORD, WINGET,  
BARFORD, MORTIMER, RJE etc.

WE HAVE HUNDREDS OF NEW PARTS ON THE SHELF!  
WE HAVE HUNDREDS OF GOOD USED PARTS ON THE SHELF!  
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HAMNISH COURT, HAMNISH  
LEOMINSTER HR6 0QW

RING 01568 760243 ANYTIME OR FAX US ON 01568 760465





*ABOVE & RIGHT: Work under way at the downstream end of House Lock at Oxenhall.*

*BELOW: The upstream pound back in water. The towpath has since been stoned. The byweir is to the extreme right.*



## Over The Years ... continued

So what does this Agreement mean for the Trust? Well it sets out that the Developer shall pay us a five figure sum; undertake work to stabilise, partly rebuild and make sound and weather tight the Lock Cottage; accept 5,000m<sup>3</sup> of 'permeable soil' from the excavation of the Canal; and will transfer the freehold ownership of the Cottage, Canal, and surrounding operational land to the Canal Trust.

It commits the Trust to excavate the line of the Canal which is back filled to a depth of 4m; to construct more than 75m of brand new wharf wall; to construct a new overflow weir and discharge channel to the River Leaden; to construct a new pumping station and abstraction channel to provide a water supply from the River Leaden; and to create a surfaced towpath. The

major catch is that the Trust has only 9 months to complete the work that we have committed ourselves to, and that it is up to the Developer to decide when he gives us 3 months notice that we should start work.

It is *a challenge* (just to put it mildly!) but it is possible with the correct organisation. That is why the Over Special Projects Group was formed in February, to ensure that we are ready to proceed as soon as the Developer is. A small, but strong team has been formed (see 'Who does What') which is currently focussing on the project programme and design aspects.

On going to press the site was on the market; we await a meeting with the eventual purchaser and look forward to working with them on this exciting project.

TO BE CONTINUED ...

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# Committee Matters

*Two Council of Management meetings are reviewed by our Editor in order that our Members and supporters are kept up to date...*

## FEBRUARY COMMITTEE

• The Editors of **The Wharfinger** submitted a draft of part of the intended Spring edition Editorial, relating to the resignation of Bryan Heatley, for approval. After a short discussion a slightly amended version was approved for publication.

• The action of one of our Vice Chairman in responding to the IWA's draft policy document on towing paths was endorsed.

• A cheque from the Forest of Dean Council, for just over £2,000 (the payment of grant towards work at Oxenhall) was warmly welcomed.

• The Charity Commissioners had responded to a request for guidance over the payment of expenses to a member of the Council of Management who had limited financial resources. In making such payments they said that the Charity had to be satisfied that they were necessary and reasonable; also the benefit derived from the efforts of the individual should be taken into account. After lengthy debate it was agreed that the Canal Trust was gaining very considerable benefit and, under all the circumstances, the individual should be paid motoring expenses at the rate at which the Inland Revenue consider there is no profit (therefore, not to be regarded as remuneration) - to be reviewed in 6 months.

• The Restoration Group reported on progress at Oxenhall; blanking plates were to be fitted to the ground paddle culverts and the excavator would then remove the earth dam to allow the length of the Canal upstream of the lock to fill against the stop planks. Surplus Water would then flow over the by-weir for the first time in 100 years. *[Photo - p.5]*

• There was a further debate about Health and Safety issues relating to the erection, inspection and maintenance of scaffolding.

• Arrangements were agreed for the essential felling of a small number of trees in the immediate vicinity of the aqueduct at Oxenhall.

• Great concern was expressed at the very considerable damage that had been caused to a section of the towpath at Yarkhill; it was clear that this had been caused by horses. Local enquiries would be made to try and identify the owners of the animals and seek restoration.

• A secure lockable container was urgently required for the safe and dry storage of tools and perishable materials at Oxenhall. Preliminary contacts had not been successful even though a modest budget was allocated - it was essential to clear the Cottage prior to advertising the sale.

## Committee Matters . . . (ii)

- The highly successful Planning Appeal decision relating to the Over Hospital site was formally reported. [See last edition.]

- David Penny and Brian Fox, together with a senior Officer from the "fundholding Authority" (Hereford City Council) were to have a progress review meeting with Messrs Parkman. Hereford City Council had agreed to provide limited administrative assistance to the Canal Trust in the administration of the Steering Committee and the Consulting Engineers - this was greatly appreciated.

- First Aid courses were under review and our Safety Officer reminded everyone that no work should commence on any site until a Risk Assessment had been completed.

- A full programme of Social Events was tabled right through to the summer "pint and a natter" evenings.

- It was confirmed that Oxenhall Lock Cottage would not be nationally advertised until agreed works had been completed on the adjacent land and the Canal - the Restoration Group remained confident that the April deadlines would be met. [Finished on time! - Ed.]

- All the prizes for the Grand Holiday Draw were in place and, [as reported in the last edition - Ed.] all of the print costs for the draw tickets were being met by a donation from Midlands Electricity - to

quote a phrase from a previous Chairman - *all the money would go into the Canal!*

- It was confirmed that the Burgage Hall at Ledbury [Ledbury being roughly mid-way along the length of the Canal] had been booked for the AGM on the 21st May.

- It was agreed that there was no objection to IWA Headquarters utilising "our" Articles and Memorandum for the Trading Company as an example of how to establish such a company.

### MARCH COMMITTEE

- The Council of Management endorsed a letter that had been sent to the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council expressing concern regarding their proposed national priority list for restoration schemes. A sub-group was established to respond positively to the national questionnaire on which the initial national data collection would be based.

- Restoration Group reported ongoing progress at Oxenhall; the most notable being that the dam had been removed and water was flowing over the by-weir as planned.

- In order to avoid the imminent commencement of the nesting season advance scrub clearance work was underway on the line of the Canal at the former Over Hospital site. Liaison was also in hand with



## Committee Matters . . . (iii)

Gloucester Trust for Nature Conservation and the Environment Agency.

- A local Hunt were believed to be the horse riders who had caused considerable damage by cutting up the towpath at Yarkhill. Further enquiries were continuing.

- An "Oxenhall Lock Phase 1" Opening Ceremony would take place in April. *[Photo's p.19]*

- Very significant interest was reported in the sale of Lock Cottage. *[Updated advertisement on page 3.]*

- There was a discussion regarding the maintenance of our heavy plant and equipment; Finance Committee would review the matter in detail.

- Three Civil Engineering students had offered to assist the Canal Trust and they were undertaking survey and related work in support of the Parkman Consulting Engineers contract. This assistance was welcomed.

- There was a further discussion regarding Health and Safety. A draft Policy Statement was accepted subject to additions relating to environmental Policy.

- The Trading Company reported intended attendances for 1998; the question of restricted space at the NWF, in Manchester, had been resolved.

- An offer of a promotional video was regarded as premature prior to the publication of the Consulting Engineer's Reports.

CRP

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## Boat Jumble

*By Ray Moses*

Setting up started from 6.00am so it was an early start to get the stall (kindly loaned by the Gloucester and Hereford IWA Branch) to Gloucester Docks, assembled and set up. Derek Gray joined us and helped Barbara and I for the rest of the day. *Thank you, Derek.*

Once again the organisers had done us proud, with the stall positioned just outside the National Waterways Museum entrance. With what I think was a record attendance of potential customers, we sold items steadily throughout the morning and distributed details of the Canal Trust to the many inquirers. In the afternoon it started to rain

and continued to do so for the rest of the day so, along with the other stall holders, we had to pack up earlier than usual, due to lack of customers.

We raised £109.41 clear for the Trust; we could have done better had it not been for the rain!

Thank you to all those who donated items to be sold; although donations were down on previous years, we still managed to reach (and pass) our target of £100. We could not have achieved this without your donations. *We hope to run this stall again next year, when, of course, more donations of items to be sold will be needed - thank you.*

# *Dates For Your Diary*

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*By Steve Delacourt-Smith*

Social evenings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the  
**Down Under Bar\* of the Royal Oak Hotel, The Southend, Ledbury.**  
*[\*Formerly known as The Acorn Suite]*

*All meetings are 7.30 for 8pm.*

## **Tuesday, 19th May**

*"With 'Heritage' to France & Inland Waterways International"*

A double bill from former Chairman of the IWA  
and Canal Trust Member, David Stevenson

## **Tuesday, 16th June**

*"Looking at things naturally"*

By Les Kedward - our annual wildlife evening.

## **Tuesday, 21st July**

*"Noggin Natter & News"*

No formal Speaker, but please come along for a chat  
and an update of what the Trust is doing

## **Tuesday, 18th August**

*"Noggin Natter & News"*

No formal Speaker, but please come along for a chat  
and an update of what the Trust is doing

Meetings hosted by our "Master of Ceremonies" Lloyd Jones;  
raffle organised by Ray and Barbara Moses.

**IMPORTANT:** *Please note that the small Hotel car park is for residents  
of the Hotel. Our members and guests are requested to park either in  
the street or in the (free) public car parks nearby.*

Members and non-members welcome. There will be a raffle, and plenty of time  
for a chat. These Social Events also provide a time and place for the  
dissemination of the latest news from the Trust. Please contact Steve if you  
have any queries, or ideas for Social Events [01452 501372].

We are very grateful to Rex Baron, the new proprietor of the Royal Oak  
Hotel, for agreeing to our continued use of his facilities during the extensive  
alterations and improvements that are currently under way. This has meant  
that we have been able to continue with our meetings even when the Hotel  
has been officially closed. Any small temporary inconvenience will be more  
than compensated by the extensive improvements on completion!



# HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST

WORKING TOGETHER IN THE PRESENT, TO REVIVE THE PAST, AND SECURE A BETTER FUTURE

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1998**

to be held on Thursday, 21st May, 1998  
at the Burgage Hall, Church Street, Ledbury  
commencing at 7.30pm.

## **Annual Report and Accounts\* for Year Ended 28th February 1998**

*\*[Summary (abridged) Accounts will be included as a loose insert (for Members only). Members may obtain a full set of Accounts by sending a large SAE to the Treasurer; full sets of Accounts will also be freely available at the AGM.]*

*Apart from the formal business there will be a lively mix of slides, overhead projections and commentary on the successes of the year.*

*Light refreshments will be available.*

*Members and friends will be made very welcome.*

*Following a request at the last AGM the Council of Management have introduced "Any other relevant business" to the Agenda. Prior notice of questions should ensure a comprehensive response and would be greatly appreciated.*

## AGENDA

1. Welcome and formal opening of the meeting.
2. Acting Chairman's Report.
3. Group Reports.
4. To receive and approve the Report of Council, the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the Trust (and associated Company) for the year ended 28th February 1998, the Report of the Honorary Auditor thereon, and the Report of the Honorary Treasurer.
5. To re-appoint R W Davies Esq., of Davies Edwards and Company, as Honorary Auditor of the Trust (and associated Company).
6. To note that Steve Delacourt-Smith is standing down from the Council and does not offer himself for re-election. To re-appoint those Council Members retiring by rotation who offer themselves for re-election:-  
Liz Connors; Brian Fox; Nigel Jefferies
7. To appoint as Directors those co-opted during the year:-  
Steve Gittins; Alan Lines; John Meager
8. Any other relevant business.
9. Close of formal business.

*An illustrated review of progress will follow the formal business.*

**NOTE REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 6.** One third of the Members of the Managing Council are required to stand down each year. All those standing down (listed at 6. above) are offering themselves for re-election unless stated otherwise. The maximum size of the Council of Management is 18 and therefore they will be returned un-opposed. We are pleased to report that Steve Delacourt-Smith will continue to co-ordinate Social Events.

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## ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY, 1998

This is the sixth Annual Report of The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust Limited [a non profit distributing Company (formed in April 1992, No. 2704407), which is a Registered Charity (1010721) and of the wholly owned Trading Company - Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal (Sales) Ltd (2710215)]. They replaced the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society which was launched in 1983.

The *Canal Trust* is indebted to its *Council of Management*, and to the *Trading Company Board*; during the period under review [year ended 28th February 1998] those listed on page 13 have been Members:-



## CANAL TRUST COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT:

Tony Austin-Bailey; Tom Bennett; Liz Connors; Brian Fox;  
Will Frecknall *[IWA nominee]*; Steve Gittings *[c]*; Bryan Heatley *[r]*;  
Nigel Jefferies; Alan Lines *[c]*; John Meager *[c]*; Cliff Penny;  
David Penny; Mike Potts; Steve Delacourt-Smith.

*[c]* indicates co-opted to the C of M during the year. *[r]* indicates resigned November 1997.

## TRADING COMPANY *[H&GC (Sales) Ltd.]*:

Tom Bennett *[c]*; Liz Connors; Derek Gray *[c]* *[Boats Group Nominee]*;  
Steve Hughes *[r]*; Barbara Moses *[c]*; Ray Moses *[c]*;  
Penny Shetliffe *[c]*; David Penny *[r]*; Derek Weaver *[c]*.

*[c]* indicates co-opted to the Board during the year. *[r]* indicates resigned May 1997.

A great deal of positive progress has been reported, in detail, within our quarterly newsletter **The Wharfinger** during the period under review - *the twelve months ended 28th February 1998*. So much progress (on the ground, relating to policy matters, and regarding all of the many other aspects of our work) that this formal **Annual Report** can concentrate only on a few issues!

The **Steering Committee** (comprising all 7 Local Authorities along the line of the Canal, plus both Regions of the Environment Agency, The Southern Marches Partnership, The Rural Development Commission, Heart of England Tourist Board and the Canal Trust) - Chaired by David Penny - invited 5 firms of Consulting Engineers to formally Tender for the Engineering Feasibility and other Studies in respect of the whole Canal (and the Coal Branch). After an exhaustive process Messrs Parkman were selected and formally appointed in December. This critical work is continuing.

Our Special Projects Group (Chaired by Member Peter Moore) met regularly to bear the brunt of the management of the exciting progress on the Oxenhall Projects Site at Newent. The first phase of the work to the Listed House Lock was completed in February with water passing over the previously lost (and now totally reconstructed) byweir for the first time in over 100 years. This project is one of only 4 nationally adopted as part of the "Dig Deep"

initiative and we are grateful to the visiting groups, from all over the country, who regularly visit to assist our own volunteers with the restoration. Work has also continued in and around Lock Cottage to prepare this for sale. In addition, as always, routine maintenance has continued in both counties.

Apart from the excellent physical progress on the ground our specialist Town and Country Planning Team have been hard at work defending the Canal corridor from adverse development. Thankfully their unbroken record of "winning" Planning Appeals continues - with another three successes in the 12 months under review. It is unfortunate that some developers still continue to try and ignore the clear Policy support that protects the Canal throughout all the Local Authority areas. Others, however, work with the Canal Trust to find mutually advantageous solutions - the former Over Hospital site at Gloucester being an excellent example.

Fund-raising has assumed even greater priority with rapidly increasing day to day expenditure arising from the greatly extended restoration hours that have been achieved. The need for greater voluntary resources, to identify and obtain additional sources of funding, has been partially addressed towards the end of the period under review.

The Council of Management greatly appreciate the support they have received from all quarters.





# PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MAJOR FUND-RAISING INITIATIVE

Every pound helps support physical restoration  
on the H&G Canal. *Every pound counts!*

We usually sell approx. 2,500 books - so each book has about a  
1 in 800 chance of winning a holiday - better odds than the Lottery!

Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust - H & G C S	00000	Additional tickets are available from:- our Treasurer Liz Connors; at the AGM; or at the monthly Social Evenings.
<b>GRAND HOLIDAY DRAW</b>		
* 1st Prize - NARROW BOAT HOLIDAY FOR 4 * ONE WEEK (prior to 31/5/99) Donated by BLACK PRINCE HOLIDAYS		
2nd - TWO VIP TICKETS TO THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW 1999 + TOP HOTEL Donated by BRITISH MARINE INDUSTRIES FEDERATION		
3rd - TWO NIGHTS B&B FOR TWO N. LEDBURY IN CONVERTED OAST HOUSE (Prior to 1/4/99) - donated by Mrs. GILL STAMP plus a dinner for two (exc. Sundays) donated by Sheila at the TRUMPET INN <small>(First and third prizes exclude Bank Holidays and are subject to availability.)</small> <small>Promoter: Mrs E Connors, 18 St. Ethelbert's Close, Sutton St. Nicholas, Hereford, HR1 3BF Registered with Hereford City Council under Section 5 Lotteries &amp; Amusements Act, 1976 To be drawn at National Waterways Festival, Manchester, 31/8/98</small>		
MEB <small>Malvern Electricity plc</small>	Supported by MEB - TICKETS 25p EACH -	



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME ..... PLEASE

ADDRESS ..... PRINT

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you*

POST CODE ..... TEL. .... NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL ☐ GIFT ☐

Details, please, of any skills  
that might assist us in our work?

Please indicate where you obtained this form *The Wharfinger - Edition 58 - Summer 1998*

**Subscription rates :-** INDIVIDUAL £ 7.50 ☐ JOINT/FAMILY £ 10 ☐

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(Do not detach). To (name & address of your bank) .....

Please pay to account No. 11600694, sorting code No. 16-21-20 of The Herefordshire and  
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The sum of £ ..... on this day and thereafter, *annually* (on the anniversary) until further notice.

SIGNED ..... MY A/C No. .... DATE .....

[YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS  
TO BE AS GIVEN ABOVE.]

[This instruction CANCELS any previous Bankers  
Order in favour of the Trust or the former Society.]

PLEASE SEND ME A COVENANT FORM ☐ A CREDIT CARD MANDATE ☐ REV 03/96

The Membership Secretary, H & G C T, 6 Castle Street, Hereford, HR1 2NL



# *Mike & Joyce's Outings*

---

*By Mike & Joyce Potts*

If you have not already booked for our weekend trip to Llangollen then we are sorry but you are too late! April 10th was the deadline and, yes, we did have some places to spare. We have a packed weekend planned for those who have booked and Mike and Joyce are even going on an advance visit to try and ensure that all goes smoothly. Please, if you are interested in the September trip book NOW to ensure that the trip can run as planned. A great deal of hard work goes into planning and organising each trip - please support us; both Members and non-Member friends are welcome.

**Sunday, 13th September, 1998**

**DAY OUT AT THE NATIONAL TRAMWAY MUSEUM  
CRICH, Derbyshire**

A fascinating "living museum", step back in time  
and travel on magnificently restored trams  
at this beautifully located museum -  
a day out with a difference!

*Fare (including admission) £16.50*

**Tickets and further information from:-**

M&J Potts, 8 The Dovecote, Mansell Lacy, Hereford, HR4 7HQ, or  
Hereford Camera Centre, The Atrium, Maylord Orchards, Hereford.

*Cheques payable to H&G Canal Trust, please.*

## *Promotional Events*

---

The Trading Company are hoping to take our award winning sales and promotional display to the following events. Liz Connors (01432 880155) is looking for volunteers; we provide free entry for all helpers - a really good chance to assist the Canal Trust and enjoy yourself at the same time! You don't have to be "front of house" - setting up (and down) is just as important and should be easier this year with our own "refurbished" van!

May 23 - 25: Braunston Boat Show

July 18 & 19: Much Marcle Steam Fair

July 26: Tewkesbury Boat Jumble

August 2: Herefordshire Country Fair

August 28 - 31: National Waterways Festival, Manchester

September 27: Oxenhall Open Day

October 3 & 31: Our own Craft Fairs in Ledbury & Hereford


## *Underwoods, Hereford*

We "won" an Appeal at this site; the Inspector found in favour of the Canal Trust and the protection of both the historic line, and the essential diversion routes, from any adverse development. [Ed.53, Spring '97.]

The latest proposals show the development slightly reduced yet still with the need for a substantial retaining wall in order to allow the Canal to pass the site - *the Applicant does not intend to build this wall as part of the development of the site.* David Penny has re-designed the layout to leave the Canal in a cutting - as it had been in this area - without the need for any retaining wall. The re-design permits all of the planned development to take place (with no loss of floor space). All the lorry/car parking is retained and

the site roadway is on an improved alignment. Importantly, our suggested layout presents a far more attractive site with the Canal and landscaping as an integrated "green lung" through the City.

We have written to brief all 25 Councillors on the Planning Committee and have asked that our layout be put formally to the Applicants.

*We do not oppose the re-development of this industrial estate.* What we do strongly object to is the wholly unnecessary encroachment into the Canal corridor. To be flexible we have also stated that we would (reluctantly) accept the Applicant's current proposal provided the retaining wall is built now, at the Applicant's expense. 

---

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# RESTORATION UPDATE

By Brian Fox

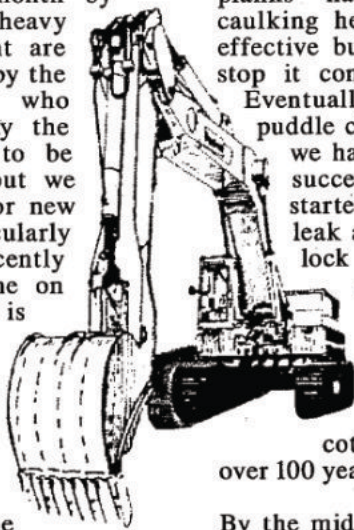
Last year the pace of restoration hotted up considerably and this year it is anticipated that progress will probably be even more hectic. **Waterway Recovery Group** got stuck in to Oxenhall Lock with a week camp and several weekends and will be continuing their involvement through the **Dig Deep** programme this year. The local midweek volunteer force (*sometimes lovingly referred to as the Wrinklies*) have got their act together and are now working every Tuesday and sometimes Thursday or Friday so it is possible to see the new lock taking shape month by month. Most of the heavy duties involving plant are done at the weekend by the younger volunteers who have to work to pay the mortgage. It seems to be working very well but we are always looking for new volunteers, particularly those who have recently retired and have time on their hands. It is surprising what can be achieved in just one day per week so just imagine what could be achieved if we had another dozen able bodies - I might even see the Canal open from Gloucester to Newent before I am too old to appreciate it.

The lock at Oxenhall has been our main focus of attention and it was reported in the last edition that we had completed reconstruction of the upper wing walls. In February the temporary earth dam was removed, the soil being spread on the towpath

and levelled ready for the laying of the stoned access road. The non towpath bank was cleared of fallen trees and scrub while the Canal was still dry and then the stop planks were inserted. Finally some temporary steel plates were made to cover the old sluice holes and we sat back to wait for the water to rise. Unfortunately it wasn't quite that simple - the water was leaking through everywhere. The plates were finally sealed using mastic from the local DIY store but the stop planks proved a little more difficult. The gaps between the planks had been sealed with caulking hemp which proved very effective but it was not so easy to stop it coming under and round.

Eventually a combination of puddle clay and wood ash which we had heard about was tried successfully and the water started to rise. The planks still leak a bit but you show me a lock that doesn't. At 2.35pm on 20th February the water rose high enough to flow over the reconstructed spill weir and through the culvert under the cottage for the first time in over 100 years.

By the middle of March it was dry enough to lay the stone down the access road and with a final bit of landscaping everything was ready for the cottage to be put on the market, on schedule, in April. The hard work of everyone involved was recognised on April 3rd when an official opening ceremony was held to commemorate the completion of Phase One of the lock reconstruction. Officials from





## RESTORATION UPDATE... continued

Forest of Dean District Council, Tewkesbury Borough, Newent Town Council had been invited and were shown around by members of the Trust. Heavy rain delayed the opening ceremony but nobody seemed bothered as they all retired to the Cottage where wine (*kindly donated by the local Three Choirs Vineyard*) was available with a selection of nibbles. The ribbon was finally cut by the deputy Chairman from FOD who also presented the Trust with a cheque for £1,000 (and a promise of another £1,000 later in the year) followed by photographs and interviews for local press and radio. Some of our volunteers were also present and it was very gratifying to hear all the favourable comments being made about our efforts. What more could one want - a pleasant, healthy working environment (it also keeps us off the streets), an end product which is clearly appreciated by everyone, and free wine at the end!

The restoration of the lower wing walls of the lock is continuing, and indeed almost complete, but for the time being we are leaving it to the WRGies whilst other jobs are tackled. As reported in the last edition of *The Wharfinger* the site of the old hospital at Over (pronounced Ooover) has received planning permission for demolition of most of the hospital buildings and construction of houses. The Canal Trust, thanks to the hard work of David Penny, have negotiated a legal agreement with the developers which effectively will see the Canal restored through the site for about 300 metres at no cost to us. We have to do the work but will get paid for it and the first phase, which had to be tackled before the ink on the agreement was

dry, was to clear any vegetation growing on the line of the Canal before nesting started in mid March. Consequently, everything had to be dropped at Oxenhall while we hacked and sawed at Over for 3 days. The line of the old Canal, which has been mostly infilled, had been established last year so it was easy to determine which trees needed felling. The weather down there is different to Oxenhall as it rained for two of the three days but undeterred, the cries of "timber" - splash, were still to be heard and it was all felled by the deadline. Trees are now scattered around as if there had been a hurricane, and will be sorted into timber to be used in the restoration on site (fendering for the Wharf wall and rustic seats etc.) and the balance will be cut up for logs etc at a later date - any offers to me before we sell them to a log merchant. It is planned to hire a chipping machine for the smaller wood so that we will have something to spread on the towpath later - we don't waste anything.

Having completed our short stint at Over it was considered most important to once more continue reconstruction of the south portal of Oxenhall Tunnel which was started some years ago but temporarily abandoned through lack of resources. Consequently, some scaffolding and boards have now been purchased and erected at the portal and work commenced in April. The first Tuesday morning started with typical Oxenhall weather and we ate our lunch on the scaffold balcony overlooking the Canal while the sun shone down and we made an early start on our tans. Unfortunately, a heavy shower came upon us from the direction of Over and operations for the day had to be





*The Vice Chairman of the Forest of Dean District Council cuts the tape at House Lock. David Penny presents the Council with a memento of the occasion – and receives £1,000.  
(Both photographs courtesy of Forest of Dean District Council/Dean Forest Studios, Coleford.)*



## RESTORATION UPDATE... continued

abandoned. I'm sure this rain was only a one off and work will continue in this delightful location until finished, when we shall move back to the lock a mile down the Canal, to continue the challenge.

We must not forget the mowing of the towpath at Oxenhall as well as the Yarkhill/Monkhide sites in Herefordshire now that everything is growing like mad and there are also trees to cut up at Over and Yarkhill. The towpath at Yarkhill has been seriously damaged by horses, cutting the soft ground so badly that it is currently impossible to operate our mower. It has become necessary to hire a local contractor to level the ground and it is proposed to erect a suitable barrier to deter horse riding in the future. The ride-on-mower, strimmers and chainsaw have all been serviced

over the winter and are ready for action so we shall be kept busy for the foreseeable future. Why not come along and get involved for a day - there are a variety of tasks and you might be tempted to try Canal restoration/maintenance as a permanent hobby?

### WANT TO GET INVOLVED ?

New volunteers are always welcome. Special skills are not required - we can always make use of someone who is just willing to help - every skilled worker needs one or two 'mates' for them to operate efficiently. Please telephone:-

Steve Delacourt-Smith (01452) 501372

Brian Fox (01432) 358628

Simon Hayward (01452) 534232

Tom Bennett (01981) 500258

### MID WEEK GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

[Oxenhall] Dave Young (01531) 635321

[Over] Bill Rudd (01452) 503164

## E. B. HAYWARD & Co.

We are a family run business established 36 years ago, specialising in sheetmetal work and fabrications in most metals including mild steel, stainless steel, aluminium, titanium, copper and brass.

Items can be manufactured to your own drawings and/or from instructions, in quantities from 1 to 10,000 off and can range from the size of a washer right up to fabrications of 1 tonne.

We have a wide client base with particular involvement in the hydraulic press, concrete, materials handling, feed and flour milling industries.

It has been our pleasure in supporting the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust for over 5 years, and we will continue to *work together in the present, to revive the past, and secure a better future.*

For further details please  
contact Simon Hayward -  
Tel: 01452 700384  
fax: 01452 700740



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ASHLEWORTH  
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GL19 4JJ



## Corporate Spotlight

*This is the first of what we hope will be a number of mini-features about our Corporate Members. The Canal Trust have been purchasing high quality sweatshirts and other clothing, for sale on the sales stand, from the Bee-line Company for many years.*

The Bee-line Company is ten this year. We began trading in 1988 offering a silk screen printing service on to three different garment types.

Ten years on, and in addition to our original printing service, we also offer in-house embroidery on our own computerised machine that is capable of hundreds of stitches per minute. Our product range has expanded to almost thirty lines - **from t-shirts to tabards and bags to brollies!**

Our customer base is mainly local Herefordshire and the surrounding counties, although our work has also gone as far afield as Sweden, Germany and even South Georgia near the Falkland Islands.

All printing is done by hand on manual printing presses, and as we process well over 30,000 garments

each year it is a good way of keeping muscles toned!

We offer a service flexible to our customers requirements, and all work is done on the premises so we are able to keep a close eye on quality and produce orders promptly. We produce orders from singles to thousands, and there is a huge amount of job satisfaction in spotting one's work in shops, supermarkets, local newspapers, TV, and even abroad (as recounted by the staff member who went holidaying in Portugal only to meet a couple wearing their recently printed **Bee-line** sweatshirts.)

Sometimes its impossible to get away from work!

■ KJT

*The Bee-line Company, Highfield,  
Wormbridge, Hereford, HR2 9DD  
tel: 01981 570343 - 'fax: 570557*

## Our Corporate Members . . .

*Listed below are our Corporate Members whose support we greatly appreciate. Where appropriate, please do use their businesses whenever you can.*

Alvechurch Boat Centres Ltd., Alvechurch  
Messrs VE & JE Arnold, Hereford  
Bartestree & Lugwardine Group Parish C'l  
The Beeline Company, Wormbridge, Hfds  
Belmont Medical Centre, Hereford  
Black Prince Holidays, Stoke Prior  
Blue Haven Marine, Rugby, Warwickshire  
Britannia Construction Ltd., Gloucester  
British Marine Industries Federation  
H P Bulmer Limited, Hereford  
David Cornwallis Dumpers, Leominster  
Grist Mill Boatyard, Worcester  
Hamdden Ltd., Brecon, Powys  
E B Hayward & Co., Ashleworth, Glos

Hereford City Library  
Middlewich Narrowboats, Middlewich  
MEB - Midlands Electricity  
Morbaine Limited, Widnes, Cheshire  
J L Pinder & Sons, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove  
Print Plus, Hereford  
RDD Insurance Brokers, Chelmsford  
The Shambles Museum, Newent, Glos  
Starline Narrowboats, Upton upon Severn  
Michael Stimpson & Assoc's, Rickmansworth  
The Tewkesbury Marina Ltd., Tewkesbury  
Willow Wren Cruising Holidays, Rugby  
Withington Primary School, Herefordshire  
Worcester & Birmingham Canal Society



CORPORATE  
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British  
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FEDERATION

## MICHAEL STIMPSON and ASSOCIATES

Corporate Members of the  
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FAX: 721559

## And Here's One That I Wrote Earlier . . .

*By Alan Lines*

As the years go by we never cease to  
be amazed at the latent talents that  
the Canal Trust brings out in people.  
Not only did Alan Lines learn how to  
drive a 360° excavator but he also has  
developed a tidy line in verse . . .

The waters flowing in the cut it's  
leaking past the planks,  
the ground paddle's are all sealed up  
but we don't give a (up very easily).

The waters running in the pond and  
flowing over the weir,  
if London WRG had a magic wand  
they'd turn it into beer.

Health and safety risk assessment  
we really must comply,  
hard hats gloves and safety boots  
and body bags if we die???

Our budget's small our projects big  
but we don't get downhearted,  
we never seem to get one done  
before the next gets started.

Oxenhall here and Over there I  
wonder how we manage,  
but then I recall those immortal  
words it's just another challenge!

### *Cheers!*

As you will see (list on page 15) we  
are attending promotional events  
nationally and locally. For the  
larger events we are going to run our  
highly successful **Bottle Draw**. If  
you are able to donate (or persuade a  
business to do so!) any bottles of  
wine for this purpose it would be  
greatly appreciated. Please note that  
there are no "star prizes" - our  
objective is a lot of good looking  
wine bottles on the rack! Bottles to  
the Social Events or to anyone listed  
on the inside back cover, *please*.



# 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 Trust unless specifically stated.]

*Dear Editor,*

I am writing to thank you for the complimentary copy of **The Wharfinger** that you have sent to me over the past few years - I consider that is an excellently produced newsletter which has admirably kept Officers of this Council aware of the progress that is being made by your Canal Trust.

On the reorganisation of Local Government in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, on the 1st April, I shall no longer hold a senior position with an Authority through whose area the H&G Canal passes. I wish you every success with your voluntary endeavours.

*A Senior Local Authority Officer*

[This is one of a number of complimentary letters received - however, we don't manage to please everyone all the time ... - Ed.]

On page 1 of the last edition we carried a brief report of the resignation of Bryan Heatley and a reference to the subsequent discussion in the Committee Matters pages. The following letter has been received by one of our Vice Chairmen and is published in full:-

*Dear Vice Chairman,*

This morning I received the Spring 1998 edition of **The Wharfinger**. I appreciated that some reporting of my departure from the chair was inevitable but I am unhappy with the coverage given on both pages 1 and 19. Your members are kept in the dark about an item of committee business which appeared to be of the greatest importance to each trustee present.

It is my opinion that the lack of a suitable explanation and the remarks re the appointment of a replacement chairman are injurious to my reputation. I ask that you put matters right in the next edition of **The Wharfinger** and should this not be published before the AGM that you make a point of clarifying the situation on that occasion.

I intend to be present at the AGM on the 21st May.

*Bryan Heatley, Ludlow*

[The content of **The Wharfinger** is normally entrusted to the Editors. However, they decided to submit the intended text for the last Editorial to the full Council of Management for approval and what was published on p.1 was amended and approved by the CofM. The text of **Committee Matters** is based on the approved minutes - p.19 was a true reflection of the views expressed by a number of members of the CofM following Bryan's resignation. As to keeping anyone "in the dark", the matter in question was not finalised until the February Committee - a factual extract being reported in **Committee Matters** on p.7 of this issue. - Ed.]

## THE HEREFORD AND GLOUCESTER CANAL by Member David Bick

The book about the H&G Canal. 104 pages, A5 format, with over 30 photographs, plus numerous maps and other documents. Please send a cheque for £7.95 (inc. P&P), payable to H&GCS, to:

*H&GCS, "Little Lugg",  
CROSS KEYS, HEREFORD,  
HR1 3NP.*

# The Last Page

## CARRIED AWAY

From time to time Brian Fox, in his Restoration Update feature, has made reference to materials being transported to our Gloucestershire "depot" - which, incidentally, now has a name - Horsefair Wharf! Our thanks to Midwinter Transport, and Simon Hayward, who have frequently made the essential transport available.

## SIGNED UP

Not only have we got a new sign at Horsefair Wharf, but as can be clearly seen in the photograph on page 19, the outhouse at Lock Cottage now has a number of informative signs firmly affixed. Apart from giving a brief account of what is going on (and who we are!) they also acknowledge the

major donations - so far - that have helped us with the restoration. Our thanks to Neil Ritchie, of Contract Sign Services, for producing all of the signs at less than cost price.

## PARISH WATCH

Please do remember that local Members can play a vital role in advising the Canal Trust of any local issues (such as planned development on or near the Canal) in their area. Please don't assume that we know about everything that is going on - better to be told twice than not at all!

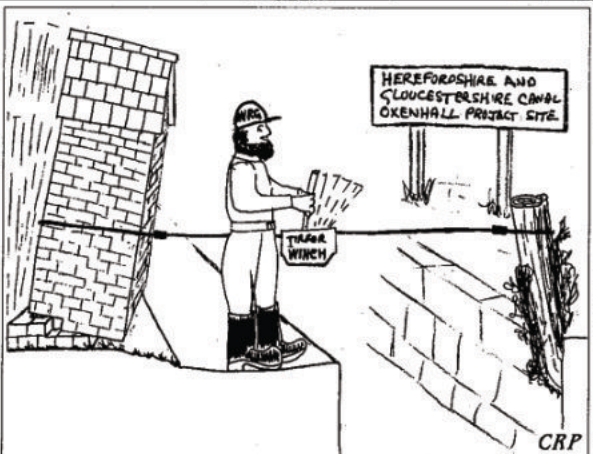
## PRESS CUTS

Shirley Fox is maintaining a press clippings book - please cut out any mentions of the H&G and send them to Shirley.

CRP

The April-May edition of **Navvies**, the newsletter of the **Waterway Recovery Group**, reported on a recent visit to the Oxenhall site by the London WRG.

Amongst the graphic reporting was the account of a Tirfor winch being used to remove a tree stump from the lock wall - "the newly rebuilt brick outhouse being used as an anchor point". Our Editors imagined this cartoon as a possible outcome ...!



Having taken up the slack I can feel it beginning to give ...

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION IS SATURDAY, 4th JULY**

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**Bill Rudd,**

Tel:- (01452) 503164

**John Meager,**

Tel:- (01584) 881595

### WANT TO HELP ?

The Canal Trust is always in need of new volunteers as our activities continue to expand. We can normally find a use for any skill from chefs to first aiders, brickies to those willing to help with shovel or pen.

PLEASE CONTACT ANYONE  
ON THIS PAGE  
**T O D A Y !**

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Whilst we try to ensure dates are correct please verify them with a relevant Organiser.

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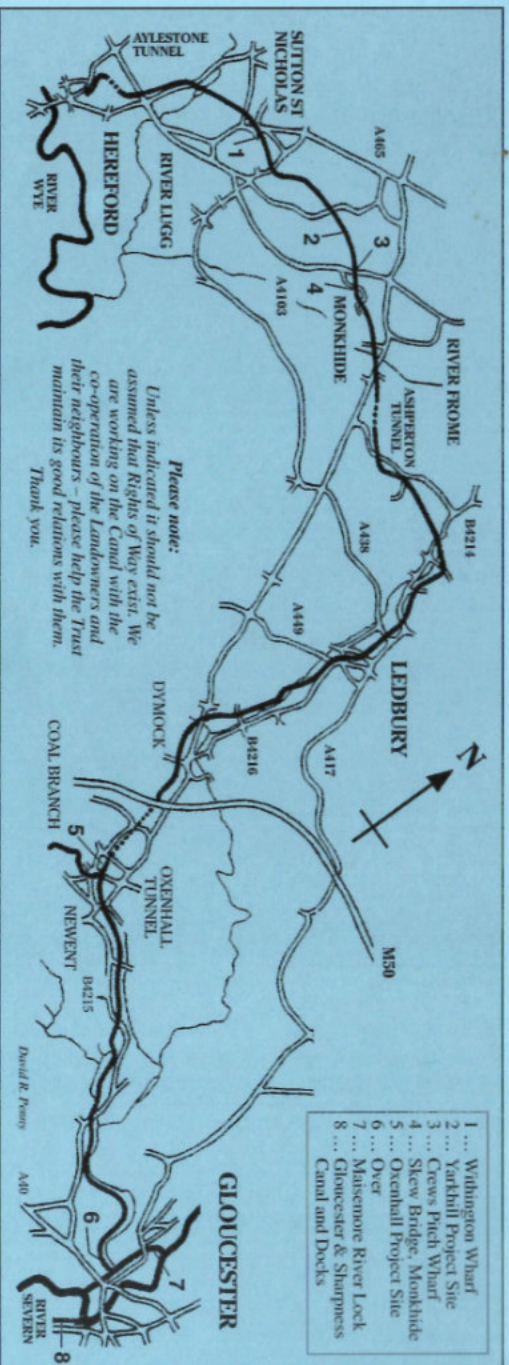
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# THE HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL



Work started in 1792 but was not completed until 1845, making this the last major route built in Britain, but for the navigations of Birmingham and the Manchester Ship Canal. The Canal stretched for 34 miles from the River Severn at Gloucester, via Newent, Dymock and Ledbury to the City of Hereford utilising some 22 locks and 3 tunnels. The Canal was formally closed in 1881 to allow construction of the Ledbury to Gloucester railway and this in its turn was closed by Dr Beeching in 1964.

The Canal Society was formed in 1983 and replaced in 1992 by the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust, a registered charity. The Trust has an ordinary and corporate membership exceeding 700 from all over the country – and abroad! Our objective is to fully restore the 34 mile Canal, from its connection with the 2,500 mile inland waterways network at Gloucester to the centre of Hereford. A Steering Committee of the Local Authorities, Environment Agency, etc. has been formed by the Trust to assist in progressing this objective. We have a major restoration site in each county, which together extend to some 3 miles.