

# The Wharfinger

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



**Edition 65 • Spring 2000  
50p – free to members**

# WHO DOES WHAT . . .

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

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Those in italics are not Directors of the Trading Company although they may be co-opted members

## HONORARY POSTS:-

SOLICITORS Sue Newbould, Gabb & Co., 25 King Street, Hereford.  
Jim Chapman, Madge Lloyd & Gibson, 22-24 Church St, Newent, GL18 1PP

ARCHAEOLOGIST Ron Shoesmith

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING Penny Environmental & Planning

FRONT COVER: Skew Bridge, Monkhide. Transformed by volunteers from a heavily overgrown muddy ditch.



## PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS

Increasingly major civil engineering projects in this country are proceeding under partnership arrangements with varying degrees of success. The H&G Canal Trust has not ever suggested that it would, single-handedly, restore 34 miles of Canal plus a 2 mile Coal Branch. We have concentrated on building the firm foundations of supportive and consistent Local Authority Policies and highlighted the huge benefits that a restored Canal will bring to the local environment and the economy. Our initial restoration lengths in each County have demonstrated what a small number of volunteers can achieve with minimal financial and physical resources.

The opportunities and challenges presented by a site like that at Over suddenly took us into a much higher gear and it would be wrong to suggest that we have not struggled a bit to keep up with the numerous pressures that have inevitably arisen. We have always referred to our voluntary work at Over as being a partnership and in the past few months the importance of this has become increasingly evident. Thanks to the Inland Waterways Association, who have loaned us £10,000, we have been able to defer taking monies due to the Canal Trust from the Developer. This is in order to try and obtain significant funds that would multiply this money many times and therefore see far more Canal restored than would otherwise be the case. Even though an initial

payment has now been requested, and received from Swan Hill Homes, the IWA temporary funding still enables us to leave significant money at arms length and therefore available as a catalyst for even greater things. *Thank you, IWA.*

Because much of our earlier restoration activity was in Herefordshire it was inevitable that most (but not all) of our own restoration volunteers lived in the area. When we commenced operations in Gloucestershire, at Oxenhall, it was still sufficiently close to attract many of our regulars plus, we are pleased to say, some new faces. Over, being right at the Gloucester City end of the Canal was an entirely different proposition. David Penny, as Project Director, has a 60 mile round trip each time he visits site and our former Plant Manager, Tom Bennett, over 80 miles! We are therefore extremely grateful that we have slowly built up a small but vital group of volunteers who live closer to the site. But even that is nowhere near the voluntary workforce that is essential for us to complete, on time, those works that are required as part of the complex Planning Obligation which controls everything related to the Canal that we and Swan Hill Homes do on this site.

Regular readers will be fully aware of the many visits that we have received from Waterway Recovery Group volunteers, from all over the country, at every site where the H&G Canal Trust has been active. These two or three visits a year have been greatly

## **STRONGBOW**

the pint to  
refresh Canal  
Volunteers!





# Editorial

appreciated. For the past three years, the Oxenhall House Lock restoration project has been officially designated a Dig Deep project - one of the three or four schemes in the country where there is a co-ordinated calendar of more frequent visits to maintain steady progress alongside our own volunteers.

The last edition of *The Wharfinger* reported that Over had been chosen to host the national WRG Reunion Weekend - early in November over 140 WRGies descended on Oxstalls School, Gloucester, and then on the Over site! Despite our (to be expected) heavy rain immediately before the weekend, it was judged a huge success. It was not just the work that was achieved at Over (and elsewhere on the H&G Canal), or the highly enjoyable Reunion itself; the success of the weekend was the fact that so many people saw for themselves the challenge that Over represents. Within a few days discussions were afoot, officially and unofficially, to see how the national resources of WRG could be harnessed to support us to ensure that the essential work at Over can leap into top gear over the coming months.

*Thank you WRG. Also see p. 27.*

All this does not mean that we forget our own volunteers who regularly assist at Over, both during the week, and at weekends. From past experience we know that, with the coming of the lighter evenings, this will soon extend into the odd evening during the week too! Don't put off that New Year resolution a day

longer NOW is the time to get on the phone to one of the contacts on page 23. *To our own volunteers, a critical part of the partnership, thank you.*

TO BE CONTINUED...

## CHANGES

The previous edition of *The Wharfinger* correctly reported that our Plant and Training Manager (and Vice Chairman), Tom Bennett, had resigned at the September CofM meeting. Subsequently Tom made it clear that he was willing to continue with our plant maintenance at Oxenhall and in serving on the Board of the Trading Company. The CofM acknowledged the very significant voluntary work undertaken by Tom over the years and were very pleased, at the December meeting, to agree to this revised involvement with our voluntary work.

Our Committee Matters pages, in this edition, report the resignation of Mike Potts as a Director and from the CofM. This was discussed at a special meeting of the CofM at the end of October when the Chairman was asked to write asking him to reconsider. His resignation was especially regrettable, as Mike has been involved from the beginning and given sterling service. The CofM was unanimous that he had invested too much in the former Canal Society and the Canal Trust to be lost so easily. Regrettably, the December meeting was advised that the resignation was absolute although Mike will continue as a Canal Trust Member.

# Editorial

We are very pleased to report that Brian Moulton has agreed to become the Chairman of the Trading Company and that Janet Moulton is now the Secretary. Both have taken on increasing roles since they volunteered to assist us following their move to Hereford. They both have valuable experience gained during their former voluntary work with the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust. In particular, it should be noted that Janet will take over manning of events from Liz Connors (*who remains as Honorary Treasurer of the Trading Company and the Canal Trust*) and that Brian continues to lead our Wednesday Restoration Group at Over.

Few would argue that our new venue for the third Tuesday of the month Social Evenings has been other than a great success. Our thanks go to Barbara and Ray Moses who negotiated our free use of the room at **The Verzons Country House Hotel** [*thank you Fred*]; Barbara and Ray have also masterminded our very interesting range of speakers over the past couple of years. Unfortunately, due to pressure of

work they have given notice that they will have to step down as from the AGM although they have kindly agreed to book our speakers up to the summer break. ***A volunteer is urgently required for this post!*** Barbara would be pleased to discuss it with you on 01989 780 325.

## AGM ON THE MOVE

Following a suggestion at the last AGM it has been decided to hold this year's AGM at **The Verzons**. Due to the need to allow time for the Accounts to be prepared, and copy deadlines for **The Wharfinger**, we are slipping into June for the first time - please make a note in your diary now; the third Tuesday, 20th June. [*Advance details on page 18*].

## GRAND HOLIDAY DRAW

Even if you don't win the subscription to **Waterways World** [*see below*] we really do need your support to buy and sell as many tickets as possible this year, please. Every pound counts as everything is sponsored - *full details are on page 6*.



Would you like a **FREE**  
twelve months subscription to  
**Waterways World** magazine?

That's the prize that we are giving to the **H&G Canal Trust** Member who sells the most **Grand Holiday Draw** tickets between now and the **National Waterways Festival** at the end of August. (*If you already subscribe your subscription will be extended by 12 months.*)

- Rules: 1) Return all the sold ticket stubs and the money in **ONE ENVELOPE** to the Honorary Treasurer by 19th August 2000 - multiple submissions are not acceptable.  
2) In the unlikely event of a tie the winner will be the first drawn out of a hat.  
3) To participate you must be a paid up Member (*any class of Membership*).  
*The winner will be announced in The Wharfinger.*

Our thanks to **Waterways World**  
for sponsoring this prize.





*ABOVE: Bricklaying on the long limb of The Wharf during WRG Reunion Weekend. BELOW: View from behind the short limb of The Wharf; reinforced concrete backing has yet to be placed. Both limbs are not yet to full length! (A. Martin Ludgate; B. Nigel Bailey)*



# Grand HOLIDAY Draw!

As our regular readers will know, the Grand Holiday Draw is our annual major fund-raising initiative - with really excellent odds of winning a holiday!

Once again Cliff Penny has secured each of the prizes at no cost to the Canal Trust (*thank you to Member Caroline Jones for suggesting the third prize*) and, as MEB npower<sup>®</sup> agreed to his request to sponsor our print costs EVERY pound raised will go towards the restoration of the H&G Canal.

We need YOUR help, please, to make this years Grand Holiday Draw the most successful to date. The winning tickets will be drawn at the IWA National Waterways Festival, Waltham Abbey, on August Bank Holiday Monday, so there 6 months in which to swell our funds!

If you require additional tickets, or know of a shopkeeper, publican or other retail outlet who would be willing to sell the tickets, please give Janet Moulton a ring on 01432 264 366. *Thank you.*

<p>H&amp;GCS Grand Holiday Draw (Stubs and money to be returned to Promoter by 19th August 2001) [No coins sent by post, please]</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Telephone _____</p> <p></p> <p>00000</p> <p>Printing sponsored by: <b>MEB npower</b> - TICKETS 25p EACH -</p>	<p>Herefordshire &amp; Gloucestershire Canal Trust - H &amp; GCS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">00000</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">GRAND HOLIDAY DRAW</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">★ 1st Prize - NARROW BOAT HOLIDAY FOR 4 ★ ONE WEEK (prior to 31/5/01); Donated by BLACK PRINCE HOLIDAYS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2nd - TWO VIP TICKETS TO THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW 2001 + TOP HOTEL Donated by BRITISH MARINE INDUSTRIES FEDERATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3rd - TWO NIGHTS B&amp;B FOR 2 IN ROSS ON WYE enjoy a mini break close to the River Wye and this beautiful town October 2000 - May 2001; Donated by MRS GAIL PHILLIPS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[The first &amp; third prizes exclude Bank Holidays and are subject to availability.]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Promoter: Mrs E Connors, 15 St Ethelbert 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, Waltham Abbey, 28/8/00</p>
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We do hope that Members\* and supporters\*\* will be prepared to buy and/or sell the enclosed Grand Holiday Draw tickets. With restoration activity at an all-time high, every pound raised is vital to our progress. *Thank you.*

Our sincere thanks to Tim Parker of *Black Prince Holidays*; Denzil Lee of *British Marine Industries Federation*; and Mr & Mrs Phillips of *Wye View*, Wilton Lane, Ross on Wye (01989 768369) for donating the prizes and to Sue Heritage of *MEB npower*<sup>®</sup> for sponsoring the printing of the Grand Holiday Draw tickets. *Their support is greatly appreciated.*

\* We appreciate that some recipients are not prepared to buy or sell draw tickets - we apologise but we do not have the resources to be selective in who receives tickets. *There is no obligation to return unsold tickets.*

\*\* In order to save costs we have not included tickets in copies of *The Wharfinger* sent to Councillors, Local Authorities etc. If you wish to support us please contact Janet Moulton on 01432 264 366 and she will be delighted to send you some tickets. *Thank you.*

**WIN!**

Your chance to WIN a years subscription to *Waterways World!* Just sell as many Grand Holiday Draw tickets as you can and save all the stubs and money until August. The person sending the most IN ONE ENVELOPE by 19th August wins the subscription. *Our thanks to Waterways World for donating the subscription.* [Full rules on page 4.]



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# Opening the Canal to Withington

*Searching through old newspapers can reveal fascinating stories of the way life used to be; the way things were reported - and of key occasions in the history of the H&G Canal. We are indebted to Michael Handford for the following newspaper extracts:-*

Hereford Journal, Feb. 2nd, 1844

*(An advertisement)*

## HEREFORDSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL

### TESTIMONIAL OF RESPECT TO MR BALLARD

On the 26th instant this useful public work will be OPENED to WITHINGTON and on that day the Landowners and Occupiers of the Line with others interested in the undertaking HAVE INVITED MR S BALLARD, the Engineer, to a PUBLIC DINNER at the CITY ARMS HOTEL, HEREFORD in testimony of the respect due to him for the manner in which the Works have been conducted through the several Estates on the line, and also to thank him for his exertions in bringing forward a work so beneficial to the county at large  
CHAIRMAN F.H. THOMAS, Esq

Tickets including a Bottle of Wine,  
Dessert and Waiters  
10s 6d each

Dinner on the Table at Four O'Clock

The Gentleman who coincide in the above arrangements to testify their respect for Mr Ballard will oblige the Committee by leaving their names at either the City Arms or Green Dragon Hotels, Hereford; Feathers Hotel or the New Inn, Ledbury; Lion or Oak Inn, Leominster; or the residence of either one of the Committee, previously to Saturday the 24th instant.

The Committees Boat will leave Ledbury on the morning of the 26th at Nine O'clock, arrive at Canon Froome at Eleven, and at Withington about One O'clock, where Mr Bosley

will provide Coaches to be in readiness to convey the party into Hereford, at One Shilling each.

Hereford Journal Feb. 28th 1844

*(A report on the proceedings)*

### OPENING OF THE GLOUCESTER AND HEREFORD CANAL TO WITHINGTON

The completion of the Canal has been for some time regarded as an object of great importance to this city and county, and the circumstances of the work having been finished up to Withington, about four miles only from Hereford, was therefore hailed with much satisfaction. A more suitable occasion indeed for paying a just tribute of respect and approval to Mr Stephen Ballard, the talented engineer, for the manner in which he has conducted the work through the entire line, could scarcely have been chosen and he was accordingly invited to a public dinner, which was given at the Hotel on Monday last. The interest felt on the occasion by all classes of citizens was intense, and the number and respectability of those who attended were beyond all expectation.

In pursuance of the previous arrangement a procession of five boats left Ledbury at nine o'clock the same morning, the first containing a band of music, the next the committee and friends; one with goods belonging to Messrs Bunning and Gibson; one the property of Messrs Crowley, ditto; and one with salt from Droitwich. These boats were all decorated with union-jacks, flags, etc and had a very pleasing appearance. About twenty-seven other boats freighted with coal, etc followed in the course of the day.



# Opening the Canal to Withington

The view from the wharf at Withington along the line of the Canal to the lock, was extremely picturesque, and the whole scene was peculiarly animating. On the wharf itself from fifty to sixty labourers were employed, and the whole preparations and arrangements were completed in a very short space of time. There were here four of five carts from Leominster, waiting for the arrival of the coal boats, while several waggons laden with wheat for "exportation", if we may use the term, also arrived - in short, the whole scene was one of bustling, trading animation, and formed but a miniature emblem, we hope, of the activity which will one day be displayed at the terminus in the vicinity of Widemarsh.

The present wharf is on Withington Marsh, close to the Cross-keys inn, and opposite to the latter a very neat cottage has been erected for the

residence of the engineer. Mr Bateman, of Lugg Bridge Mills, was the first to pitch a load of wheat early in the morning to be forwarded to its destination per the canal.

The procession reached the present terminus at half-past two o'clock, having been five hours on the way from Ledbury; some delay then took place in advancing towards Hereford, in consequence of a very heavy shower of rain, the weather having been improprieties all the morning with the exception of intervals when the sun burst forth in great splendour. Three hogsheads of cider were given to the workmen, and with all good humour universally prevailed. No accident of any consequence occurred, the only circumstance of this kind being that of a horse led by a respectable inhabitant getting into the canal, where he was soon released without sustaining damage.

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## *Opening the Canal to Withington*

The Messrs Bosley had supplied two stage coaches and a mail for the purpose of conveying visitors to Hereford; and there were likewise two or three flies, besides gigs and other vehicles; several equestrians and pedestrians were also present, and the total number of spectators was estimated at 1300; in fact the event was universally regarded as one of the utmost importance and interest. On land, Mr Ballard, the committee, and the visitors, entered the different coaches etc and forming a procession headed by the band, advanced towards Hereford, on arriving at which they alighted at the Hotel, being greeted with the greatest enthusiasm. At five o'clock a company amounting to about 200 and comprising many of the county gentlemen besides numbers of the citizens, sat down to an elegant repast provided in honour of the Guest, Mr Ballard. F.H. Thomas Esq presided, Mr J.D. Kedward,

fulfilling the duties of Vice-president and amongst the company we noticed the Rev John Hopton; Edward Griffiths, Esq; J Griffiths Esq; R Hereford Esq; The Mayor of Hereford, (W. Webb Esq); T Davis Esq; Capt Price R.N. and R.T. Barra Esq City Magistrates; G. Croose Esq; F.L. Bodenham Esq; Rev W Gretton; Thos Evans Esq. Proctor, Hereford; T Jones Esq, Ledbury; H. Edy, Esq; Saml Baker, Esq; Gloucester; W.P. Price, Esq, Tiggerton; E. Shelton, Esq, Thorngrove, Worcestershire; Mr T.L. Tripp; Mr Thomas Pulling; Mr W Ashton; Mr Barnard; Mr Draper; Mr C Pritchard; Messrs Bunning and Gibson; Mr Vevers, Mr Pember; Mr Williams, Eign-Street; and many others of our respected fellow-citizens, whose name we have not room to mention.

(We are in possession of full notes of the speeches, but having to go to the



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# *Opening the Canal to Withington*

machine at an early hour on Tuesday evening, we shall at present only give a brief summary of the whole, reserving a more ample report for a Second Edition which we intend to have ready in time for post on Wednesday afternoon, this day).

The toasts of the Queen - Prince Albert and the Royal Family - the Duke of Wellington and the Army - the Navy - (Capt Price R.N. returned thanks) - the High Sheriff (T G Symons, Esq) - the Lord Lieutenant of the County (Lord Bateman) - the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese - the Members for the County and City - the Mayor and Town Council of Hereford etc were given from the chair.

The MAYOR in the name of the Town Council returned their united thanks for the honour shown them, which he duly appreciated, particularly as he felt that the Corporation had not aided so much as they ought to have done in bringing the canal to Hereford (Cheers).

The CHAIRMAN in then proposing the toast of the evening said, I need not enlarge on the advantage of a ready and cheap communication by water. (Hear, hear) It carries to the best market at the least expense the corn and the cider of the tenant, and the bark and timber of the landlord - (Hear, and cheers). It brings to all that necessary of life in this climate, coal of superior quality to that with which we were heretofore supplied; and though at present some complaint might be made of the state of our roads, they must be continually benefited by the transfer of all heavy carriage to the Canal. (Cheers). For all these benefits we are mainly indebted to an individual, to pay respect to whom we are this day assembled, who has planned and executed the line of the Canal with

great professional skill, and whose zeal, upheld by exemplary patience, and aided by the kindness of manner and the well-earned reputation of strict integrity, has conciliated the many conflicting interests in the course of the canal, and triumphing over every obstacle, has reached its present temporary limit. He had the honour of proposing the health of their respected guest Mr Ballard.

(The mention of Mr Ballard's name was received with loud cheering, continuing for some time, and repeated again and again).

Mr BALLARD returned thanks in an exceedingly neat and modest, but very effective address. He spoke gratefully of the assistance which had been afforded him by gentlemen of the county and others in carrying on the work, and expressed the gratification which he felt in having witnessed its successful progress to Withington. He looked forward with anxiety to the time when it would be opened to Hereford, to which place and the county it would be a most important benefit (Cheers). Wherever he might hereafter be placed, he should always remember to the latest hour of his life the kindness which he had experienced in this beautiful, fertile, and hospitable county. (Cheers). In conclusion Mr B proposed the health of the Rev Mr Money and the members of the Canal Committee, which was given with enthusiasm.

The other speakers were, Samuel Baker, Esq of Gloucester; Richard Hereford, Esq of Sufton; the Rev J Hopton; the Vice-Chairman; W P Price, Esq; F L Bodendam, Esq; Mr Baylis, of Ledbury; Mr Robert Ballard; Mr J Tomkins; Mr Shelton; Mr S Ballard; Mr Croose; Mr Tripp; Mr Taylor; Mr Terry, surgeon and others. The various observations of

## Opening the Canal

these gentleman went to show that the line of the Canal had been completed in the most satisfactory manner, the work being done in a superior style, and there having been no offensive conduct to others on the part of the navigators, and fewer offences on their part than usual among labourers of that description; that landowners who had opposed the work at first and objected to its course through their property, were now in its favour; that a plan would shortly be submitted for completing the Canal to Hereford; that many shares had been sold at a premium, and that although there had been considerable apathy on the part of the inhabitants of Hereford, yet that it was now fast wearing away. No time when the line would probably be finished was mentioned, but one gentleman expressed the hope that such would be the case within twelve months. It was calculated that when finished, coal might be purchased in this city at 13s 6d per ton.

Mr Thos. Pulling in the course of a very neat address regretting the unavoidable absence of his father from the meeting, and urging on the citizens the importance of the work, said that in order to advance one step towards attaining so desirable an object the firm to which he belonged would be most happy to enrol themselves as shareholders. (Cheering).

The Chairman during the evening read a letter from Captain Watson, lamenting that he was unable to attend, but paying a high tribute of respect to the merits and talents of Mr Ballard. Indeed every gentleman who addressed the company spoke in the highest terms of the Engineer.

Several excellent songs were given, and a more agreeable meeting has never been witnessed. ■



CORPORATE  
IWA  
MEMBER



### MICHAEL STIMPSON and ASSOCIATES

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Canal Trust, and IWA*

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# Committee Matters

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

## OCTOBER COMMITTEE

■ Cliff Penny had produced a report severely criticising the lack of commitment by CofM members in respect of the National Waterways Festival at Worcester. Only a few CofM members had been involved in the preparations and in the erection and manning of our (award winning) display at what, after all, was a local event. He felt that he and his family had been very much taken for granted. Whilst The CofM did not consider that all of the criticisms were fair the overall tenor of the report was accepted.

■ It was agreed to write to Dennis Hitchings regarding the bulldozer that had been on trial as it was not considered to meet the Canal Trust's requirements. The hire charges for the period the machine was in use was disputed. The position would be reconsidered at a later meeting.

■ Following his resignation at the previous meeting, the Plant & Training Manager had indicated his willingness to assist the Trust. His contribution had been valued and it was agreed that the future role would be discussed at a special CofM meeting later in the month.

■ One of our long-standing Corporate Members had written expressing concern that some voluntary work that his staff had undertaken interfered with important business commitments. This was regretted and it was felt that in future greater care needed to

be taken when requesting similar assistance.

■ The authorisation of volunteers to operate Plant and Equipment was reviewed. Volunteers operating equipment on H&G Canal sites should carry their permits at all times and be expected to show these if required. If anyone had concerns about a given individual these should be raised, at the time, in an informal manner. However, if they repeated bad practice then it was essential that a formal approach be very promptly made. If necessary, the individual would be required to retrain and have a fresh authorisation permit issued.

■ The Honorary Treasurer presented a detailed review of projected Income and Expenditure against actual for the period June to August 1999. Budgets for December through to February were approved.

■ Mike Potts was concerned that funds intended for Oxenhall had been spent at Over and would not be available in the future for Oxenhall. It was explained that this would not be the case. There were good reasons for delaying the Developer's contribution in respect of Over. Arrangements were made to sign the loan agreement in respect of the £10,000 to be borrowed from the IWA.

## SPECIAL OCTOBER MEETING

■ A special meeting was called to review the resignation, at the September committee, of Tom

## Committee Matters . . . (ii)

Bennett as a Director and Plant Manager; also regarding a letter of resignation subsequently received from Mike Potts, in mid October. The Chairman was asked to write to Mike asking him to reconsider his position at least until the next AGM. His decision to resign was especially regrettable as he had been involved from the beginning and had given sterling service. He had invested too much in our efforts to be lost to the CofM so easily. It was regretted that there were a number of CofM decisions where Mike was in disagreement. One of the points made by Mike, relating to the content and circulation of the Over Special Project Group minutes was accepted. Although these minutes had been produced fortnightly, due to an oversight they had not been included in the CofM papers - this would be immediately corrected. The minutes would also report progress as well as planned action.

■ Tom Bennett's position was then discussed at length. It was agreed that, in future, the responsibility for all plant to be utilised at Over should rest with the Over Project Director. There would be a review of plant operated and maintained by the Trust. In particular, the dumpers at Horsefair Wharf should be reviewed and some sold. It was agreed that Tom would be requested, together with some of our other plant maintenance volunteers, to examine and report on this and be invited to be responsible for the maintenance of what was retained at Oxenhall.

■ The terms for the return of the bulldozer were still in dispute. The Chairman was asked to pursue the matter vigorously.

■ Arrangements with regard to the Lotteries Act relating to the Grand Holiday Draw were agreed.

### NOVEMBER COMMITTEE

■ The Chairman had written to Mike Potts expressing the unanimous view of the CofM that Mike reconsider his resignation from the CofM.

■ Following Mike's resignation arrangements were made with regard to the distribution of the Directors' Notes; one of the 'behind the scenes' roles undertaken by Mike in recent years.

■ The Chairman stated that he had received the IWA "Technical Restoration Handbook".

■ Detailed enquiries had been made with regard to a valuation for the dozer and regarding a reasonable hire cost for a machine of that age and condition. Legal advice would be sought before the Chairman wrote a final letter in respect of the amount we were prepared to pay for its hire and insisting that it be collected.

■ The CofM agreed the adoption of a quorum of five as the minimum to be present at any CofM. As written, the official quorum could be as taken to be as low as one! *[No meeting has proceeded with less than 5 present - Ed.]*

■ Will Frecknall (our IWA Nominee) reported that he had attended a recent Over SPG Committee meeting and that he had arranged to maintain a greater involvement in the Project. This was welcomed.

▷24◀



## Trading Ahead

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Our Trading Company has just received a welcome boost with two new Directors. Brian and Janet Moulton worked with the Trading Company this summer to help plan our attendance at the National Waterways Festival - some of you may have met them there. They were rash enough to agree to become members of our Trading Company during Autumn 1999 and we are delighted that they have agreed to not only become Directors but to take on 2 key roles; Brian has agreed to become Chairman and Janet is our new Secretary.

Liz Connors, who has been carrying out these roles with the help of the rest of the Committee, will remain as Treasurer. The rest of the Committee is made up of Barbara Moses, Tom Bennett, Derek Gray, Ray Moses, Joyce Potts, Penny Shetliffe, Dick Skeet, and Derek Weaver.

We are planning an exciting list of events to attend this year; the Trading Company hopes to take the sales/information stand to the following venues:-

Apr 29-May 1; Worcester & Birmingham Rally, Stoke Prior

May 27-29; Boatshow 2000, Crick

May 27-29; Trail boat Rally, Mon & Brec, Newport

Jun 10-11; Trail boat Rally, Ashby, Moira

Jun 28-30; Festival 2000, Birmingham, NIA

July 15-16; Much Marcle Steam Fair

July 21-23; Tewkesbury Water Festival

Aug 6; Herefordshire Country Fair

Aug 25-28; IWA National Waterways Festival, Waltham Abbey

Sept; Newent Onion Fair

If you think that you MAY be able to help at any of these events, please contact Janet Moulton on:-

01432-264 366 or e-mail:-

*Janet.Moulton@ukgateway.net*

Janet will then contact you nearer the date of the event.



---

## Internet Success

---

Any reader who has access to the internet has, hopefully, logged onto [www.h-g-canal.org.uk](http://www.h-g-canal.org.uk)? Thanks to ongoing hard work 'behind the scenes' by Nigel Bailey, our very own web site goes from strength to strength. Currently it is being visited by over 100 people per week.

Not only does the site give a history of the H&G Canal, and of the Canal Trust, but it contains a great deal of information about our restoration activities all along the Canal.

Utilising numerous photographs Nigel creates a great deal of interest.

Understandably, there is a lot of information about our voluntary restoration efforts at Over; however, Oxenhall is not forgotten, neither are our earlier restoration activities in Herefordshire. It's not all restoration either - every single aspect of our voluntary work is covered; social events through to sales and *The Wharfinger*. And it doesn't stop there - *take a look soon*.

# Dates For Your Diary

*By Barbara & Ray Moses*

Meetings hosted by our "Master of Ceremonies" Lloyd Jones

Social evenings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month  
*everyone welcome, held at The Verzons Country  
House Hotel, Trumpet, nr. Ledbury - see map below.*

*All meetings are 7.30 for 8pm.*

## Tuesday, 21st March

### *"Picture Quiz"*

Something completely different for us - come along  
and join in or just enjoy the slides.

Organised by Janet and Brian Moulton.

## Tuesday, 18th April

### *"The Great Lakes & Trent-Severn Waterway"*

Brian Sheppard takes us all the way to Canada  
with his illustrated guide to these distant waterways.  
An evening not to be missed!

## Tuesday, 16th May

### *"The River Wye - from source to Hereford"*

Brian Draper MBE has a wealth of knowledge  
about all aspects of one of our local Rivers  
and the surrounding areas.

### **Advance notice:**

Our AGM will be at **The Verzons** on the 20th June - see page 18.

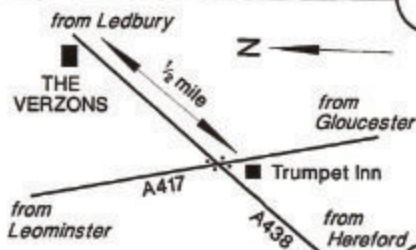
**WANTED!** We urgently require a new organiser for our monthly Social Evenings - Barbara and Ray are having to stand down at the AGM due to pressure of their other commitments. *Please see page 3.*

*Ray & Barbara have gone to a lot of trouble to organise a superb range of Social Evenings - please support them - everyone welcome!*

*Any queries, or ideas for speakers, to Ray & Barbara on 01989 780 325*

Our Social Evenings venue is the Verzons Country House Hotel ... situated on the A438 Hereford to Ledbury road, half a mile on the Ledbury side of Trumpet crossroads (junction of the A438 with the A417).

A warm welcome, plenty of parking and approximately halfway along the Canal from Hereford to Gloucester.





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# AGM - 2000

## FORMAL NOTICE OF 1999 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Tuesday 20th June,  
at The Verzons Country House Hotel, at 7.30pm.

This is the formal Notice of the 2000 AGM in order to give Members the opportunity to make a note in their diary. The Agenda and the Annual Report will be in the next Edition of *The Wharfinger*.

In accordance with the H&G Canal Trust's Articles and Memorandum of Association those members of the Council of Management who are retiring on rotation but offering themselves for re-election do not require to be formally nominated to serve an additional term. However, new nominations to serve on the Council of Management are welcomed and have to be made in writing, in a prescribed form.

Nominations must be submitted not less than 7 days nor more than 28 days prior to the AGM. The form is available from Liz Connors [see *Contacts on the inside rear cover*] to whom it should be returned *to arrive between 23rd May and 13th June*.

Every Member who is entitled to vote at an AGM may appoint a proxy to vote in his/her stead. A proxy must be someone entitled to vote at the meeting. Proxy forms will be available from Liz Connors from the 23rd May and must be completed, signed and returned to her *at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the AGM*.

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# RESTORATION UPDATE

*By Brian Fox & Nigel Bailey*

All the Christmas and New Year celebrations are well behind us and we are continuing with our commitment to restore the lock at Oxenhall. Our day in the fresh air continues to attract the gang of four Wrinklies and we find it difficult to understand why there should be such a lack of enthusiasm from anyone else despite our repeated pleas in *The Wharfinger* and elsewhere.

Last week we sat at lunchtime taking a warm drink and eating our sandwiches (Ben had his fair share) while the sun shone from a cloudless sky and the sheep watched us over the fence. Half an hour is usually enough, unless someone walks along the towpath and stops for a chat, and we are raring to go again.

We are now busy on the lock wall again having collected a load of freshly cut stone from the saw mill which should keep us going for another few weeks. The recess for the first ladder has now been reached and we are considering what form it should take in consultation with English Heritage and the Forest of Dean District Council. The original structure did not have any ladders but, although this is a Listed structure, we must incorporate two in the restoration to conform with modern Health and Safety regulations. It will not slow the progress as we can build the recess and incorporate a ladder any time.

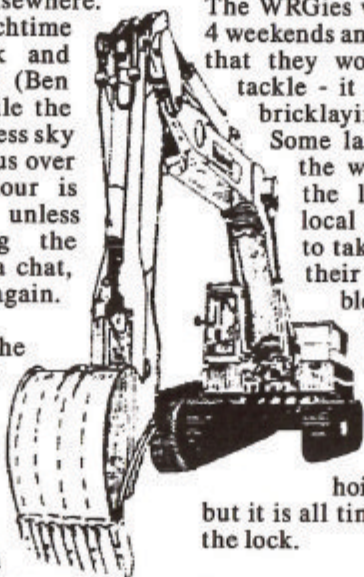
A supply of good stone has always been a challenge and so far we have

managed to keep it coming but if anyone knows of a source of stone suitable for the lock then please let me know. There is still some good stone in the Ell Brook which has fallen off the old railway bridge and the aqueduct but we are waiting for the warmer weather to retrieve it as someone will probably need to do a bit of paddling to get at some bits. The WRGies will be down again for 4 weekends and that is the sort of job that they would probably love to tackle - it makes a change from bricklaying and jungle bashing.

Some large stones are also in the water at the bottom of the lock courtesy of the local youngsters who seem to take a delight in proving their strength by shifting blocks weighing up to 5 cwt (250 kg). We had the same trouble at Monkhide some years ago. These shouldn't be too difficult to get out with our

hoist and tractor bucket but it is all time away from building the lock.

Progress will also be slowed by the lack of volunteers to help with all the other jobs which need doing along the Canal. We find that four is a sensible number to have working in the lock chamber, and we all have an understanding and work together well as a team. Ben is the odd one out and always seems to be standing around or even sitting or laying right in the way of a wheelbarrow full of mortar. If we have to take someone away to do something else then the progress on the lock restoration suffers and delays even longer the completion.



## RESTORATION UPDATE . . . continued

Perhaps the thought of lifting heavy blocks and mixing mortar doesn't appeal but there are the many other jobs which should suit just about everyones individual tastes:-

- our ride on mower is now in the compound just waiting to cut the grass on the towpath and can be driven by anyone with a minimum of tuition.

- there is a lot of ivy growing up the lock walls as well as weeds and brambles. It all has to be pulled out before we can start laying stone.

- gardening around the byweir and general maintenance along the towpath to keep everything tidy. This includes the whole length up to the tunnel.

- barrowing excess soil from around the lock edges to build up the towpath.

- cleaning out the old mortar and repointing of joints.

- painting and joinery on our new boat now safely supported on sleepers at Horsefair Wharf ready for active service at Over.

- general tidying around Horsefair Wharf and continuing with the construction of a retaining wall of sleepers.

- mechanics are always welcome - we need to speed up the repairs on our dumper fleet.

- trial excavations to locate the exact position of the next lock down the Canal.

As you can see there are numerous jobs which need doing, much of it is simply maintaining what has already been done, and with the warmer spring weather soon to be upon us we shall be expecting volunteers in abundance! It doesn't have to be a regular commitment, and not necessarily on a Tuesday, but we do desperately need more help.

By the way, Ben is a dog owned by Dave Mordaunt who looks forward to his Tuesday in the fresh air. I think he qualifies as a Wrinkly as he

*“ I think he qualifies as a Wrinkly as he is 13 years old and suffers from arthritis . . . ”*

is 13 years old and suffers from arthritis. We sometimes have the company of Jack, from Lock Cottage, who also eats our sandwiches and gets in the way but he is only young and seems to prefer wandering the countryside and chasing rabbits.

Yarkhill doesn't get mentioned much these days but we spent a weekend down there in November and with the help of the WRGies managed to clear several fallen trees and a lot of brushwood which had grown up. Unfortunately it rained heavily the day before and the Canal was full with water right up to the end at Barrs Lock, so much of the vegetation had to be left as it was under water. The towpath is still walkable all the way to the site of the lock and it is well worth the effort if you want to get away from the traffic and listen to the sounds of nature.

The last quarter of 1999 saw a lot more achieved at Over. A week-long WRG camp made rapid progress on the short arm of The Wharf, with several concrete pours and a start made to the brickwork. More work





ABOVE: Preparing the foundations for the Slipway wall last September.  
 RIGHT: The reinforcement mesh is placed ready for the first concrete pour.  
 BELOW: WRG's own mini-excavator grades off the slipway slope.  
 Recent progress - see page 28.

(A. Stella Westworth; R.N. Adrian Fry)

## RESTORATION UPDATE... continued

was done on the slipway and our new site hut arrived. This is a 30-foot long, three roomed wooden building donated by Joseph Rice Logistics. Although I was not present to witness it, I understand unloading such a large structure from its low-loader transporter was quite a challenge. It's in need of some repairs to weatherproof the walls but once they are complete it will provide us with a splendid new "base camp".

We were fortunate to play host to WRG's annual Reunion Weekend of some 140 WRGies, probably the largest gathering of people at Over since the Siege of Gloucester during the Civil War! With so many people available, work progressed simultaneously on many projects. More bricks were laid, the floodplain was cleared of undergrowth, and several thousand more bricks were picked and palleted.

Another gang pulled roots and shifted logs while yet another began to lay crushed brick for the towpath. Meanwhile 16 people were trained on each of 3 types of equipment. There was even a gang who went off to do some clearance work at Yarkhill. Our thanks go to Adrian Fry who had the unenviable task of planning and organising the mammoth event.

During the weekend Duff Hart-Davis of *The Independent* came to watch us at work and write it up in his Saturday feature. The article resulted in one new regular volunteer, the promise of a couple more, £20 in donations and the request from a student for information to help write his

dissertation! We may even tempt Duff, who lives near Dursley, to return armed with his own chainsaw to do some logging for us.

After the excitement of the Reunion Weekend we continued with some brickwork ourselves - although a problem with the pump led to requests for bricklayers to be issued with life-jackets! We could not find the pump's starting handle; rumour had it that John Palmer had whisked it away to use on some alien canal. We discovered it a fortnight later, lying beside the concrete mixer. The mixer's own handle had broken and an enterprising canal-builder borrowed the one from the pump. Unfortunately, it hadn't occurred to them to put it back!

Mike Bowden provided a guided tour for a party from Tibberton Parish Council but for one of the visitors it was actually a return to the site. Dennis Nutting remembers having his tonsils removed at Over hospital in 1949 when he was seven years old.

In late November we fitted in an extra "long weekend" with a group of WRGies. Again, a good deal was achieved because David Penny's idea of a weekend is a period of time lasting anything between 48 and 96 hours (with a Saturday and Sunday occurring somewhere in the middle).

Brian Moults Wednesday group has now been running for a couple of months and he had been thinking it was time to adopt a nickname - an equivalent of Oxenhall's Wrinklies. Having spent so much of their time picking and carrying bricks from the rubble of the hospital, he had been

*“probably  
the largest  
gathering at  
Over since the  
Siege of  
Gloucester ...”*



## UPDATE... continued

toying with the idea of "the chain gang". Ironically, the name became very apt for another reason: we began to get some help from the inmates of Leyhill Open Prison. Our prisoners, Nigel, Barry and James enjoyed their day with us and will hopefully be able to return and help with some more interesting tasks. I suspect the nickname will stick.

The final big effort for the year was in early December when London WRG joined us to raise the wharf walls by a course or two and lay the blue copings on the slipway walls.

A few months ago Brian Moulton introduced a Day Book so that we now have a permanent record of who worked each day and what was achieved. Some of us are even getting into the habit of filling it in! My favourite entry so far was written by Roy Jamieson on Sunday 26th December:-

*"Chased horse out of site area & rebuilt fence (temporary measure) at the site of the Vineyard."*

Never let it be said that canal restoration is dull.

## GLOUCESTER BOAT JUMBLE

Gloucester Docks,  
Sunday 2nd April

Ray and Barbara Moses will, once again, be manning a stall on behalf of the H&G Canal Trust. They still require, please, anything at all waterway related to sell (*except, thanks to generous earlier donations, magazines*) in order to raise funds for the Canal Trust.

At a time of massive restoration expenditure this is an important fund-raising initiative - please have a look in the shed, loft or wherever and see if you can help this year. *Thank you.*  
Offers to them on 01989 780 325.

This is a marvellous family day out. 100's of stalls selling all types of sea, river and canal items - new and secondhand.

Open: 10.00am. - 4.00pm.

Adults ONLY £3.00

Accompanied children - free

*Admission includes FREE entry to National Waterways Museum.*

Free car parking in special areas just outside the docks.

The Over site has a deadline to meet! Would you like to be part of the success?

*It's not all heavy work - there is something for everyone.*

You will be made most welcome - just 'phone for details

New volunteers: It is ESSENTIAL to 'phone BEFORE arriving on site.

*Thank you.*

We URGENTLY require anyone with site supervisory skills and volunteers who are regularly available to help with our restoration programme during the week and at weekends.

please call:-

*Oxenhall:-* Brian Fox (01432) 358 628

*Over:-* Paul Brown (01886) 443 826

Nigel Bailey (01452) 533 835

\* Brian Moulton (01432) 264 366

\* NEW! Wednesday Group

**HEALTH & SAFETY:** All of our restoration sites are subject to detailed safety policies. ALL persons working on these sites are required to comply with these policies at all times - for their own safety and for the safety of others. Safety footwear and safety helmets are mandatory.

Motorised plant and equipment may only be operated by holders of current H&G CT or WRG permits relating to the plant/equipment in question. Permits must be available for inspection at any time. Failure to observe this invalidates insurance cover.

## *Committee Matters . . . (iii)*

**K14** ■ The Finance Committee would make a decision, in mid November, as to the latest date on which the first monies due from Swan Hill Homes should be requested. This followed the current lack of success in finding potential matching funding.

■ It was agreed that there was an urgent need to expand the membership of the CofM.

■ A bid had been submitted to the Rural Development Commission to permit the conclusion of the Consultants Study in relation to the whole Canal. The Chairman was undertaking additional survey work at the request of the Consultants and Cliff and David Penny were continuing with their extensive review of the papers so far received.

■ The Risk Assessments, and related Health and Safety paperwork in respect of work at Over, were under detailed review.

■ The Trading Company proposed a review of the various small boats held by the Canal Trust. A new name would be sought for the boat that was about to be refurbished at Horsefair Wharf.

■ The Membership Secretary reported a significant rise in membership following the launch of the full colour membership leaflet sponsored by Left Bank Village.

■ The budget for March 2000 to February 2001, as recommended by the Finance Committee, would finish with a small negative balance at the end of the year. However this

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## Committee . . . (iv)

took no account of any income from the sale of surplus dumpers and would, as normal practice, be reviewed quarterly. It was approved.

### DECEMBER COMMITTEE

■ The dispute relating to the bulldozer was ongoing. It was decided to send a cheque in final settlement for the period of hire.

■ The Treasurer reported on the latest balances and it was agreed that it would be necessary to give notice to Swan Hill homes that the first payment in respect of the Over Project would be required during January.

■ Mike Potts was unwilling to reconsider his resignation. This was deeply regretted. Tom Bennett would be asked to take responsibility for the plant at Oxenhall, with access to an approved budget, but he would not be a Director of the Trust. He would continue to serve as a co-opted member of the Finance Committee, and on the Trading Company Committee. It was reaffirmed that David Penny, as the Over Project Director, would be responsible for both Canal Trust and hired plant in all respects at Over. No major work would be undertaken on plant without reference to the Treasurer.

■ The Treasurer reported on a number of issues relating to insurance. In particular, following the various thefts at Over, our excess had been increased on any claim in the next year from £500 to £1000.

■ Steady progress was being made on the restoration of House Lock, Oxenhall and at Over, thanks

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## Committee Matters . . . (v)

to our own volunteers and visiting WRG Groups - *and no thanks to the weather*. The Over site had been the host to the highly successful annual national WRG Reunion Weekend earlier in the month.

■ Tom Bennett, Derek Weaver and a retired farmer from Withington had been cutting fallen timber at Yarkhill and WRG also undertook some scrub bashing there during their Re-union Weekend.

■ It was agreed to loan WRG one of our smaller dumpers. This would be reviewed at the end of twelve months. See "Postcard from a Dumper!" on page 29.

■ Mr Andy Hall, a qualified professional, was assisting with the ongoing Health and Safety Review

for Over. Nigel Bailey was acting in a co-ordination capacity. Both the Risk Assessments and the Method Statements were well advanced.

■ Barbara and Ray Moses were, reluctantly, resigning from their role as Social Event Organisers due to pressure of work. CofM expressed their gratitude for their very successful period of office.

■ Cliff Penny had arranged the *Grand Holiday Draw* first and second prizes; he was pursuing sponsorship for the print costs.

■ Liz Connors reported, with great pleasure, that Brian and Janet Moulst had now taken over as Chairman and Secretary of the Trading Company and that Joyce Potts was willing to continue to

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# Over Navvied!

*The Wharfinger is usually completed late at night on a Sunday, after a hectic weekend pulling all the earlier work together, ready for delivery to Print Plus early on the Monday. This edition was virtually complete by Saturday mid-morning, the sun was shining and the rest of the weekend 'off' looked a welcome (rare!) prospect.*

*Then the post came. The latest edition of Navvies (the bi-monthly national newsletter of the Waterway Recovery Group) thumped onto the mat. No editor worth his salt could ignore making space for a few 'stop press' extracts - reproduced here with the permission of their Editor, Martin Ludgate:-*

## Navvies

Volunteers restoring waterways  
No 179 February - March 2000

*"In this issue":-*

Editorial: The H&G needs you!


Chairman: The H&G needs you!

London WRG: When they're not at Over...

wrgOver: The H&G really needs you!

The whole February-March edition of Navvies is dominated by Over. In his Editorial Martin stresses the huge amount of voluntary work completed so far - and what has yet to be done. Many pages call for support for the numerous additional Canal Camps/Weekends that are planned. Apart from the pages mentioned in the 'contents' [above] there is a double-page spread 'stamped' "OVER" written by our good WRGy friends Marcus Jones, Adrian Fry, and Martin.

Chairman Mike Palmer says "Anyone who has been to the site can see that it is a worthwhile project. More than any other site I can think of it has work for anyone..." Mike refers to the 'blitzes' that kept the Stratford on Avon Canal open; "This is at least as important, both for the H&G and for all of us, as it is a showpiece scheme for everyone involved in negotiations with local authorities and developers all over the country."


We are exceedingly grateful to all concerned for this concerted WRG national effort to ensure that, together, Over is a huge success. More details in next edition - *don't miss out in the meantime* - anyone is welcome to join in but it is essential to PHONE FIRST - see p. 23. 

## Committee . . . (vi)

serve on the Committee. [list of events to be attended on page 15]. The secure store at Broomy Hill Water Treatment Works would be brought back into full use for the storage of display materials etc. over the coming months.

■ Our Town and Country Planning team had supported Herefordshire Councils planning application regarding Conditions attached to their proposed Playing Field at Aylestone Hill. This land had been acquired, together with the

adjacent length of the Canal, by Compulsory Purchase.

■ New Architects acting for Swan Hill Homes had prepared a revised Planning Application for the Over Site without reference to the Trust. This left us without any option but to object to their submission to Tewkesbury Borough Council. There was ongoing liaison with Swan Hill Homes regarding this and every indication that our suggestions were going to be accepted. [They have been - Ed.] 



ABOVE: WRG volunteer Matt lays the last brick to the curved slipway wall.

RIGHT: The sub-base has been laid for the road to the slipway.

BELOW: Since this was taken reinforced concrete has been poured behind the walls & the banks graded ready for seeding. (A. Nigel Bailey, RM David Peap)





## Postcard from a Dumper!

As reported in *Committee Matters*, in return for all of WRG's assistance with the loan of small plant at Over, it was agreed that one of our smaller dumpers could go to assist WRG at Lichfield. David Penny included a requirement that the dumper should 'send a postcard from time to time' - a little to his surprise this dropped through the letterbox...

Dear all,

Having a nice holiday at Tamworth Road, Lichfield (Lock 25). Moving infill from the channel to behind the nice new lock walls. Have had my decompressors split, and the hand brake stripped and rebuilt with new pads (so that it works!). I've also got a new sexy lid to one of the brake reservoirs (purple, no less) and two new engine cone supports so that I am no longer trying to punch a hole in the hydraulic tank. Also had a wash and brush up - luvverly!

ps. Man in handbrake shop thinks I am a Thwaites!

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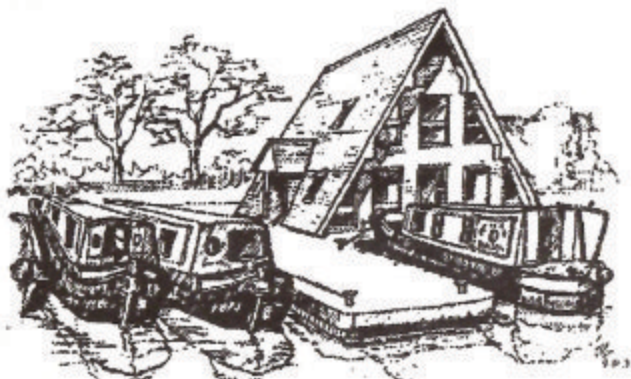
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## [not quite] The Last Page

All sorts of items are usually destined for this page; and sometimes we run out of room! So our belated thanks to John Arnold, one of our long-standing Corporate Members from Hereford, for the loan of his van for use at Oxenhall and Over towards the end of last year.

Whilst talking of Corporate Members, a very warm welcome to our most recent Corporate Member, Bob Simpson of Chicory Crops Ltd., Longhope, Gloucestershire. Bob has long been an individual Member - and well known to many of us as being our record-breaking speaker a few years ago when he spoke to literally hundreds and enthralled us with his late father's slides exploring inside Oxenhall Tunnel.

Our thanks to Steve Emberson of Dwr Cymru-Welsh Water for so readily agreeing that our Trading Company can continue to use the secure store at Broomy Hill Water Treatment Works for our newly improved display material. Also for the donation of a drawing board for use on site at Over.

A report in an earlier edition of *The Wharfinger* stated that the Territorial Army moved our 'new'

boat from Bridgewater to Oxenhall - apparently our thanks are due to the regular Army. *Oops, sorry.*

Talking of the boat Brian Moulton would like to hear from any voluntary carpenters and painters who would be prepared to spend a few hours getting her ship-shape at Horsefair Wharf. 01432 264 366 is the number.

Have you read in the press complaints that Christmas starts too early each year? Well, I've been asked to announce that the H&G Canal Trust Trading Company will be launching a new Garth Allen Christmas card soon! Also some very impressive coasters to protect your table from those tea/coffee mugs. They will feature Oxenhall House Lock - past, present and future. *Further details in the next edition.*

And finally, there is just room to thank our regular and new advertisers for their support. With so much restoration under way we are keen to reduce our costs wherever we can; the advertising has paid some 70% of the print costs of this edition of *The Wharfinger*. Please support our advertisers whenever you can.

 CRP

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## CONTACTS

**Liz Connors,**

18, St. Ethelbert Close,  
SUTTON St. NICHOLAS,  
Hereford, HR1 3BF  
Tel/Fax:- (01432) 880 155

**Brian Fox,**

1, Holmer Hall Cottages,  
Roman Road,  
HEREFORD, HR4 9QU  
Tel:- (01432) 358 628

**Nigel Jefferies,**

Tel:- (01432) 850 661

**Tom Bennett,**

Tel:- (01981) 500 258

**Barbara & Ray Moses**

Tel:- (01989) 780 325

**Cliff Penny/David Penny,**

"Coppice", BURLEY GATE,  
Hereford, HR1 3QS  
Tel:- (01432) 820 420  
Fax:- (01432) 820 877

**Janet & Brian Moul,**

18, Coningsby Court,  
Coningsby Street,  
HEREFORD, HR1 2DF  
Tel:- (01432) 264 366

**Joyce Potts,**

Tel:- (01981) 590 372

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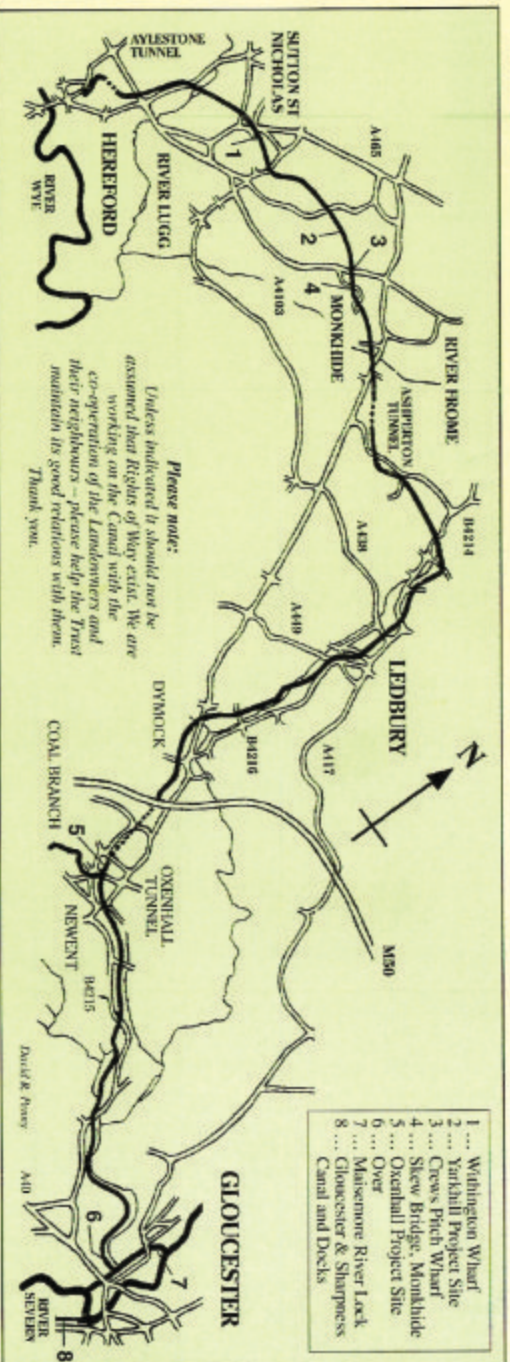
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The Canal Society was formed in 1983 and replaced in 1992 by the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust, a registered charity. The Trust has an ordinary and corporate membership exceeding 700 from all over the country – and abroad! Our objective 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.