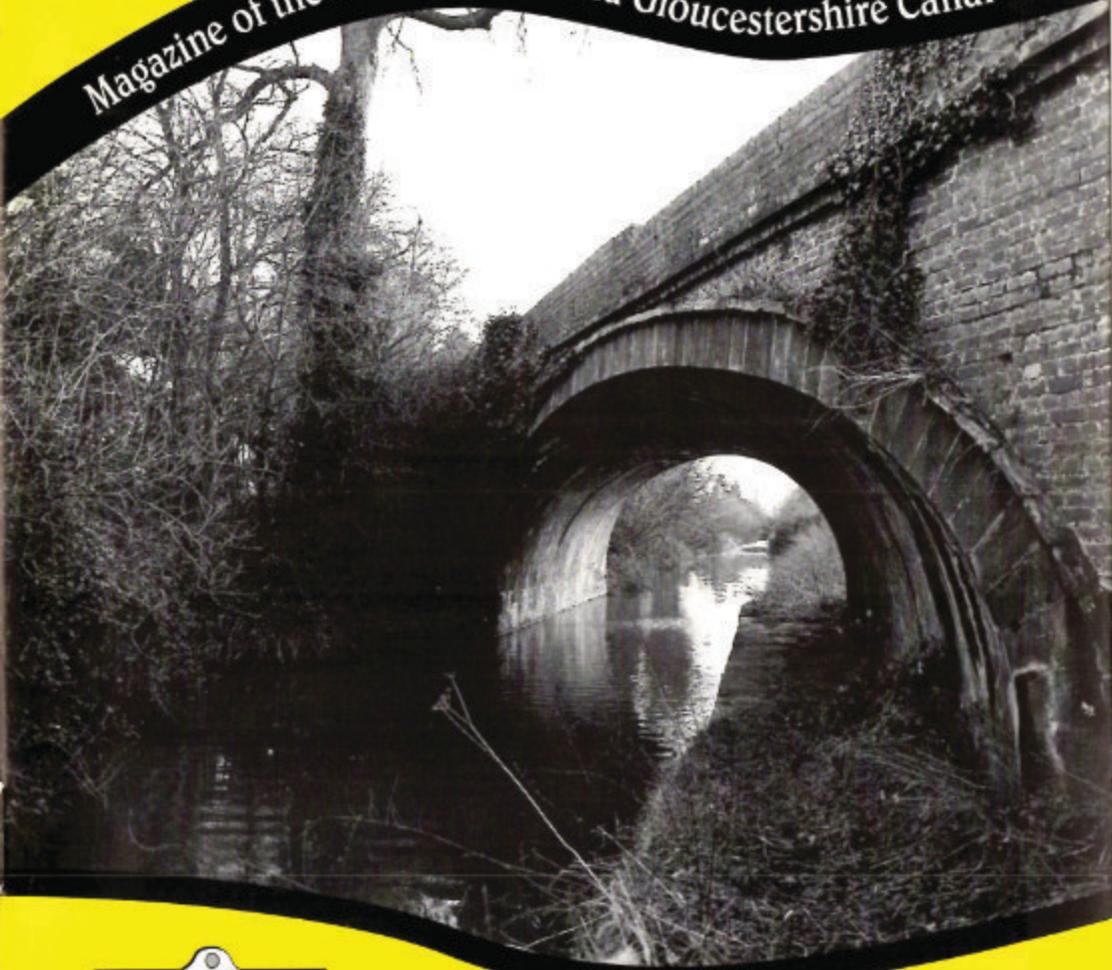


The **Wharfinger**

Magazine of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust



Spring 2002

50p
free to members



WHO DOES WHAT?

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Committee: Brian Fox, David Penny, Nigel Jefferies, *Tom Bennett*, Brian Moulton

Oxenhall Restoration:

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Health and Safety Officer:
Tony Austin-Bailey

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Secretary/CDM Planning Supervisor:
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PR: Nigel Bailey, *Jane Jones*

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Brian Fox

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Social Events: *Janet Moulton*

Support to Council of Management:

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IWA nominated member

Caroline Jones

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Honorary Posts:

Archaeologist: Ron Shoesmith

Town & Country Planning: Penny Environmental & Planning

Frost Cover: Skew Bridge, Monkhide - Jerry Kavanagh

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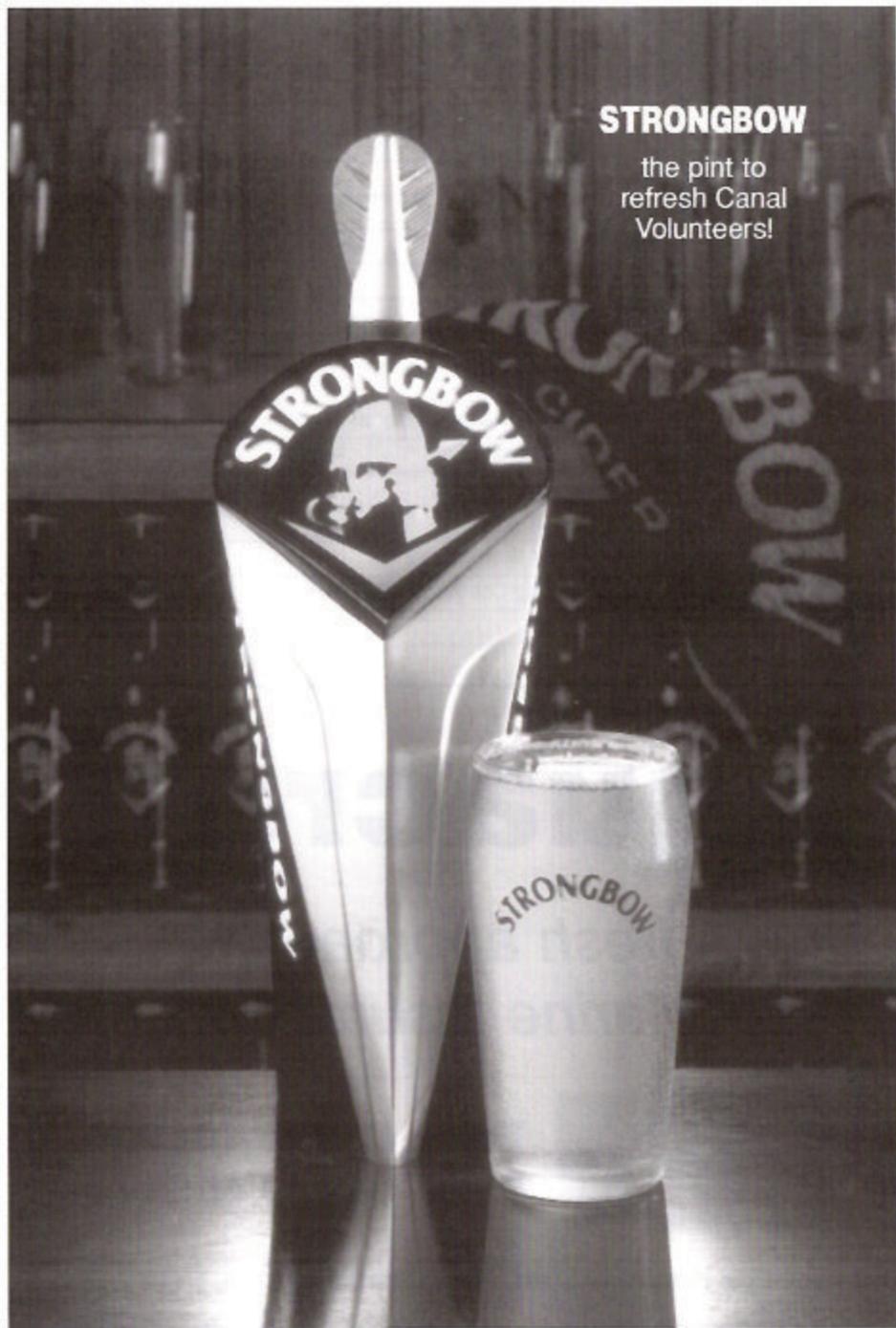
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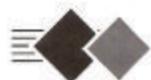
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STRONGBOW

the pint to
refresh Canal
Volunteers!





How time flies! I find it hard to believe that 2002 is the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust. We shall be marking this with a number of events along the line of the canal and I hope you will join our celebrations.

Who would have thought ten years ago that 2001 would see the opening of three completely restored canals - the Huddersfield Narrow Canal (the "impossible" one) the Forth and Clyde and the Union Canal? Who would have thought that by 2002 we would have two boat lifts in operation - the Anderton Lift and the Falkirk Wheel?

Nearer to home, the Droitwich Canals restoration has leapt forward and the Droitwich Flight of locks is now back in water. The Cotswold Canals Trust expects to see "its" canals to be fully restored by 2010.

This summer you will be able to cruise a brand new waterway, the Ribble Link and there is some pretty serious talk of linking the Grand Union to the Great Ouse by the Bedford Link - another entirely new canal to be funded, designed and built all within the next ten years. There are even plans to rebuild the Foxton Inclined Plane and build new canals in Liverpool and London I could go on. What a transformation in attitudes towards our inland waterways there has been in these last ten years!

So what, exactly, has changed? The fundamental point is that canals are no longer seen as holes in the ground into which money is poured, but as invaluable assets to the community which can more than earn their keep and contribute significantly to the local economy. Just what we have been saying all along! No wonder the Government has made it absolutely clear that never again will new road building programmes be allowed to obstruct canal restoration schemes.

Although the last ten years may not have seen long lengths of the H&G back in water, a great deal of groundwork of a different sort has been done and we are now well placed to take advantage of the exciting times in which we find ourselves. I'd like to think that whoever is writing this column in 2012 might begin with the words about "our canal" - "Who would have thought in 2002 ...".

Watch this space !

◆ *Dick Skeet, Chairman*

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MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS!

by Cliff Penny

Our Membership continues to go from strength to strength. To those who have recently 'upgraded' to Life Membership (or joined for the first time as Life Members) our especial thanks. We have not been mounting a specific recruitment campaign, which makes the increasing numbers of both 'ordinary' and Life Members all the more pleasing.

RESTORATION FUNDING

As is normal at this time of year this edition marks the launch of our **Grand Holiday Draw**. Please help us to make this, the tenth anniversary of the formation of the H&G Canal Trust, a record fund-raising year. They really are all very worthwhile genuine *holiday* prizes so please do buy/sell as many as possible. *Thank you.*

IWAAC RESTORATION PRIORITIES

The Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council has published its bi-annual Restoration and Development Priorities Report. This is a national review of progress on all known restoration projects (including new link waterways) – totalling 100 in all. There are only 21 schemes currently ranked above the H&G, and we have also been given 'Regional Strategic Significance' status – recognition that it will bring benefits well beyond the

immediate locality of the Canal.

This is the second such Report and immense progress is being made by many projects – truly reflecting the secondary title of the Report – 'A Second Waterway Age'.

ALL LOCKED UP?

For many years the Canal Trust has enjoyed the use of a secure dry store, accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, on the Dwr Cymru-Welsh Water Broomy Hill Water Treatment Works site in Hereford (*thank you*). This has been utilised to safely store our national award winning display and promotional material.

The Broomy Hill Water Treatment Works is about to be the subject of a £15 million refit and 'our' store will be right in the middle of the contractors site offices and thus will be 'off limits'.

Do you know of a secure dry store, with electric light, at ground level with vehicular access right to the door in (or close to) Hereford? The absolute minimum size being 10ft square; slightly bigger would be ideal. Whilst 24 hour access is not essential some access at evenings and weekends is highly desirable, please. If you are able to assist us – even with slightly more restrictive access - Brian Moults [*see Contacts page*] would be very pleased to discuss this with you.

◆ CRP

FORMAL NOTICE OF 2002 AGM

TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 18TH JUNE,
AT THE VERZONS INN, AT 7.30PM.

This is the formal Notice of the 2002 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 21st May and 11th 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 21st May and must be completed, signed and returned to her at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the AGM.

Thank you.

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COMMITTEE *matters*



Tony Austin-Bailey reviews three Council of Management meetings so that our Members and supporters are kept up to date . . .

OCTOBER COMMITTEE

Little new activity on the Willows Nursery front. We continue to keep Diana Organ MP informed of the situation and are awaiting a response from our latest letter; however, there have been no signs of any renewed auction activity yet.

It was decided that we needed a formal procedure governing the co-opting of persons to the Council of Management and the Chairman agreed to draft this.

Over SPG are preparing Health and Safety Guidelines, and local parents are being contacted, in view of the growing number of children encountered on the Over site and wishing to assist our efforts there. We wished to find a safe, legal, and insurance compliant way to encourage their active involvement in a controlled manner.

Little change in our finances. The legal definitions of Draws and Raffles were discussed. A draw involves printed tickets and must be licensed; a raffle must take place on a single day and involves no such considerations. With regard to fund-raising Council were cautious to strike a balance and not to appear to be constantly appealing to Members for money.

Four more sales events will be followed by a Christmas Social on December 18.

We have been given an all-weather public address system for use at our own sales events and open days and this was greatly appreciated.

After discussion it was agreed that the Chairman would draft a document for further debate outlining a statement for publication as to the H&G Canal Trust's Vision for the future in order that third parties were more readily aware of our objectives.

NOVEMBER COMMITTEE

Brian Fox reported that a further letter had been received from DTLR. It was agreed that further research would be pursued and Council agreed a means by which any urgent action could be approved between meetings if necessary.

A letter had been sent to residents at Over regarding young people on site advising that some special days were now planned for them to work with us. Steps were also in hand to assess the implications of Junior Trust Membership and regular dedicated junior working parties.

Authorised cheque signatories were reviewed and agreed. Budgets for the forthcoming quarter were discussed and accepted.

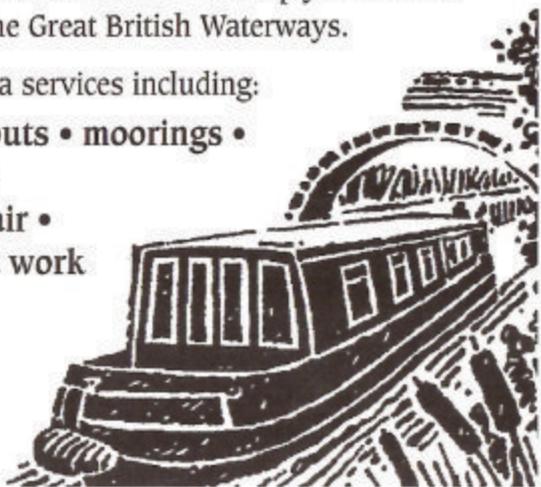
The Chairman's Paper regarding procedures to be followed prior to the

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appointment of co-opted persons to the Council of Management was accepted and, subject to clarification of a point regarding voting rights, would apply forthwith.

Discussions regarding potential additional Vice Presidents continued.

It was agreed that enquiries should be made with regard to an offer for a possible video to be made about the H&G Canal and the voluntary work of the Canal Trust.

There was a debate regarding a generous offer of surplus plant and lock gates from the Cotswold Canals Trust.

It was reported that the new car park at Over was progressing well. Extreme difficulties were being experienced in finding a free or low cost source of reclaimed telegraph or electricity poles. A detailed programme of work to maximise use of 'Blue' (WRG's tracked mini-excavator – which was to be on site for two months) had been agreed. The Track Materials Agency had donated some second-hand concrete railway sleepers and thanks to Ron Mogg these had already been collected. Work on the outfall from the new water supply pumping station was also going well.

A Member had drawn to the Canal Trust's attention an imminent auction of a substantial landholding that might include a short section of the Canal – this would be investigated.

DECEMBER COMMITTEE

A Member had suggested that regular contributions to the Restoration Fund should count towards Life Membership. Whilst noting that another leading Canal Trust had adopted such a proposal Council carefully considered the benefits (and disbenefits) and agreed that there

should be no change to current practices. The suggestion of a Junior Membership rate was considered to be a good idea but there were potential problems and an additional workload in providing the necessary support to a Junior Group. It was agreed that this would be reviewed if a volunteer came forward who had the time to prepare an implementation plan and (subject to approval) follow it through.

Due to pressure of work Tony Austin-Bailey had considered resigning from the Council. However, given that he was a past Chairman and a valuable Director Council agreed that the matter be reviewed in the Spring and that Heather Worth would take over minute keeping in Tony's absence.

The Trading Company reported excellent results from four further promotional events – our own Oxenhall Open Day in September; the Ashby Canal Festival later that month; Hereford Model Show in November; and our own Craft Fair in Ledbury in November. A list of potential events for 2002 was being considered in detail with emphasis on the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the formation of the H&G Canal Trust.

Over SPG Fund Raising Group reported a provisional list of Open Days and other promotional/fund-raising initiatives based on Over.

Plans for the storage and restoration/repair of a weed cutter boat donated by the Cotswold Canals Trust were discussed.

Various proposals to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the H&G Canal Trust were tabled.

Further nominations for additional Vice Presidents were debated.

◆ TA-B



RESTORATION

Update!

Photo: Jerry Kavanagh



PROGRESS AT OXENHALL

As reported in the last edition we are tackling the last section of the towpath wall up to the cill. Progress is not as fast as we would have liked due to the large amount of the old stone which it has been found necessary to remove. Close inspection of much of the wall revealed large cracks appearing where the facing stone was becoming detached from the main wall. It may have been possible to tie it all back together without demolition (using some of our long stainless steel rods). On reflection, however, it was considered a much better job to take it all down, reface some of the stones which have been removed whole, and then put them back alongside any new stones - using the rods to tie everything in for a more satisfactory result.

Christmas and New Year breaks are now out of the way and we are hoping for rapid progress on this wall - and then

◆ Oxenhall Lock and Cottage

over to the final length of the non-towpath wall to complete the stonework.

Work will shortly be starting on the Monkhide and Yarkhill sections in an attempt to tidy up parts of the canal neglected last year due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak. It will mainly involve scrub clearance and removal of fallen trees but repairs to the long standing leak in the canal near Barrs Lock will also be undertaken - provided the ground stays reasonably dry. This will provide a welcome opportunity for those volunteers at the Hereford end who have expressed a wish to get involved in a bit of weekend exercise! *Please contact Brian Moulton if you are interested.*

Those of you who are waiting for a decision on The Willows nursery site (*first reported in The Wharfinger some 18 months ago*) will have to hold your breath for a little longer. Local MP Diana Organ continues to give us active support for which we are most grateful.

◆ **BF**

OVER UPDATE

Visitors to our sites are often surprised that we continue work on the ground through the winter months, assuming that rain, frost and mud will deter us. Well, they certainly don't. I can only think of a couple of occasions in four years when we have even had to shelter for any length of time. And during the last few winter months we've achieved a great deal.

You may recall seeing two yellow JCB tracked excavators sitting on the floodplain at Over looking rather derelict. They both belonged to the Canal Trust and were used extensively in the early days of excavating Over Basin. Gradually they became more unreliable to the point that as soon as a problem like a broken hydraulic hose was fixed, another problem would develop. Before the Basin was completed we decided that the time had come to retire them. Ever since then we've been seeking to sell them. A few weeks ago a buyer was found and the machines have been taken away – and the Canal Trust funds have increased by £2,000.

During the last few weeks we have had on site a mini excavator affectionately known as "Blue" - *I'm certain that you can work out the reason why!* It belongs to the **Waterway Recovery Group** and is used on canal restoration sites all around the country.

H&G Canal Trust member Adrian Fry is qualified to train us to operate the excavator and during the Christmas period he has trained four of our regular volunteers. Until he is satisfied they can control it safely and effectively they do not receive their "ticket" to drive it. The

four have been putting their new skills to excellent use.

They have filled in the rather unsightly trench running between our 'Bailey' bridge and the site huts. This lay open so long because we had trouble scrounging the ducting needed to carry electricity cables. Recently we have been given 150 metres by **Wavin Plastics** of Chippenham (*thank you*) and were able to complete the job. This not only improves the appearance of the site enormously, it also provides a little more space.

Construction of the pumping station has continued steadily. The brick headwall for the water outlet into the canal has been completed, looking like another pair of "pizza ovens". "Blue" has come into play digging out the channel that links the headwall to the pump shaft. The shaft itself has been raised to its full height with the addition of a final half concrete ring. Sawing that last ring in half was a major project on its own! You may recall that these huge concrete rings – weighing over 10 tonnes each – were surplus weight rings from the Cardiff Long Sea Outfall Project. They



Photo: Ted Beagles



The redundant JCB's on the flood plain have been sold to help with restoration work.



“Blue” is put to good use digging the trenches for service ducting.

were not intended to be cut in half – but we like challenges and were determined to make maximum use of all four of the rings.

Most recently, “Blue” has been digging trenches across the new car park. These trenches have been lined with geotextile and land drains laid surrounded by washed gravel. A number of road gulleys have also been installed to discharge flash flooding from the surface of the car

park. This will ensure we don't have any drainage problems when we get the car park area surfaced with road plantings. Ducts have also been laid to the centre of the car park so that low level lighting and a security camera can be installed, if required, at a later date. Some of the many concrete railway sleepers that we have acquired have been cut up to form reinforced ‘kerb stones’ and laid to form the entrance to the car park. The very first part of the ‘telegraph pole retaining wall’ has also been installed enabling us to landscape and complete the car park entrance.

The Wednesday Crew have completed all the duct-laying and man-hole building on the housing side of the Basin and are now ready to build manholes on the other side. This will be an excellent job completed because we will have ducts in place for all services without having to disturb the ground again.

A weekend was spent planting trees around the sides of the new car park. These will greatly enhance its appearance and will help to hide the parking area from the houses at Over and from the main road. We have kept to our policy of planting native trees so there is a whole range including oak, silver birches, bird

Preparations for base of the headwall leading from the pumping station into the canal.



Photos: Mike Hunt

cherries and Scots pine – 640 trees in all, planted during a single weekend.

Scots pines are associated in England with the ancient drove roads and were planted at points where drovers were welcome and where they would find meadows for their cattle to graze over night. *I don't think we'll be encouraging the cattle but we will certainly be encouraging visitors to come to enjoy the canal in future.*

I write a report each month for **Highnam Parish Council's** magazine *The Link* and two readers kindly responded to my request for any surplus native trees. In all, we collected more than 50 from two local gardens, including yew, spindle, ash, oak, holly and walnut. These have been planted in our nursery bed to grow them on for a couple of years before they go out in the wild. And if I can get the pot full of alder seeds to grow, we could start a forest! That might come in handy because, traditionally alder was used for making lock gates.

A start has been made to preparing beds for willows in the area that will be the Nature Reserve. We know the original Canal Company planted them along the canal at Over, presumably as a

commercial crop. Mike Bowden has been researching varieties of willow with **Westonbirt Arboretum** and the **Long Ashton Research Station** but has not been able to positively identify the "soft red osiers" recorded in the Canal Company minute books. Westonbirt have kindly agreed to donate a range of types so we can discover which thrives best on the floodplain adjacent to the River Leadon.

We again held our annual volunteers' skittles evening at The Swan at Staunton. On this occasion, Roy Jamieson proved to be the most expert skittler. It provided an excellent opportunity for our new Chairman to meet the people who do the work on the ground and put faces to names. By coincidence, the day chosen happened to be the birthday of David Penny (the Over Project Director) so the *Cake Fairy* prepared him a suitable cake – decorated with Lego men in hard hats. Arguments broke out trying to decide which figures represented which volunteers!

A few weekends ago we had a couple visit the site while we were working. They walked to the dam at the end and when they returned told us they had seen a large black cat running away from them across the next field. They were

◆ The finished brick work for the pumping station headwall



Photos: Maggie Jones

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convinced it was an escaped wild cat, about the size of a labrador, but definitely not a dog. A year or two ago the papers were talking about the "Beast of Maisemore" and more recently a wild cat has been spotted at Birdlip, so maybe now it is roaming closer to Over.

This made the Wednesday Crew stop and wonder when they spotted mysterious hoof prints on site. There was much speculation about the wild beast of Over. Enquiries with one of the Stauntons Hill residents revealed a more

down to earth explanation; three cows had been on site, last seen walking over the A40 bridge in the direction of Gloucester. *Perhaps they had been attracted by our new Scots pines?*

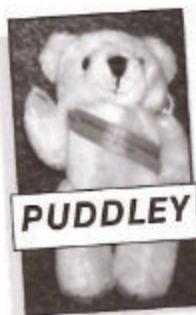
◆ NB

CAR SUCCESS

Late last year Member Peter Moore came up with an unusual way for the Trust to gain funds. He very generously donated his Volvo car to the Trust to sell to assist our restoration work. Thank you Peter.

◆ DRP

News from the Bear family ...



Harry, George and Holiver are all pleased to announce the name of their brother at Oxenhall. Members sent in various suggestions for the Wrinklies to

consider and the name chosen is PUDDLEY.

The winning suggestion came from Audrey Lewis of Cheltenham - who will receive her prize bear. *Thank you to all who responded.*

◆ JM

There are of course at times those who think a little deeper when set a challenge! Martin Ludgate, long time WRGic volunteer on the H&G and Editor of WRG's excellent quarterly magazine 'Navvies', wins the [prizeless - sorry Martin] award for suggesting the name **Ozymandias** with the longest and most in-depth entry into our name the bear contest:-

Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley

*I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed.
And on the pedestal these words appear-
"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty and dis bear!"
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.*

Having worked at House Lock, Oxenhall since the early days, I think the above words (especially the bit about "the decay of that colossal wreck") rather sum up the state that the lock was in before the H&G CT and the visiting volunteer groups got to work on it.

Martin Ludgate

[Our spies tell us that the original inscription on the pedestal finished with the words "and despair" - but no doubt the ravages of time (and the beneficial addition of a little WRGic imagination) account for the "dis bear" version - Ed.]

SOCIAL EVENINGS

Monthly Gatherings at The Verzons

by Janet Moulton

EVERYONE IS WELCOME to our monthly meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month and hosted by our "Master of Ceremonies" Lloyd Jones. All meetings are 7.30 for 8pm.

MARCH 19TH

Canals North of the Border - *Graham Ettles*

Progress on the exciting developments in Scotland

APRIL 16TH

10th Anniversary Lecture - *Nigel Jefferies*

MAY 21ST

Margaret, Sheila and Hazel - *Colin Scrivenor*

The fascinating story of these three boats.

JUNE 18TH

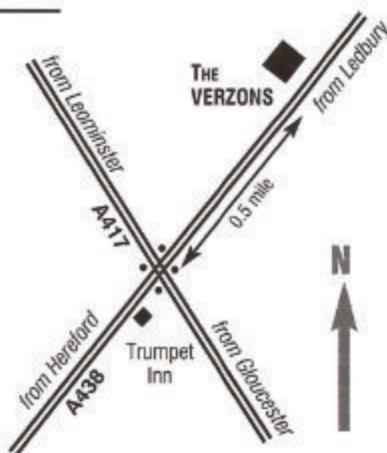
Annual General Meeting

Meetings are held at **The Verzons Inn**, Trumpet, nr. Ledbury 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).

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Please park in the overflow car park - inside the entrance on the right - for future meetings.

Janet has gone to a lot of trouble to organise a superb range of social evenings - please support them - everyone is welcome!



OVER OPEN DAYS

Come and join us on one or more of our increasingly popular Open Days or Events during 2002. The Sales Stand, Display and Refreshments are present at each Open Day and you can see the latest progress on site.

Alternatively, you can just watch the escapades of the **Gloucester Model Boat Club** or take a free ride on the the trip boat and see the increasing range of wild life, such as kingfishers, that are increasingly making our site their own.

Open days are the last Sunday of each month,
from 10am – 5pm on the following dates:

SUNDAY, 31ST MARCH

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL

SUNDAY 26TH MAY

SUNDAY 30TH JUNE

SUNDAY 28TH JULY

SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST

SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER



SATURDAY 18TH MAY

BBQ for Restoration Fund Members Only



SUNDAY 14TH JULY, 10AM – 5PM

Over Walk and Picnic £7.50



SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

Alney Island Walk and BBQ £10 (BBQ only £6)



*All profits to the
Canal Trust Funds.*

Moving a



HOLE!

PART FOUR

Part three of this series, in the last edition of **The Wharfinger**, covered the construction of The Wharf House Car Park. Due to its location we had to create compensatory flood storage capacity. One of the ways this was done was to restore parts of the old Mill Race; but what was the history of the Mill Race, and surely there was more reason than just that to restore it ...

OVER MILL RACE

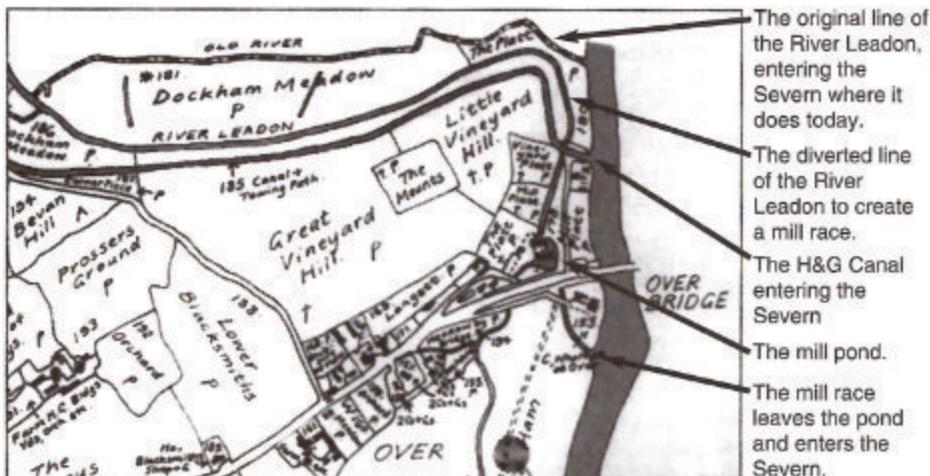
For more than 500 years, a corn mill stood near the exit from the A40 into the Over site. Early in the 13th century John

de Felda, Abbot of St Peter's Abbey (now the Cathedral) built the first Mill on land they had owned since the 9th century.

Water for the mill was obtained by diverting the River Leadon. Before the mill was built, the Leadon had joined the Severn where it does now; at the large flap gates. Abbot De Felda constructed a mill race, tapping into the river a mile upstream. This ran parallel to the river, turning sharp right as it approached the River Severn, and continued parallel to the Severn before flowing into a large mill pond. It seems that for many centuries the mill race was actually the course of the Leadon.

At this time Over Bridge was the 8-arched one, which was replaced by Telford's Bridge in the 1820s. Seven of its arches crossed the western arm of the Severn while the eighth carried the Gloucester road over the water exiting the mill. This water joined the Severn a couple of hundred yards downstream, at which point a small wharf developed.

During the 1860s a good deal of work was done to straighten the river's course and raise its banks by five feet to try to alleviate flooding within the valley. This



had been exacerbated by the construction of the Over and Rudford Mills. Grantham's survey, on which the work was based, shows the straightened course of the Leaddon we see today and the mill race, now labelled as Old Mill Stream. It may well be that by this time steam power was taking over as the driving force for Over Mill.

The Electoral Roll shows that in 1868 "the house, mill and land at Over Mill" were occupied by Charles Priday and James Reynolds, both famous names in Gloucester's industrial history. Reynolds left in 1869 to found the Albert Flour Mills in Gloucester Docks. Priday left in 1881 and a few years later set up Priday, Metford & Co Ltd which began milling in the City Flour Mills at the north end of Gloucester Docks.

Over Mill ceased operations in 1885 and was demolished in 1903 when the hospital was built. The Mill House, which had been built by the Priday family in the early 19th century, remained with several cottages until the 1970s when they were demolished to make way for the dual carriageway. Priday Metford continued milling in the docks until 1995. Their premises are now, in turn, being refurbished as apartments, restaurants and bars.

The Mill Race slowly melted back into the landscape with the section just west of our site still quite clearly defined, but that opposite the new houses having been totally lost and partly destroyed when the main valley sewer was constructed in the 1970's.

We decided that the Mill and its Race had formed such a crucial part in the history of Over that we should seek to restore what we could of the remaining Mill Race. This could serve many functions simultaneously. Obviously it



Photo: Mike Hunt

- ◆ Above: first part of the Mill Race which was dug last summer.
- ◆ Below: recent continuation of the Mill Race



Photo: Margain Jones



◀ 'Blue' being put to good use digging the Mill Race recently.

A 1923 farthing recovered from the Mill Race, by Lyndon Bowen, during restoration. ▶



would preserve an important historical and archaeological feature for future generations and would help visitors to interpret the history of the site. At the same time it could create an off line nature reserve into which we could translocate any fauna and flora that might be required when we come to restore other sections of Canal. The Mill Race, Abstraction Channel, and River Leadon would between them 'moat' some 90% of the boundary of the Otter Reserve thus helping to protect and give

privacy to the otters and other wildlife in this area, considerably enhancing the wildlife value of the Otter Reserve. It would also act as the Canal overflow channel, and finally, of course, it would help to provide part of the critical flood storage compensation space required to permit construction of The Wharf House Car Park. . . . one action, cost effectively providing many end results, and enhancing the site as a whole.

◆ NB & DRP

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Next Phase Commences *at Over*



Photo: Maggie Jones

The photo above shows the Health & Safety fence around Over Lock Cottage ready for the demolition of this structurally unsound building. By the time you read this, the building should have gone, with all the materials having been moved deeper into our site to be recycled. The next edition of **The Wharfinger** will include a feature on the new building which will occupy this

site. The shell of this new building is being built by Swan Hill Homes who are donating it to the Canal Trust.

In the meantime a committee is well advanced in planning the fitting out of what will be known as The Wharf House. Anyone with building/fitting out skills (plumbing, electric's, dry lining, plastering etc) would be very welcome either to join this group or to add to our database of skilled volunteers to assist once the shell is given to the Trust in the summer. Please contact Wilf Jones [see Contacts].

In the foreground of the photograph you can see the first section of telegraph pole retaining wall having been constructed in the car park. ♦ **DRP**

Once again we have some great prizes for this year's

GRAND HOLIDAY DRAW

**1st
PRIZE**



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**2nd
PRIZE**

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**3rd
PRIZE**

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Lots of friends and colleagues will be eager for the chance of a great holiday for just 25p, so we wish you good luck in buying and selling of the tickets. If you would like more tickets than we have sent to you, please contact Janet Moulton [see Contacts].

The Draw takes place late afternoon on the 26th August 2002, at the National Waterways Festival, which this year, is being held at Huddersfield.

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.

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Help! Responsible Adults Wanted

In recent months a number of young people (teenagers, mostly) have asked if they can help with our canal restoration at Over.

Some of these are helping us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's award, others because their parents or friends are already involved - or they have seen the work going on and have become interested.

Council of Management is considering whether the time has come to set up a "young persons" group within the Trust to foster and channel this interest.

As well as special working parties, it might be possible to organise outings to interesting places connected with inland waterways, produce a newsletter etc.

Council is very much aware that working with young people today is something of a minefield and the setting up and running of a young persons' group would have to be very carefully managed. It goes without saying that it will depend very much on having the right people "at the top". Now and again in the H&G we very gently twist people's arms, but not in this case. We need people who really would like to do this, have lots of good ideas and the enthusiasm to carry it all through. *Might that include you?*

If you have experience in working with young people and think you might be able to help in this way, I'd be very glad to hear from you - let's start with an informal chat with no commitments at this stage.

◆ Dick Skeet, Chairman

Report from Over Fund Raising Group



The winter months of 2000-1 were spent renovating a rescued, dilapidated site hut in preparation for our first year of Open Days at Over.

With a team of only four, we planned Open Days and other fund-raising events from March to December 2001. Under difficult conditions, with no mod. cons. at all, we managed to carry out our planned diary of events with the exception of two walks which had to be cancelled due to the foot and mouth restrictions.

As the year progressed, our team of volunteers gradually increased and we now have a reliable team, with different talents, which have contributed to the increasing success of our events.

Roy, Ted, Will, Mike and Maggie are now proficient in giving guided tours of the canal in Mr. Maysey; Maggie B., Dot, Jill, Joan, Sheena, Sharon, Janet and Sandra have demonstrated their expertise in making cakes and serving refreshments (*to the relief of the cake fairy*) and David and Nigel continue to provide in-depth information for our visitors.

In addition to our Open Days, we have held an Easter Egg Challenge, Cheese and Wine Party, Strawberry Fayre, and Barbecue. Our fund raising events culminated in a Christmas Open Day with boat trips on a very festive Mr. Maysey equipped with a Santa's Grotto. We are indebted to our **two** Father Christmases and their assistants for their help on this bitterly cold day.

We have been pleased to welcome the Canoe Club, Gloucester Civic Trust, the Association of Project Managers and Maisemore Local History Group - to name but a few - to the canal. The Model Boat Club has attended all our Open Days and we are grateful to them for their support.

Nigel Bailey continues to donate the profits from his book *'Over and Over Again'* and deserves a special mention for raising in excess of £800 to date for the Trust.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped us with our first year of events - our volunteers, the Boat Club and Sales Company who have provided training, advice and expertise and last, but by no means least, all our visitors.

If anyone would like to join our friendly team at Over, please contact Liz Bailey, 01452 533835. *Thank-you.* ♦ **EB**



Photos: Ted Beagies and Maggie James

SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER - Following the cancellation of Ashby Canal Trust's earlier venue, they set up a replacement as soon as their area was clear of Foot and Mouth. The site they chose for their festival was adjacent to Snarestone Tunnel. *The weather they 'chose' was less than salubrious!*

Janet and Brian arrived and met up with Des and Lesley to erect the gazebo and contents. Fortunately for all of us, Des, having access to the *local* weather forecast, brought with him one large tarpaulin, a beach wind break and a lot of sizeable rope. Once the wind starting getting up and the rain coming down, all extra items proved essential, otherwise we would have been blown away.

The weather obviously kept a lot of visitors away and we were sorry for the Ashby volunteers, who had put in such a lot of hard work, for what was essentially a very wet day. We did some business, but nothing like as much as we would have liked. Thanks to Des and Lesley for sharing such a damp experience.

SUNDAY 4TH NOVEMBER - Earlier in the year, we had attended a celebratory day with Hereford Society of Model Engineers, when they opened their new clubhouse. They invited us to attend the November Model Exhibition and Swapmeet, held in Hereford Leisure Centre. A large venue, *inside*, with plenty of room, on a beautiful, balmy autumn day (I ask you!). Penny, Janet and Brian met up and very quickly had the stall ready for business, with a limited display set up behind.

We achieved a fair day's trading, meeting some acquaintances from The Model Society and hopefully some new members.

SATURDAY 17TH NOVEMBER - *Our own Craft Fair!* As always we used St. Katherine's Hall in Ledbury. It is necessary to get the team there bright and early, to set up the tables before the stallholders are allowed in at 8-30am. This year, a new stand had come from Pwllheli - I did not like to ask what time he set out because he was already there and packing away his breakfast things!

Blessed with warmer weather than in previous years (*just*), we got the show on the road and had a busy day, as did the stallholders. Our refreshment stall did not stop and we were pleased to see the end of the day.

We achieved good totals for both sales and refreshments and were blessed with

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a fine team of volunteers. *Thank you to all who helped in any way.*

SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER - We attended the 'Leominster Canal Promotions' event at the Royal Oak, Leominster. We took a limited display and sales stand to provide an interest point (along with other organisations) during the intervals. Sales were reasonable and the event allowed us to meet people in a new area.

This brings to a close The Trading Company Diary for 2001, but in case the reader might be led to think that we now have three months rest, let me correct that misapprehension! *Before* we start again, the exhibition kit has to be cleaned and repaired, a stock check is necessary, the accounts have to be completed, replacement stock has to be ordered, new lines decided on, the venue programme organised etc. The list seems to be unending. *Add to that the need to establish*

our diary of events and find extra volunteers!

There are a small number of gaps in Trading Company organisation which need to be filled:-

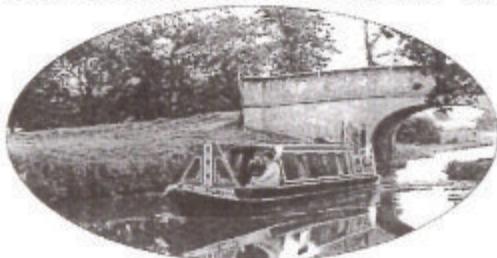
1 CRAFT FAIR ORGANISER. After doing the job for ten years, Joyce Potts has asked to be replaced. *We are very grateful for the hard work put in by Joyce* and hope somebody out there is prepared to take on the job. A concentrated once a year effort with the satisfaction of a successful day to reflect the organisational activity of the previous weeks!

2 We need to supplement our **BOAT GROUP** as the Chairman has been poached to become Canal Trust Chairman - and we have lost one or two others (and gained one to run the trip boat at Over).

Please contact Brian Moulton to indicate your willingness to help with any of the above.

◆ **BM**

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LIFE *In Our Hands!!*

To give volunteers more confidence about what to do should a medical emergency occur on site, Gloucester paramedic **Ian Bateman** has organised a short first aid course at the Ambulance Station in Gloucester for regular volunteers at Over and Oxenhall. The sessions are run by paramedic **Mark Malsey** – no relation, as far as we know, to the *Mister Maysey* in our article in **The Wharfinger** (edition 72).

I was expecting lots of bandages and advice on removing splinters etc., but the course began with far more serious situations, and rightly so. The first week we were taught CPR, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation, or mouth to mouth as we usually call it. Fortunately, we were given real dummies to practice on rather than our colleagues. Mark told us that when they are called to an emergency where the patient had stopped breathing it was in the situations where a by-stander had been able to perform CPR that gave them the best chance of recovery.

The second week covered asphyxiation, or blockage of the windpipe. I was surprised to learn that there are at least a dozen different situations that can cause this, from convulsions to hysteria. So if, during lunch

breaks in the site hut, a volunteer is talking and munching on a sandwich at the same time, they can feel rest assured they will be dealt with when they start to choke. Or, if we learnt that we are to receive a large lottery grant to help with restoration and the surprise is too much for any of us, the hysteria will also be dealt with correctly!



Mark Malsey demonstrates CPR (using a dummy)

Week three, and bandages at last! We all put these to good uses and were also taught various ways of stemming blood flow, coping with fitting, asthma attacks, and diabetic needs. *The course continues...*

We try to pay careful attention to health and safety on site so, hopefully, we will not be called on to perform all the knowledge that we have learnt. But we are glad to have gained it, and it is giving us more confidence to help our colleagues should the situation arise. *Thank you, Mark for your patience and teaching.*

◆ MJ

GLoucester Boat & Watersports Jumble

Barbara and Ray Moses will once again be running a stall on behalf of the H&G Canal Trust at the **Gloucester Boat and Watersports Jumble**, on 7th April 2002. As usual, they need donated items to sell to raise funds for the Trust, please. Alternatively, they can sell more valuable items on a commission basis.

These items must be waterways (or watersports) orientated – *however tenuous* – but, please, no waterways magazines, unless they are in bound year volumes!

THE TRADING COMPANY
H & G Canal Sales

Donated items can be brought to the 'third Tuesday of the month' Social Meetings at **The Verzons Inn** or alternative arrangements can be made with Barbara or Ray on 01989 780325, or e-mail r_w_moses@yahoo.co.uk

Barbara and Ray work hard to raise funds for the H&G Canal Trust at this event – *please support them with a suitable donation* (or goods to sell on commission). Make 2002 another record-breaking year.

Docks Redevelopment Underway Again!

By Hugh Conway-Jones

Reproduced with permission from 'Llanthony Log' the newsletter of The Friends of the National Waterways Museum, Gloucester.

After a long period of inactivity, work is in hand on two major buildings in Gloucester Docks. The former Friday Metford flour mill is being stripped of its machinery, and the 1960's concrete silo and other modern additions are being demolished. The original mill and warehouse will be refurbished and a new extension added to provide 30 one and two-bedroom flats with two restaurant-bars on the ground floor. On the west side of the Main Basin, the Alexandra Warehouse and the adjoining small office building are being refurbished and linked together to provide new offices on the lower floors for British Waterways.

Work is due to start in February on the conversion of the Albert Warehouse to flats, and this has forced Robert Opie to close his Museum of Advertising and Packaging which has long made use the building.

The multi-screen cinema that was scheduled for the Southgate Street frontage of the docks area will not now go ahead. This follows from the agreement of the South West Regional Development Agency to take over the lease of the central docks area from the developers Crest Nicholson. The Agency plan to stimulate housing development, with the ground floors for employment or water-related retailing, and they will provide the extra cost of quality materials, design and co-ordination which would not be possible with piecemeal development by private companies.



Gloucester Docks in the late 1960's. Hard left is the Friday's concrete silo; the other buildings are now the City Council Offices

Photo: Maggie Jones

The Regional Development Agency is also expected to invest heavily in the Western Waterfront scheme to redevelop a series of sites stretching from the former Cattle Market through the docks to Monk Meadow and Bakers Quay. The aim is that the area should have an appropriate mix of uses that complement those that the city centre offers and that establish a new market for sustainable urban living in an attractive waterside location. It is expected that the mix will include housing, tourism, recreation, education, business, shopping and eating

places. The involvement of the Agency should help to re-vitalise some very run-down areas which will transform the setting of the National Waterways Museum, and the future of the Docks themselves.

◆ HC-J

BOOKS SUCCESS

During the past year I have been collecting and selling secondhand books, mainly paperbacks, at the Social evenings and on the Sales stand, which has raised £100. Thank you to all that donated - and bought. ◆ JM

THE TRADING COMPANY
H & G Canal Sales

OUT AND ABOUT IN 2002

No sooner have we packed away displays and stock from our last outing of 2001 in December than the planning for 2002 starts! Some of the events to be attended by our Trading Company during the early part of the year are given below (*some dates have to be confirmed*):-

March	Tractor World, Malvern
April 7	Gloucester Boat Jumble
May 4-6	Worcester & Birmingham Rally
May 18-19	Moira Canal Festival ***
Jun 1-3	Crick Boat Show ***
Jun 1	Hartpury College Open Day
Jun 15-16	Wiltshire Water Festival- Wootton Bassett***
July	Saul Boat Gathering
July	Marcle Steam Fair
Aug 23-26	IWA National – Huddersfield***

The events marked*** are our "very awaydays" – we would appreciate it if any Members living in the areas could come along and give us a hand for a couple of hours. Please contact Janet Moulton [see *Contacts*] for more details.

Attending these events is not without cost - which we work hard to keep to a minimum - any sponsorship from a Member, Corporate or Individual, would be very welcome.

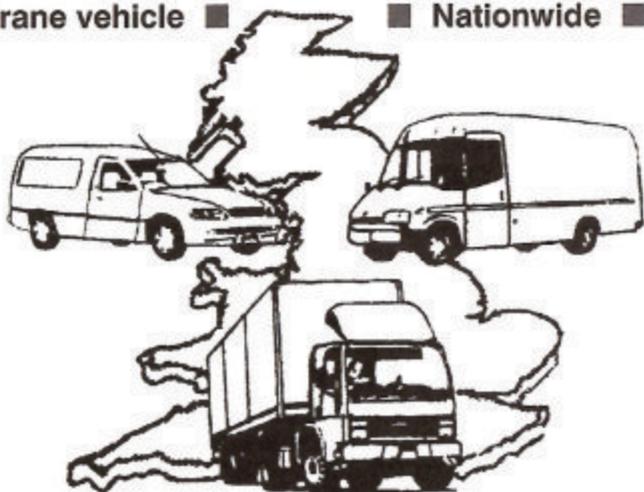
◆ JM

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◆ Not Quite ... THE LAST PAGE ◆

Thank you...

MUSIC STAND

The Trading Company would like to thank Philip Kennedy of Hereford for the donation of a music stand as requested in the last edition ◆ **BM**

CAST IRON RAILINGS

We are very grateful to Monmouthshire County Council Highways Department for donating cast iron railings to the Trust which will be used to demarcate the boundary between the Lock and the gardens of The Wharf House at Over once the Lock has been restored.

Exactly the right quantity of these were surplus having been removed from the river bank to permit a major flood protection scheme at Chepstow. This inter-related to a project which Penny Environmental & Planning was co-ordinating. We greatly appreciate the support of Monmouthshire County Council in recycling these surplus materials into the ongoing conservation work on the H&G Canal. ◆ **DRP**

Wanted please...

ASSISTANT TO THE WEB MASTER

We are looking for someone who enjoys working on the Web. Nigel Bailey would welcome an assistant to help him keep the website up-to-date and running smoothly. If possibly you are that someone please contact Nigel, [see contacts list overleaf]. ◆ **NB**

A 'SIT-ON' LAWN MOWER

Can anyone help us find a sit-on lawn mower? Spring is just around the corner, and our present machine looks unlikely to cope with the surge of green shoots coming up around our sites at Oxenhall and Over. Can you help, please? ◆ **DRP**

NAVAL INCIDENT REPORTED AT OVER!



Last year we were shocked to have a formal report of a marine collision at Over. It appears that a submarine on training exercises nearly caused the sinking of a canoe.

Without warning the canoe and submarine crossed each other's course, and a serious incident was narrowly avoided. Luckily the submarine in question was owned by one of the members of Gloucester Model Boat Club and was a scale model!

In future we will be ensuring a slightly greater segregation between all the different users of the Canal on Open Days - we are pleased to report that there was no damage or injury on this occasion! ◆ **DRP**

DISCRIMINATION

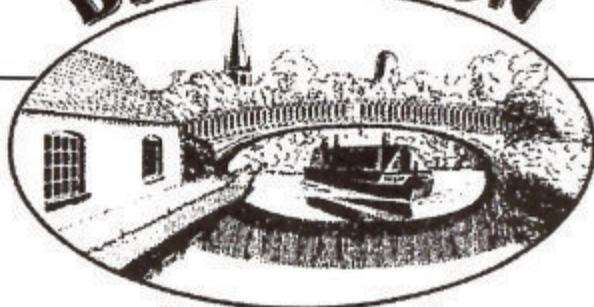
We are required to confirm that we have an appropriate Discrimination Policy in place when applying for some grant aid. The Council of Management have therefore adopted the following Policy:-

"The H&G CT aims to ensure that no member, volunteer or visitor is discriminated against because of class, colour, disability, employment status, ethnic or national origins, marital status, race, religious beliefs, sex, sexuality or unrelated criminal convictions. Young people who have not attained the school leaving age are only accepted as volunteers under the conditions described in our Health & Safety Policy."

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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 a shovel or pen.

◀ Contact any of these names **TODAY!**

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The Wharfinger

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 which in its turn was closed by Dr Beeching in 1964.

The Canal Society was formed in 1983 and replaced in 1992 by Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust, a registered charity. The Trust has an ordinary and corporate membership exceeding 900 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 waterway network at Gloucester to the centre of Hereford. A steering Committee of 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.

