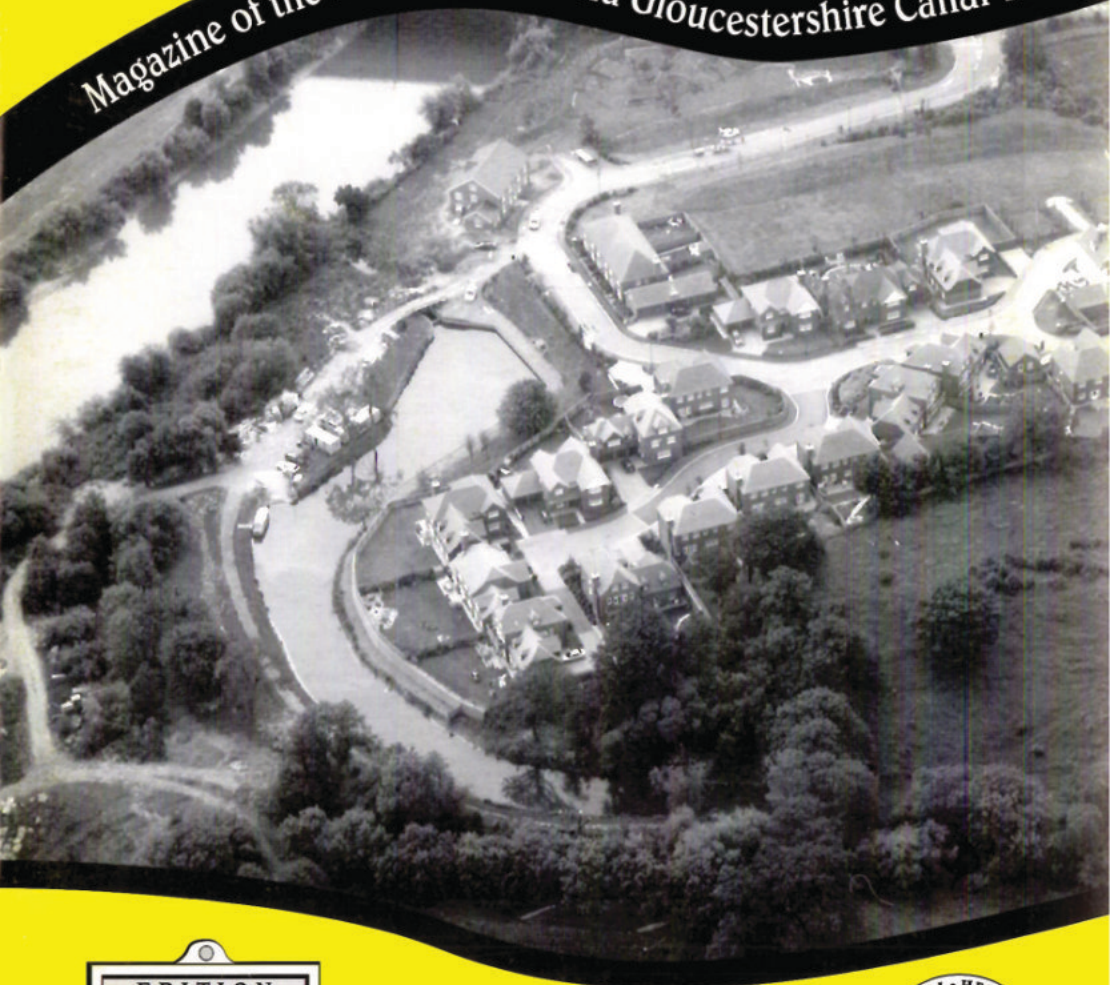


The **Wharfinger**

Magazine of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust



Autumn 2003

50p
free to members



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FRONT COVER: Aerial View of Over Basin – Mike Hunt (see page 31)

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One of the things that will become obvious to you as you read this edition of **The Wharfinger**, is that within the Trust *there is an awful lot going on!* We are now working at two sites in Herefordshire, expanding our work in Gloucestershire and running two Trading Companies.

When Council of Management decides to embark upon a new piece of work it needs to be confident that we will have enough volunteers to see the work through. Trying to recruit volunteers for a project that hasn't started doesn't seem to work, so we have to set out with the faith that the volunteers will show up.

By now you will have gathered where this column is heading. Right now, as Lord Kitchener might have said "*Your Trust needs You !!*".

You may be thinking that you don't have any skills to offer - you might not be that keen on mud or have never laid a brick in your life. If so, here are two pieces of good news for you.

Firstly, you would be amazed at the range of skills which can be used - you may not be up to mixing concrete, but maybe you can bake a cake (*same idea, just*



Photo: Keith Wilson

Here are some of the
undergrowth clearance • tree planting
tiling • insulating
plumbing • decorating • surveying
running sales stands • material recycling
laying hard core • running a website

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different materials). You may not be too keen on felling a tree, but you may be more comfortable planting one. We have grass to cut, forms to be filled in, refreshments to be served and cuddly toys to be sold. I could go on ...

Secondly, if you want to learn a new skill, we can almost certainly arrange for you to receive excellent training. **The Waterways Trust** offers a wide range of training days in all sorts of useful activities and also provides contributions towards appropriate and accredited training given by other bodies.

Of course there's more to being a H&G Canal Trust Volunteer than just doing the job. There is the joy of improving our local environment and bringing back to life some of our lost heritage. And just think of the satisfaction of knowing that, one day, boats will pass through the lock or under the bridge you have helped to rebuild - or raised the money to make it possible. You'll make some new friends and maybe get a nice tan too.

Not a bad deal really. *There are lots of numbers to ring in the following pages!*

◆ *Dick Skeet, Chairman*

Do you have or
want to learn
new skills ?

Are you
interested in
restoring our
heritage ?

Are you looking
for a rewarding
new hobby ?

Do you enjoy
working outdoors ?

Do you want
to help the
environment ?

Do you enjoy
building things ?



Photo: David Penny

activities that our volunteers get involved in...

- bricklaying • dry stone walling • painting • stud walling
- furnishing • sign writing • plant maintenance • excavating
- administration • gardening • cake making • electronics
- serving refreshments • boat painting • grass cutting
- photography • producing publicity • duct laying

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HEREFORD'S NEW CANAL BASIN

by Cliff Penny



Early in July Herefordshire Council's Cabinet considered the preliminary report of the team of Consultants who are undertaking the £250,000 study that is identifying options for the redevelopment of some 100 acres of Hereford City – the Edgar Street Grid. A *'once in a lifetime' opportunity to plan how the area should be redeveloped over the coming years.*

The approach is intended to present a co-ordinated proposal for incorporation within the Unitary Development Plan to ensure that, as individual areas within this part of the City come forward for redevelopment, they form a part of the ultimate picture. In order to be successful it is essential to 'masterplan' the area as a whole to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place and that the correct overall balance is achieved – including financial viability. A key part of any proposals had to be the integration of the area into the existing City Centre; only a short walk away but with a busy 'ring road' between. Also, there are existing facilities (such as the Courtyard Theatre/Arts Centre and Hereford United Football Ground) which are difficult to reach on foot from the City.

Our Canal Trust (represented by Penny Environmental & Planning/David Penny) has been involved from the outset in a Focus Group with the Consultants. The Group comprised about a dozen people including, as well as the H&GCT, representatives of the Hereford City Partnership, Courtyard Theatre, Chamber

of Commerce, Civic Trust, Hereford United Football Club, Police, College of Art and Design etc.

A new Canal Basin, forming the heart of one of the quadrants within the 'Grid', is proposed in all of the various options that were put to the Council's Cabinet in July.

One of these options has now been approved for further work by the Consultants and David will continue to liaise as more detail is added to the initial 'broad brush' plans. This builds on the long-term 'behind the scenes' liaison that has been ongoing for many years in respect of Hereford City with both Senior Officers and Members of the Council (and its predecessor). For example, as long ago as 1991 the essential deviations from the historic route of the Canal were agreed in order that a viable route, right back into the heart of the City, could be achieved.

Also in July, Herefordshire Council approved, in principle, a 14 dwelling proposal by Harper Group Construction Limited on the edge of the Edgar Street Grid area. This approval was subject to a formal Agreement to transfer the line of the Canal through the site to the H&GCT and the payment by the future householders, in perpetuity, of a maintenance and management sum in respect of the Canal. Once again this site has been the subject of much discussion and negotiation prior to this stage and

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we greatly appreciate the co-operation of Harpers, and the Council, which has enabled the very recent 'in principle' approval.

The outline for the whole future of this part of Hereford should become clear over the coming months. There is still a lot of hard work to be done to turn the 'broad brush' vision into reality. Working together we know that it can be done, and that the Canal will be a very significant asset to the City. Your Council of Management is determined to continue to work with Herefordshire Council, their Consultants, and other relevant interested parties to deliver a successful outcome.

The map (alongside) shows the route of the Canal into the heart of the City.

◆ CRP

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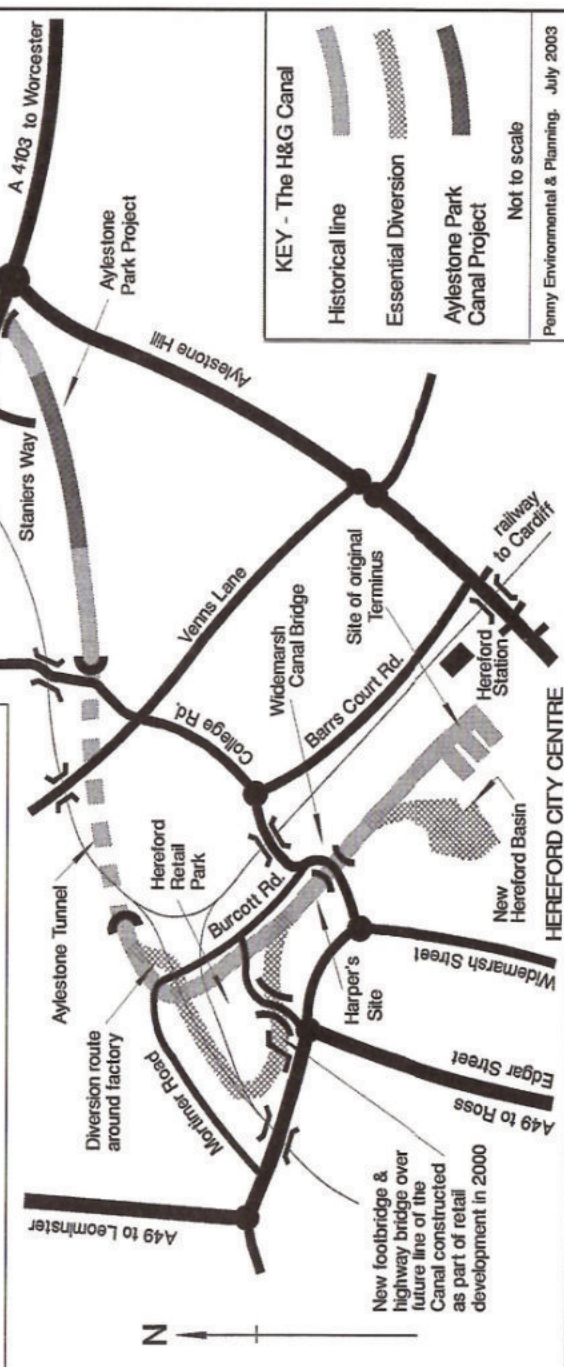
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ROUTE OF THE CANAL INTO HEREFORD CITY

Starting from the North, the historic line of the Canal runs parallel to the Sutton St Nicholas Road and crosses under the A4103 Roman Road (where the former Hereford & Worcester County Council built a new bridge for the Canal in 1995). Shortly afterwards the Aylestone Park Project Site is reached. After a short infilled section Aylestone Tunnel takes the Canal under the main Cardiff/Manchester railway line. We deviate to avoid a large factory via a long-abandoned railway siding and then turn in front of the Hereford Retail Park (where a new footbridge and new road bridge were built over the future line of the Canal in 2000). The historic line is regained just before the Harper's Site. Widemarsh Canal bridge is next and, shortly afterwards, the Canal will terminate in the New Hereford Basin. [The best interests of both the City and the Canal are served by a larger single Basin than three confined arms.]



Penny Environmental & Planning, July 2003

SOUTH WEST CANAL SOCIETIES DAY

THE NATIONAL WATERWAYS MUSEUM

The National Waterways Museum was opened in 1988. It is housed in and around Llanthony Warehouse, a listed building constructed in historic Gloucester Docks in 1873. The Museum is owned by The Waterways Trust, a Charitable Trust established in 1999 to ensure that our waterways resources are supported, valued and enjoyed by all sections of the community.

The theme of the Museum is the story of how Britain's network of waterways was created, and explores the lives of those who lived and worked on them. The collection is designated as being of national importance.

In addition to the historic artefacts there are touch-screen computers and other interactive displays, and also various family activities, which change throughout the year. Visitors can make use of the café and shop and can enjoy a 45-minute boat trip along the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal (from Easter to October) on board 'Queen Boadicea II', one of the 'little ships' of Dunkirk.

NATIONAL WATERWAYS MUSEUM, GLOUCESTER

Saturday 27th September 2003,
11am to 4pm

(The Museum is open 10am to 5pm)

Canal Societies and Canal Trusts in the south and west of England and Wales - *including your own H²GCT* - are getting together at the National Waterways Museum at the end of September. Visitors will be shown the latest restoration plans and progress. In addition, visitors will be free to explore the Museum.

If our Members produce proof of membership - a copy of this edition of **The Wharfinger** will do, they will get in for the special reduced rate [*ONLY on this day*] of £2 for adults and £1 for children.

It is an ideal time to find out about the canals within 100 miles of Gloucester and visit the National Waterways Museum at this special discounted rate. Pay-and-display car parking is available adjacent to the museum in Gloucester Docks.



Gloucester Docks in the 1960's



Photo: Maggie Jones

RESTORATION

at Oxenhall and Newent

PROGRESS AT OXENHALL

As I write we are in the grip of a heatwave with temperatures approaching 30° every day and rain desperately needed. Time has been spent in irrigating the trees and shrubs put in last spring along the canal banks and so far the majority have survived.

The lack of rain doesn't stop the growth of weeds and grass around the lock and regular attempts are made to keep things looking tidy with the strimmer operated by our newly trained volunteer, John.

One Tuesday in July at Oxenhall was the hottest ever but only one regular was



absent on holiday - the rest arriving with bags full of various bottled substances to replace the inevitable sweat! Progress was not noticeably diminished and we are well on the way to finishing by the end of the year, providing we do not run out of stone. Our Oxenhall Open Day on Sunday 28th September should give us a chance to show off our handiwork, so why not come along?

OXENHALL OPEN DAY



Sunday September 28th • 11 am - 4 pm

You've read the progress reports on our 'Wrinklies'
weekly work at House Lock – come and see for yourself.

GUIDED WALKS

REFRESHMENTS

DISPLAYS

SALES

NEW SITE AT NEWENT

We have also been working on a new site, at the old Newent Station, made available by Gloucestershire County Council [see page 29 of Ed 75]. The priority on the site has been the erection of a substantial fence to keep out fly tippers. Our friends within the **Waterway Recovery Group** had a planned restoration weekend on another canal that was cancelled at the last minute so they contacted us in anticipation that we would put their voluntary efforts to good use. *We didn't let them down!* Within hours it was arranged that they would come to Newent to work with us to erect the fence. Their mini-excavator 'Blue' was used to dig the post holes and conduct some trial excavations on the site of the old Newent station which is included within our fenced off area. Apparently it was deemed to be an historic occasion being the first where a railway station

◆ Above: 'Blue' starts work on uncovering the old station platforms.

◆ Below: The old Newent Station is revealed following the line of the Canal which preceded it.

Photo: Martin Ludgate

Photo: Nigel Bailey

platform is being converted into a canal wharf! I mustn't forget to mention and thank our colleagues from Over who had an 'away day' to finish erection of the fence during the following weekends – especially Henry Clark and Russ, who came with welding kit!

The 'new' fence will be given a coat of paint, which fits in well with the proposed work plan for David and Elizabeth now that they have finished painting the 'bailey' bridge. As a bonus for a job well done they were given a week off to go to Scotland on Mike and Joyce's coach trip - but they will surely now be waiting for another job? We cannot afford to let volunteers go once we have got them! ◆ **BF**

New volunteers please contact ...

OXENHALL/NEWENT

Tuesdays – Brian Fox (01432 358 628)



Above: Henry and Russ secure the fence.



Photos: Nigel Bailey (above), Maggie Jones (below)

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Photo: S. Gubbay

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MAY BANK HOLIDAY saw the Moses and the Weavers making their usual visit to the **Worcester & Birmingham Boat Gathering**, now held at Tardebigge. They also had their usual weather!

MAY 17-18 saw Derek and Taryna Weaver going further afield to join Des Pick and Lesley Steans to provide a presence at the **Moira Canal Festival** on the Ashby

Canal. Des excelled himself with his sales of Grand Holiday Draw tickets – *I think he should hold a masterclass on the subject!*

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY and the Trust stand was at **Crick Boat Show** – now a masterpiece of organisation and consequently a very enjoyable weekend. Janet was joined by the Skeets, Moses, Weavers, Shetliffes and her daughter Beki had her first taste of spending three days on a show stand. The Chairman's boat was a welcome base and Pat's coffee and sandwiches a welcome lunchtime break.

JUNE 7 – was spent at **Hartpury College Open Day**. A well attended event and the pink lizard phenomenon continued (you will have to join the Sales team to find out the "tail" behind this one – or read page 24!)

JUNE 22 – a small team tried out our new gazebo at the **Hereford Society of Model Engineers** open day at Broomy Hill. No more matching poles which have lost their colour coding but a fairly straightforward umbrella action! An enjoyable day was had by all.

◆ Caroline Jones with a selection of some of her painted ware.



JUL 4-5 – Saul Canal Festival. A

phenomenally successful event for the Cotswold Canals Trust also had thousands of visitors and hundreds of boats. Ray and Barbara, Penny, Janet and Derek were there on the Saturday, and Penny and Janet were joined by

Tom Bennet, Liz Bailey and Caroline Jones on Sunday. The Lucky Dip was sold out and more stock delivered on Sunday including Caroline's painted ware, which brightened the stand for the short time before it was sold – a welcome addition to funds

The Trading Company continues to attend as many events as possible – but we are a small team and would like more helpers in order to attend new events along the line of the canal and elsewhere. We can't guarantee the weather but your help for part of the day will gain you free entry and good company! ◆ **JM**

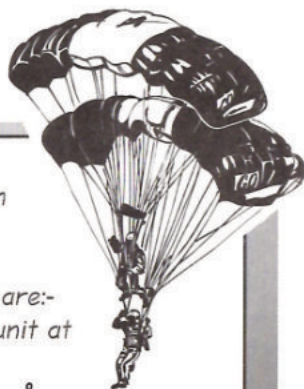
A MESSAGE FROM A GREAT HEIGHT!



HELLO, I am Amy Jones and I am doing a Sponsored solo freefall parachute jump for charity. The two charities that I am raising money for are:- **FOCUS** (the charity for the oncology unit at Cheltenham General Hospital where I have been treated) and the **Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust** (a project that my Mum is a volunteer for, and I have helped as well).

If you are willing to sponsor me please send your sponsorship to me, Amy Jones, 5 Maple Drive, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4DW to arrive on or before 30th September. A report on my jump, together with full details of the amount raised, will appear in a future edition of **The Wharfinger**. Thank you,

Amy



THE TRADING COMPANY
H & G Canal Sales

TradingCompany Outings in 2003

The next scheduled outing for our Sales Team include:

Aug 22-25	National Waterways Festival near Reading
Sep 13	Newent Onion Fair
Sep 27	SW Canals day at National Waterways Museum, Gloucester Docks
Sep 28	Oxenhall Open Day
Oct 12	Oxenhall Apple Day
Nov 15	Our own Ledbury Craft Fair
Dec 7	Hereford Model Show

Any offers of help gratefully received – expressions of interest not firm commitment accepted! Members who have not volunteered before and live close to these locations will be especially very welcome. But wherever you live, why not join us for a day out – free entry to the event and good company in exchange for your assistance.

Please contact Janet Moulton (see inside back cover).

◆ JM

OVER OPEN DAYS

Come and join us on one or more of our increasingly popular events during 2003. The Sales Stand, Display and Refreshments are present and you can see the latest progress on site.

At 12.30 pm each Open Day there is a conducted tour of THE WHARF HOUSE. Alternatively, you can watch the escapades of the Gloucester Model Boat Club or take a free ride on our trip boat and see the increasing range of wildlife, such as the resident pair of kingfishers, and other wildlife that is increasingly making our site their own.



The remaining Open Days for 2003 are 10 am – 5 pm:

SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER AND SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER



Relaxing at the BBQ after the Alney Island Walk in June.



SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

Restoration Fund BBQ

[by invitation only]

Annual gathering of contributors to the Restoration Fund to hear what their contributions have funded over the previous 12 months.

Details of the Restoration Fund can be found on page 22.

OVER BOARD



We are used to the idea of timing our site work so that we don't disturb birds during the nesting season but this year the bird population at Over presented us with an extra challenge. A pair of blue tits nested inside the door of Tony's tool store. When I say inside the door I literally mean that. They nested between the two skins of the door so each time we opened the door their nest rotated 90° or so – but they seemed quite happy!

Not to be outdone, about 10 yards away a pair of great tits chose the exhaust of WRG's red pump as their home for the 2003 season.

Henry and Russ felled several large dead trees for us but one particularly big one required a specialist. Working with a chain saw on the ground is one thing; aerial work is quite another requiring an additional qualification and experience. Adrian Hope came to our rescue, felling



The presentation of the £50,000 Heritage Lottery Fund cheque by Gloucester MP Parmjit Dhandra to our Vice President Duff Hart-Davis. Also in photo: Nigel Bailey (far left), Chris Lyall, D of E, (at the back), and Roy Jamieson, (on the right).

all the problem branches to leave a tall stump, which should prove attractive to wildlife. Amazingly, he dropped all the branches in a very confined space without damaging a single sapling forming the hedge immediately below.

You may remember that some months ago Glyn Pyrah re-roofed the 'Smart Hut'. He's now done the same for the original site hut that will probably extend its useful life by several years. *We're very grateful to him for carrying out such a professional job.*

The same weekend saw our volunteers dispersing in several directions. Several went over to Newent to join the WRG team clearing the new Newent Station site made available by Gloucestershire County Council and to help erect the

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fence as mentioned by Brian Fox. Others were 'manning' the Trust's stand at the Gloucester Volunteers' Market – the culmination of National Volunteers' Week in which about 25 local organisations promoted their activities and tried to enlist new volunteers. Highlight of the day for us was the presentation of the £50,000 Heritage Lottery Fund cheque by Gloucester MP Parmjit Dhanda to our Vice President Duff Hart-Davis. Parmjit was fascinated to learn about our work and has promised to come along and help fit-out ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE.

Simultaneously, members of the sales team were promoting the Trust at Hartpury College Open Day and it was the date originally planned for the Alney Island Walk! However, there are limits to the number of activities we can cope with in a single day so the walk slipped two weeks. A group of 17 enjoyed a gentle stroll around the southern end of the island (*fortunately no malicious bees this year!*) and the numbers swelled to about 30 for the BBQ which followed.

It's the time of year when various parties come to visit the site. The first

visit was arranged by Trust member Elizabeth Jones who brought about 30 members of the Glavon Group of the **Triumph TR Register**. They enjoyed a short site visit and a tour of ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE before driving off to rendezvous again for lunch. Their various Triumph motors made an impressive display in the car park.

The second group of visitors was the **Leominster Historical Society** who had already enjoyed a talk about the Canal last winter and now came to visit the site, continuing their day with a visit to the National Waterways Museum. Particularly gratifying was an overheard comment from one of the group that "*the car park looks lovely.*"

Then came an evening visit from the City of Gloucester Branch of the CPRE – **The Campaign to Protect Rural England**. They were impressed with the work done so far and particularly interested in our re-cycling of construction materials. Our work certainly supports their objectives to "*promote the*



Above: City of Gloucester Branch of the CPRE take a break by Over Basin.



The Glavon Group of the Triumph TR Register enjoyed a short site visit.



beauty, tranquility and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources."

The water level in the Basin dropped considerably from evaporation since it was last topped up about a year ago. We are very grateful to **Andrew Sykes Hire Ltd** for lending us a pump that brought the level up in double-quick time.

Meanwhile we have been doing some work – honestly! At this time of year a lot of effort goes into grass cutting and strimming and keeping the plants and trees watered. Planting of various osiers has continued, and to stop damage to the young trees (which is probably being caused by rabbits or deer) we've erected about 50 metres of chestnut paling fence kindly donated by residents at Stauntons Hill. We've also carried out a range of maintenance jobs on our trip boat, *Mister Maysey*, and 'Arty' has provided her (him?) with smart new H&G CT signs.

Our DoE group swelled briefly to 13 as youngsters joined us to do the Service element of their Award – see their article on page 15.

Progress on the car park has continued with the building of the retaining wall in 'Bay One'. Most recently, a concentrated effort over one weekend has seen the planings brought up to full height over most of the car park and then rolled. This has left the surface looking very neat. Weeding of all the fingers between the bays has completed the smartening effect.

Various volunteers have scratched their heads and exchanged words of wisdom in attempts to get one of our bird-free pumps working. On an extremely hot Saturday morning, after cranking the engine literally hundreds of times and failing to get it to fire even once, somebody made the throwaway remark "*Sometimes these have to be cranked anti-clockwise*". **Simple, really.** ♦ NB

RESTORATION fund



This years Restoration Fund has provided a car park at Over Basin.

Our ultimate aim is to recreate the canal between the two cities, providing new opportunities for walkers, cyclists, boaters and all lovers of the countryside, as well as boosting tourist income along the route.

Over the next few years we have very ambitious plans for restoration which will require money as well as volunteers' time. Currently we are dependent on income from Trust membership and donations and from fundraising events. We are seeking grant funding but the uncertainty of successfully winning specific bids makes budgeting and planning extremely difficult.

We invite members and supporters to contribute a small, regular payment each month which will help finance specific projects.

HOW IT WORKS:

- ♦ Contributors pay a minimum of £3 per month by Standing Order. Gift Aid can enhance this at no cost to the contributor
- ♦ Annually, **The Wharfinger** will report how the money has been spent
- ♦ Annually, we will invite contributors to an exclusive social event at an H&G restoration venue that has progressed during the previous year for a talk and/or tour and a buffet meal.

Thank you for your support



By the time you read this the ground floor block walls and the brick pillars and arches will be complete. The brickwork uses reclaimed bricks from the original Lock Cottage that stood on the same site.

Electrical circuits and fire alarm systems are being planned and their installation has started. A close circuit television system is now operating and we are able to record movement around the building. The first of the wood block flooring from the original Over Hospital has now come out of our off-site storage and a device is being designed by Tony to clean and tidy them ready for laying on the ground floor.

Outside, the front of TWH is being landscaped; top soil and horse manure have been brought and spread ready for the autumn planting, and work has started on the brick paving to the annexe.



The Wharfhouse Weekend Work-ins

A series of 'Weekend Work-ins' have been arranged over the next few months. The idea behind this is to concentrate the work over a two-day period. This should improve our workflow on specific projects. Just to make the whole thing 'go with a swing', Liz Bailey has offered to make us all lunch. The dates of the first Weekend Work-ins are: -

September 20/21 October 11/12

November 15/16 December 13/14

We hope to be plaster boarding; stud-walling; electrics; plumbing; plastering; wood block flooring; laying paving and landscaping outside etc.

Over Volunteers please contact ...

Wednesdays - Ted Beagles (01452 522 648)

Weekends - Maggie Jones (01452 618 010)

THE WHARF HOUSE - Wilf Jones (01452 413 888)

I wish to contribute to the
H&GCT Restoration Fund:

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Tel: _____

I wish The Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust to treat all subscriptions/donations that I make from April 6 2000 until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return to:

Liz Connors, 18 St Ethelbert Close,
Sutton St Nicholas, Hereford HR1 3BF

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Pink Sticky Lizards and Sore Feet!



By Beki Moul

Trading Company Chairman Janet Moul told her Daughter, Beki, about the possibility of a very muddy site due to the days of heavy rain prior to the annual Crick Boat Show. Thanks to British Waterways substantial precautions with temporary roadways this did not prove to be a major problem – but the pink sticky lizards and the sore feet were an entirely different matter!

It was with some trepidation that I set out from Paddington on the Thursday afternoon before the late May Bank Holiday. I'd agreed to help out at Crick some months previously – I can't help more often as I'm stuck in London and working full-time in the NHS. What on earth had I let myself in for – after all, I'd seen the old photos of 'Crick as a quagmire', I knew it was going to be hard-going and I didn't think I'd inherited any of Dad's sales talents. Still, a promise is a promise!

The first surprise was that Mum had packed all the display stands in the car by the time I arrived in Hereford – which was a bit of a relief as I have lousy spatial sense at the best of times. So, the next morning we set off for Crick – which I had discovered was actually in Northamptonshire, not Shropshire as I'd

been telling everyone – and arrived at the hotel about midday. Having dumped our bags – rather small as there wasn't any room in the car for large suitcases containing extravagant changes of clothes – it was off to the Show site.

As we trundled down the corrugated metal pathways, my heart was sinking faster and faster – it didn't look like a quagmire now, but what if it rained! We drew up outside the marquee and were pounced on – some very helpful Inland Waterways Association volunteers immediately started unpacking the display stands from the boot, almost before Mum had put the handbrake on! I think I carried one display panel out of the ten taken – they unloaded the rest and plonked them in our designated space. So far so good – if it carries on like this, maybe it won't be such hard work after all!

We had agreed to let H&GCT Chairman Dick Skeet and his Wife Pat know when we arrived – we had left a message on the mobile – so went off to find the towpath and their boat Kalikamara. What a gorgeous boat – if my lottery numbers come up, that's the sort of boat I want! Off we all went back to the marquee to put the display up – I must remember to bring some cable ties next time, a lot easier on the fingers than washing line with a vicious wire going through the middle.

The next morning, Ray and Barbara

turned up with the stock – having left home at an ungodly hour – so we displayed it to the best of our ability. Then it was just the waiting – for the (hopefully) hordes of people to come streaming through the gates, straight up to the H&GCT stand.

And they came! Lots of people who could be persuaded to buy things – not raffle tickets though, I think I'll leave that to Des – and people interested in the work of the Canal Trust. Thankfully, there was at least one knowledgeable person on hand to answer questions because I hadn't done my homework and read David Bick's book, like Mum had told me.

The lucky dip was worth its weight in gold – we actually sold out by the end of Sunday. It would appear that pink sticky lizards are the 'in-thing' this year – a few kids shelled out several pounds just to get one of the revolting things. I can also


report that the 'parachute men' were popular too – no accounting for taste! The same kids kept coming back time and time again – pocket money obviously wasn't a problem there. Mum's second hand books went well, too – and we managed to sell the last of the slate oddments. All in all, a very acceptable bottom line was achieved.

So, what did I think of it and would I do it again? Well, on reflection, I think I would – just as well as I have also volunteered to help 'man' our stand at the National Waterways Festival over August Bank Holiday! It's surprisingly good fun – the gang on the stand with you make all the difference of course – but it seems I've inherited some of Dad's talent for selling things. By the end of the show, I was even able to explain about some of the Canal Trust's work, so that can't be bad. It wasn't too wet either, although I still seemed to get covered in mud – just clumsy I guess! *It is hard on the feet – I'd recommend stout boots and the occasional sit down to recuperate.*

Thanks to everyone on the stand – Ray, Barbara, Derek, Taryna and Matthew, Penny, George, and of course, Mum. The biggest thanks must go to Pat and Dick though – they fed us all each lunchtime and the two of us each evening – which made such a difference.

I hope this has given you an idea of what it's like to be an 'H&GCT sales stand virgin' (as it were) – it is fun, you get to talk to loads of people and you feel you're actually doing some good. I know Mum's always on the look out for volunteers, so go on – give it a go!

As Beki says, Janet Moult would welcome further offers of help (wherever you live – we could just be coming your way soon; we have a large range of events we can attend!). See Contacts inside the back cover.



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contact

Dave Hall

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or 07761 177529

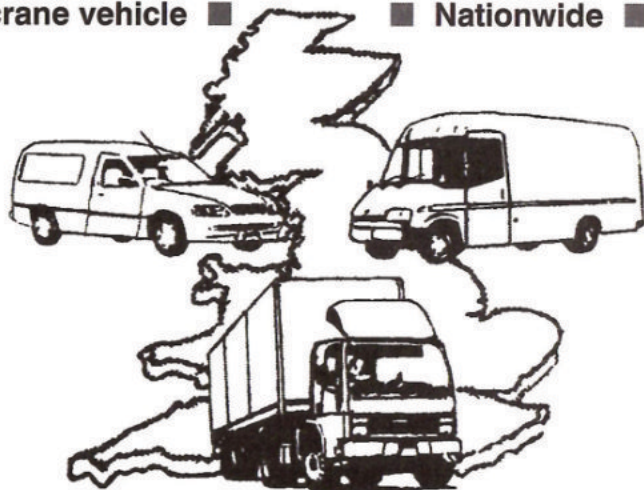


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BRIDGING *the* COUNTIES

The 6th August saw a further step in the new bypass for Gloucester - and the donation of a major asset to the Trust.

The former pedestrian bridge over the Hempsted Branch line was in the way of the bypass and some time ago we asked if we could have the structure when it was demolished. *It always pays to ask as the eventual answer was yes!* So on 6th August **Midwinter Transport** yet again came to

the rescue and provided us with two lorries for the day. As none of the sites for its re-erection are ready, Midwinters also kindly agreed to store it for us as well! *Thank you Hedley.*

Various sections of the bridge will be used in different locations with parts forming a new cycle bridge at Aylestone Park and the main central section being used elsewhere in Hereford.

Our thanks to **Gloucestershire County Council** for their support in the donation and dis-assembly of the structure as well as **Sustrans**.

◆ **DRP**



One section of the lower stairs is lifted on to a waiting lorry.

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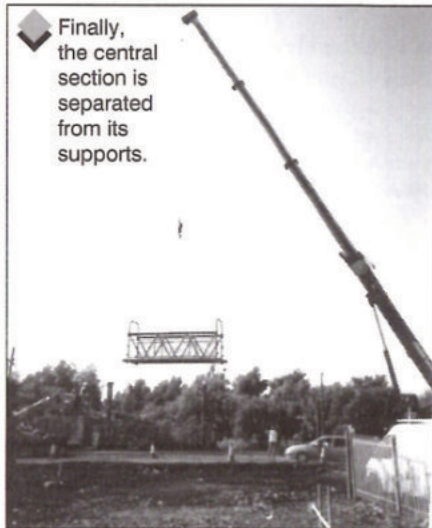
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◆ Finally, the central section is separated from its supports.



Photos: David Penny

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different materials). You may not be too keen on felling a tree, but you may be more comfortable planting one. We have grass to cut, forms to be filled in, refreshments to be served and cuddly toys to be sold. I could go on ...

Secondly, if you want to learn a new skill, we can almost certainly arrange for you to receive excellent training. **The Waterways Trust** offers a wide range of training days in all sorts of useful activities and also provides contributions towards appropriate and accredited training given by other bodies.

Of course there's more to being a H&G Canal Trust Volunteer than just doing the job. There is the joy of improving our local environment and bringing back to life some of our lost heritage. And just think of the satisfaction of knowing that, one day, boats will pass through the lock or under the bridge you have helped to rebuild - or raised the money to make it possible. You'll make some new friends and maybe get a nice tan too.

Not a bad deal really. *There are lots of numbers to ring in the following pages!*

◆ *Dick Skeet, Chairman*

Do you have or
want to learn
new skills ?

Are you
interested in
restoring our
heritage ?

Are you looking
for a rewarding
new hobby ?

Do you enjoy
working outdoors ?

Do you want
to help the
environment ?

Do you enjoy
building things ?



Photo: David Penny

activities that our volunteers get involved in...

- bricklaying • dry stone walling • painting • stud walling
- furnishing • sign writing • plant maintenance • excavating
- administration • gardening • cake making • electronics
- serving refreshments • boat painting • grass cutting
- photography • producing publicity • duct laying



One of the things that will become obvious to you as you read this edition of **The Wharfinger**, is that within the Trust *there is an awful lot going on!* We are now working at two sites in Herefordshire, expanding our work in Gloucestershire and running two Trading Companies.

When Council of Management decides to embark upon a new piece of work it needs to be confident that we will have enough volunteers to see the work through. Trying to recruit volunteers for a project that hasn't started doesn't seem to work, so we have to set out with the faith that the volunteers will show up.

By now you will have gathered where this column is heading. Right now, as Lord Kitchener might have said "*Your Trust needs You !!!*".

You may be thinking that you don't have any skills to offer - you might not be that keen on mud or have never laid a brick in your life. If so, here are two pieces of good news for you.

Firstly, you would be amazed at the range of skills which can be used - you may not be up to mixing concrete, but maybe you can bake a cake (*same idea, just*



Photo: Keith Wilson

Here are some of the
undergrowth clearance • tree planting
tiling • insulating
plumbing • decorating • surveying
running sales stands • material recycling
laying hard core • running a website

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FRONT COVER: Aerial View of Over Basin – Mike Hunt (see page 31)

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For further details please
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Finance:

Treasurer/Chairman: Liz Connors

Committee: Brian Fox, David Penny, Nigel Jefferies, Nigel Bailey, Janet Moul

Over Special Projects Group

Project Director: David Penny

Secretary/CDM Planning Supervisor: Nigel Bailey

Executive: Nigel Bailey, *Maggie Jones, Wilf Jones, David Penny*

Committee: Nigel Bailey, *Ted Beagles, Tony Boonham, Mike Bowden, Adrian Fry, Roy Jamieson, Maggie Jones, Wilf Jones, David Penny*

Funding: Nigel Bailey, *Roy Jamieson, Maggie Jones, Wilf Jones, David Penny*

Lengthsman: *Tony Boonham*

Honorary Posts:

Archaeologist: Ron Shoesmith

Town & Country Planning: Penny Environmental & Planning



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Events: *Liz Bailey, Maggie Beagles, Dot Hicks, Roy Jamieson*

Oxenhall Restoration:

Wrinklies Coordinator: Brian Fox

Health & Safety Officer: Tony Austin-Bailey

Lengthsman: *Dave Jones*

Liaison:

Local Authority/Planning:

Penny Environmental & Planning

Landowner: Brian Fox

Publicity: Brian Fox

Over/Web Master: Nigel Bailey

Web Team: Mike Hunt, Keith Kitson

Member Services:

Secretary: Nigel Jefferies

Gift Aid: Liz Connors

Social Events: Janet Moul

Support to Council of Management:

Minutes: Tony Austin-Bailey

Admin: Dick Skeet

IWA nominated member: Caroline Jones

The Wharfinger:

Editor: Cliff Penny

Design/Production: *Maggie Jones*

Advertising: Heather Worth, *Janice Lyall*

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Those in italics are not Directors.

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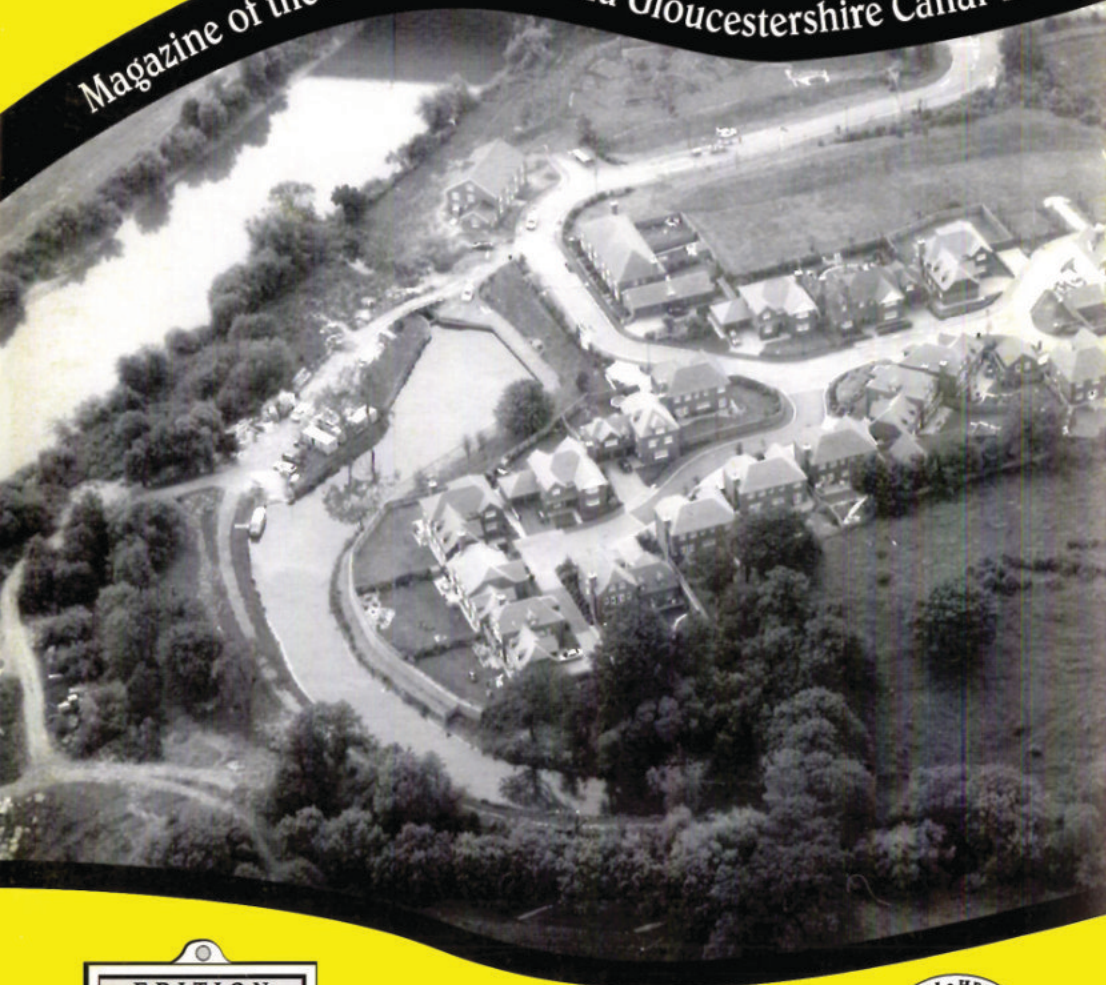
Committee: Tom Bennett, *Simon Dyer,*

Roy & Barbara Moses, Derek Weaver

Boats Group: *Roy Jamieson, Barbara Moses, Pat Skeet.*

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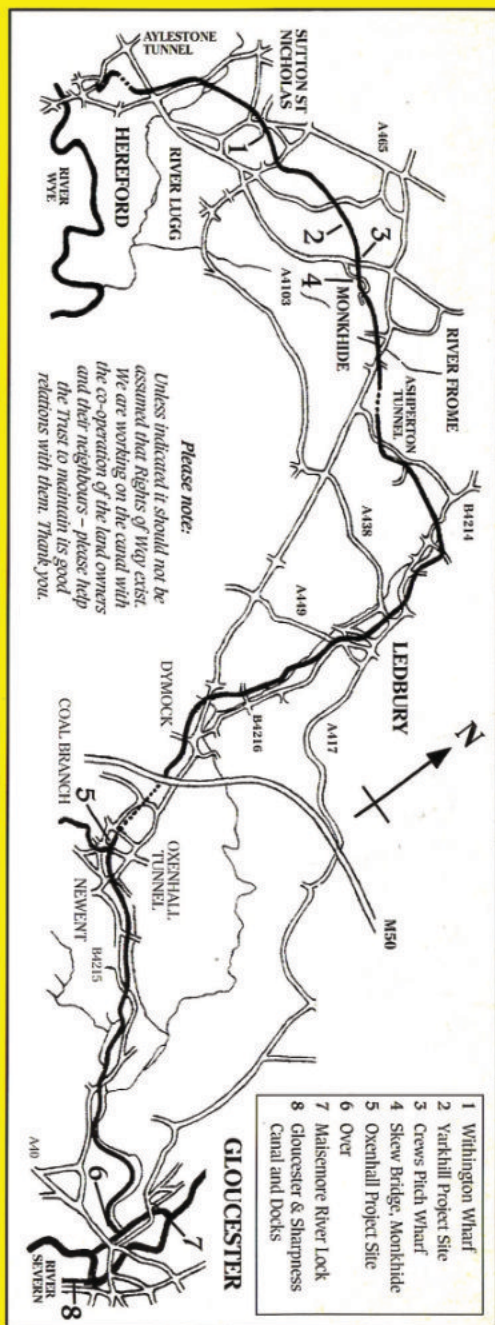


The Wharfinger

The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal

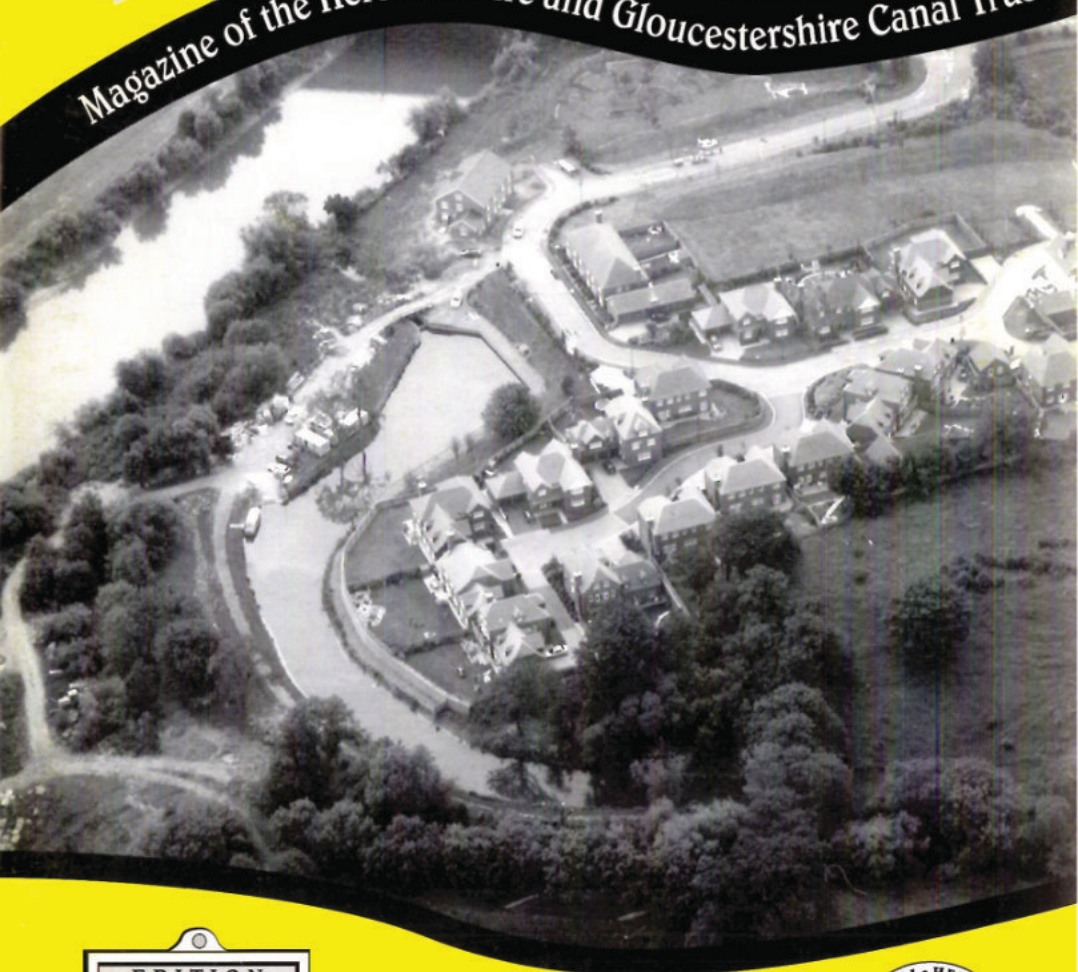
Work started in 1792 but was not completed until 1845, making this the last major route built in Britain, but for the navigations of Birmingham and the Manchester Ship Canal. The canal stretched for 34 miles from the River Sever at Gloucester, via Newent, Dymock and Ledbury to the city of Hereford, utilising 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 1,100 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, 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 3.5 miles.



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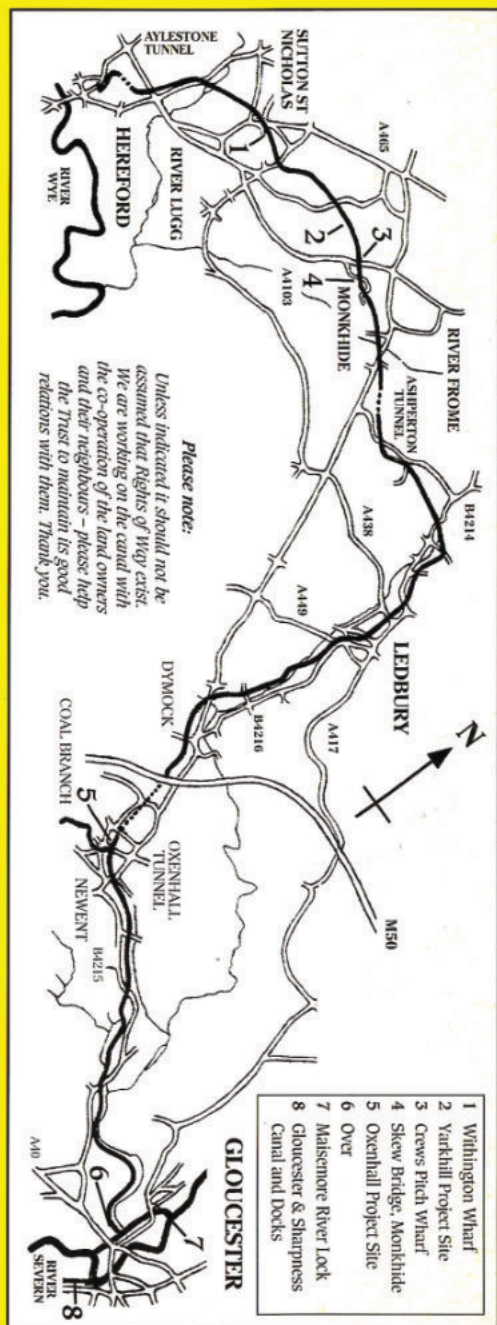


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The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal

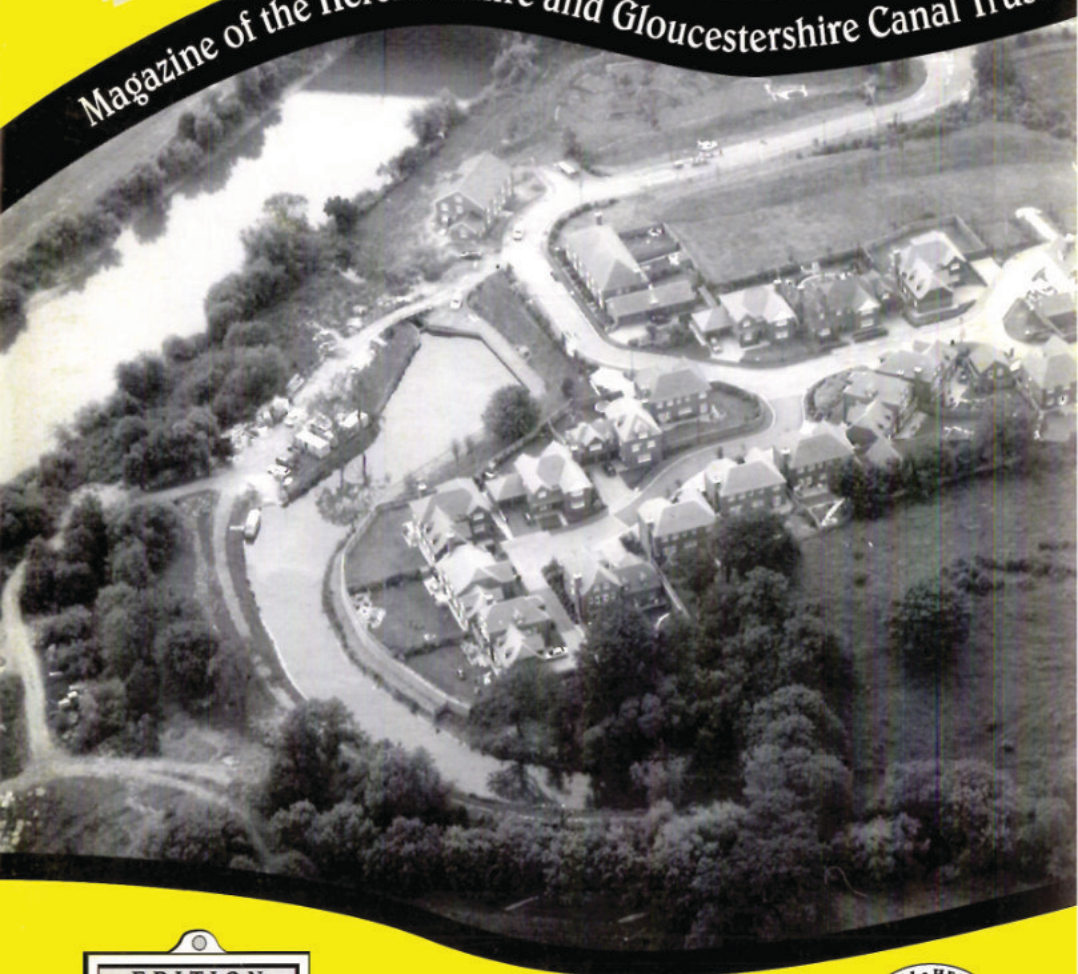
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