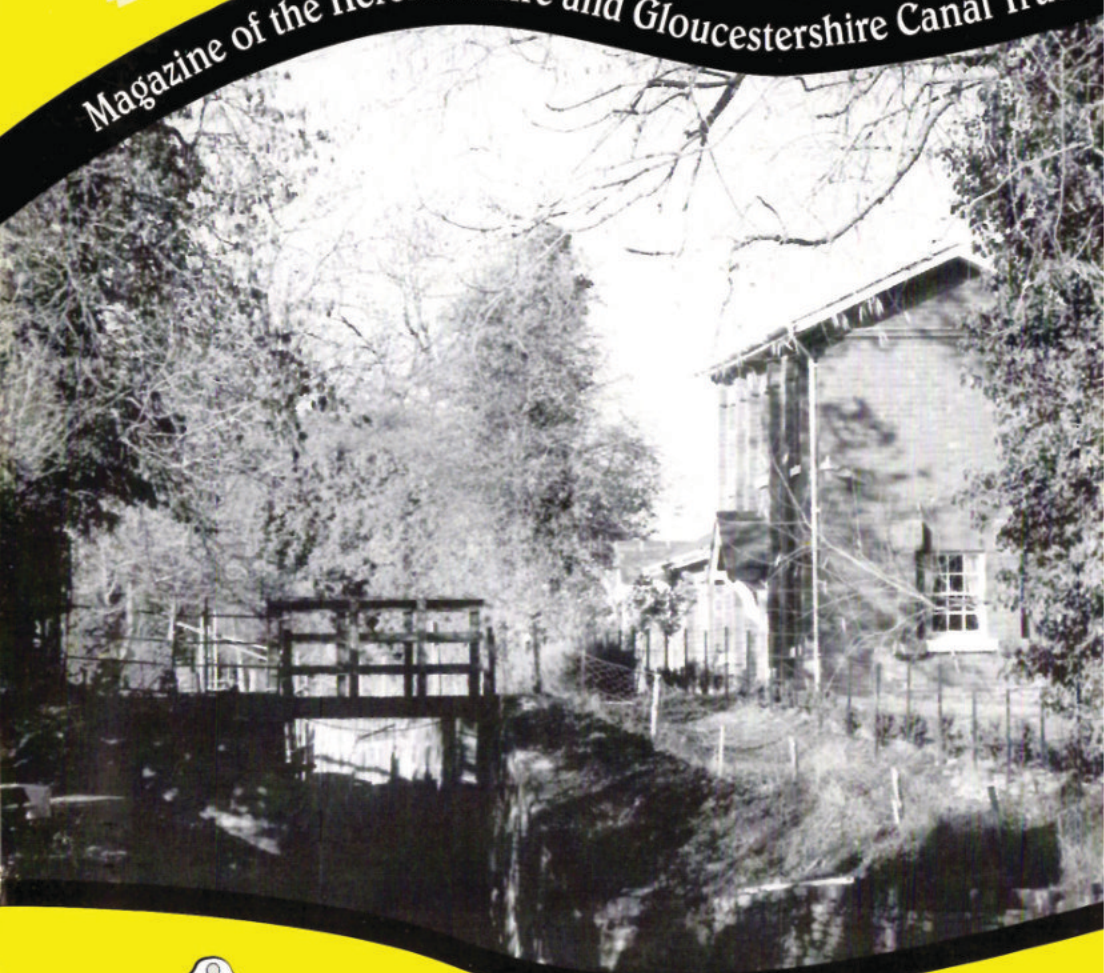


# *The* **Wharfinger**

Magazine of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust



Winter 2003-4

**50p**  
*free to members*



# WHO DOES WHAT?

WORKING TOGETHER, IN THE PRESENT, TO REVIVE THE PAST, AND SECURE A BETTER FUTURE<sup>®</sup>

**Vice Presidents:** *R. E. Barnes TD., Duff Hart-Davis, Diana Organ MP, David Prout*

**Chairman:** Dick Skeet

## **Council of Management:**

**Committee:** Tony Austin-Bailey, Nigel Bailey, Liz Connors, Brian Fox, Nigel Jefferies, Caroline Jones, Janet Moul, Cliff Penny, David Penny, Heather Worth

## **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*

**Lengthsman:** *Tony Boonham*

## **Aylestone Park Canal Project**

Brian Fox, *Adrian Fry*

## **Honorary Posts:**

**Archaeologist:** Ron Shoesmith

**Town & Country Planning:** Penny Environmental & Planning



**The Wharf House, Over, Gloucester, GL2 8DB:**  
Restaurant, Tea Rooms, Superior B&B,  
Visitor Centre overlooking Over Waterside  
— donating all profits to canal restoration.

**Directors:** Caroline Jones, Wilf Jones, Liz Connors, Nigel Bailey, David Penny

**Treasurer/C. Secretary:** Liz Connors

**Committee:** Wilf Jones, Nigel Bailey, *Paul Brown, Caroline Jones, David Penny, Mark Davis (QS), Adrian Fry, Maggie Jones, Roy Jamieson*

**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*

**Postmasters:** Janet Moul, *D and M Gray, S McManus*

## **Talks and Walks:**

Nigel Jefferies, Nigel Bailey

Those in italics are not Directors.

## THE TRADING COMPANY

# H & G Canal Sales

DONATING ALL PROFITS TO THE CANAL TRUST

**Chairman/Manning:** Janet Moul

**Treasurer/C of M Rep/Co. Secretary:** Liz Connors

**Mail order sales/Sales goods:**

*Penny Shetliffe*

**Crafts Fairs:** *Pat Skeet*

**Committee:** Tom Bennett, *Simon Dyer, Ray & Barbara Moses, Derek Weaver*

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



# CONTENTS

Chairman's Column	3
Editorial	5
Grand Holiday Draw Winners / RCR Award	6
Aylestone Park Canal Project	7
Restoration at Newent and Oxenhall	9
Trading Company Diary 2003 – part 3	13
Canal Company Documents	14
Putting the 'Can' into Canal / Logs for Sale	15
Social Evenings at The Verzons Inn	16
Over Open Days 2003 Report	17
Over Board	19
THE WHARF HOUSE	21
Not the Mappa Mundi	22
Why not join the Green Gym? / Down, down, down to Earth!	25
National Waterways Festival 2003 report	26
Tales from the Tool Store – Vices, Blocks and Shadows	29
Not Quite the Last Page – First through the Letterbox! / Skittles	31
Contact names	<i>inside back cover</i>

FRONT COVER: The Near-Completed Lock at Oxenhall in Autumn Shade – by David Penny

## MAXIMUM CHOICE BOAT HIRE!

**C**HOOSE between 3 styles of narrowboat to hire – comfortable cruisers, smart semi-traditional or interesting traditional style boats, some with boatman's cabins and traditional controls. Sizes range from 2–12 berths.

Our location is central for the Llangollen Canal, Cheshire Ring, 4 Counties Ring, Chester Branch and Caldon Canal.

No Previous experience required.  
Group bookings and pets welcome.

***Low cost bargain breaks  
from £49 each (6 berth)***



**ON-LINE SHOP for books,  
maps, guides, models, gifts etc.**  
[www.canalcargo.co.uk](http://www.canalcargo.co.uk)



**IWA**

**MIDDLEWICH NARROWBOATS**

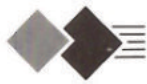
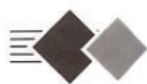
Canal Terrace  
Middlewich, Cheshire, CW10 9BD  
Tel: Middlewich (01606) 832460  
Website: [www.middlewichboats.co.uk](http://www.middlewichboats.co.uk)

## **STRONGBOW**

the pint to  
refresh Canal  
Volunteers!







Fifteen years ago, when I first stood around on the Canal Society's stand hoping no one would ask me any questions, I'm sure most people visiting us thought we were a bunch of well-intentioned but outrageously optimistic nutters. The very idea of restoring a canal, so derelict that it was largely invisible and almost totally forgotten, seemed completely whacky. Many people looked at our displays and listened kindly to us and some even asked "Do you ever think you'll do this?" Probably most thought it was a good idea – *if* we could do it.

How different it is today! This summer the Herefordshire Council published its proposals for the redevelopment of the City with the vision of a new canal basin, not tucked away in a corner using land no one else wanted, but as the central focus of the most significant development in the City for many years. Elsewhere along the line of the Canal, where some other major attractions have been lost, there is great enthusiasm for the canal which will bring colourful boats and bustling activity. The question we have been asked most often this Summer has been, simply "When?"

The journey from '*if*' to '*when*' has been a long one and we are still a long way from giving you an answer to the latter, but there is now little doubt that one day we shall succeed. The significance of the developments in Hereford is that it provides the *raison d'être* for the rest of the line. The Council has made it very clear that it wants to see boats in its new basin. Boats coming and going, carrying people here and there. It wants to see people fishing in the canal and walking along the towpath – *simply enjoying themselves*.

So how can we make it happen sooner, rather than later? The major funding that has been forthcoming elsewhere for the past few years may well not last for ever, and with many competing projects we will have to fight our corner. We may need to think differently about the way ahead and come up with some new ideas and radical approaches. Maybe "Who dares, wins" might be a good counsel. Now where have I heard that before?

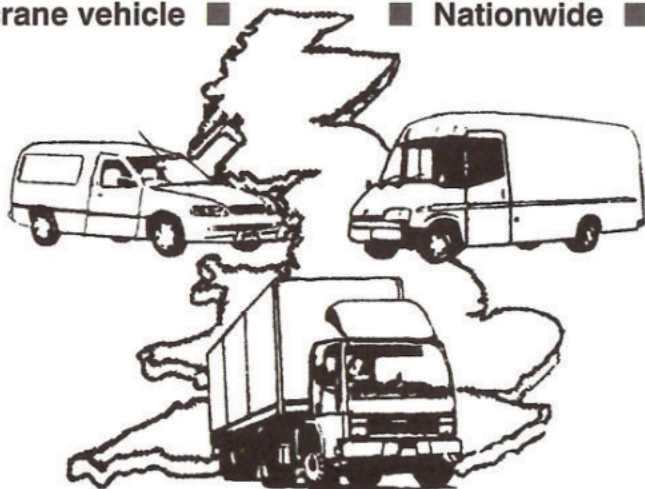
◆ Dick Skeet, Chairman

# MIDWINTER TRANSPORT

ESTABLISHED 19 YEARS

With full range of vehicles including

- flat curtain sided and refrigerated ■
- from half tonne Escort to 38 tonne artic ■
- Hiab crane vehicle ■ ■ Nationwide ■



## TOTALLY COMMITTED TO DELIVER

**Newent 01531 820276**

**Fax: 01531 821303**

**Little Carswells Farm, Upleadon, Newent, GL18 1ED**

**[www.midwinter-transport.co.uk](http://www.midwinter-transport.co.uk)**

**email: [info@midwinter-transport.co.uk](mailto:info@midwinter-transport.co.uk)**



## MARKETING



by Cliff Penny

**M**arketing – you may ask what’s that got to do with the Canal Trust? In fact it is very important. We have to ‘sell’ what we do (and why we do it!) – *just like any other successful business*. As with any business, we will achieve greater successes in some areas than others. What is important is that we frequently review just what we do, how we do it and what it achieves – whether this be physical restoration of the Canal, success in obtaining grant aid, attracting new Members, sales of promotional goods etc. Even for a simple business, selling conventional products, this is quite complicated. For our Canal Trust, run entirely by volunteers, and without a conventional product to ‘sell’, it has the potential to become a nightmare!

Over the past few years we have been putting in place a number of initiatives to ensure that we do our utmost to monitor and review our strengths and weaknesses. The essential management structures are being established to assist with the ever-increasing voluntary workload as our work expands – the creation of **THE WHARF HOUSE COMPANY** being a good example.

The results of our ‘marketing’ are sometimes hard to judge. However, as Dick Skeet says in this issue, the people of Hereford are now asking “*when*” instead of “*if*”. The ever-increasing Policy support of all of the Councils along the 34 miles is another very positive outcome. The ongoing encouragement of business large and small, by

way of Corporate Membership and advertising, is another useful gauge (*after difficult times for them, we warmly welcome Bulmers back in this issue*). At long last our grant aid is beginning to get into the larger numbers (but still has room for improvement!). The increasingly positive attitude of developers to the Canal is yet another clear indicator of the success of our ‘*selling our product*’.

Another important part of our ‘marketing’ is **The Wharfinger** itself. Thanks to very hard work by Maggie Jones it received a much-welcomed facelift 10 issues ago and our ongoing efforts generally continue to be well received. Our current print run is close to 2,000 copies and it is widely distributed throughout the nation! I recently spotted a copy of edition 79 in the British Waterways Offices at Braunston.

However, as with any business, we cannot afford to ‘take our eye off the ball’, and there certainly isn’t any room for complacency. Our continued success depends on maintaining (and improving) our ‘marketing’ – *and everything even remotely connected with it*. As with all successful businesses we do not intend to just ‘continue as before’!

As we have (correctly) said in the recent past, the next few years promise to be very exciting; **just please help us whenever (and however) you can with our ‘marketing’ – and watch this space!**

◆ **CRP**

# GRAND HOLIDAY DRAW

## The Winners for 2003!



Our **Grand Holiday Draw** is an important fund raising initiative. As with everything that we do, a lot more lies behind the annual success of the **Grand Holiday Draw** than is immediately evident!

Our thanks to the three prize draw sponsors – Ian and Pauline Cundy of **Starline Narrowboats**; Mrs **A Wood** for her 'Welsh Borders' holiday bungalow, and to our new sponsor, **The Green Dragon Hotel** in Hereford. Thanks also to 'the AA' of the inland waterways system, **River Canal Rescue**, who sponsored the ticket printing costs, meaning that every single

pound raised (over £1,500) was a pound towards restoration. Finally, our sincere thanks to everyone who sold and bought the tickets. The winners were:-

**1st PRIZE**

One weeks narrowboat holiday with **Starline**

**Mr Stovold**, Grove, WANTAGE, Oxfordshire

**2nd PRIZE**

One week in bungalow in West Herefordshire village

**Mr R Gosling**, REDMARLEY, Gloucestershire

**3rd PRIZE**

2 nights dinner B & B at The Green Dragon  
**Mr & Mrs R Woodcock**, GLOUCESTER

◆ **CRP**



## RIVER CANAL RESCUE/CANAL AND RIVERBOAT AWARD



Janet Moulton receives the award on behalf of her late husband, Brian, from Stephanie Horton (RCR) and Chris Coburn.

The Spring edition of **The Wharfinger** included our Occasional Corporate Spotlight item featuring, on that occasion, River Canal Rescue. This included details of their new annual Award (with Canal & Riverboat magazine) that recognises the valuable contributions of individuals to waterways restoration. Last year the award was made to actor David Suchet. This year the late Brian Moulton – our former Trading Company Chairman – was voted to receive the award. As regular readers will know, Brian's Wife Janet is now Chairman of the Trading Company and she writes:-

*Thank you to every one who voted for Brian to receive this national Award. It was a very great honour to receive it on his behalf at The National Waterways Festival. It had been a very close run thing so two awards were made to Brian and to John Craven. Becca and I continue to be supported by the canal community, locally and by those we have met over the years – they are a great bunch of people.*

◆ **JM**

Part of the Award was a year's 'Gold Membership' of RCR – 24 hour 365 day breakdown cover for a nominated boat – worth £155. As Janet does not have a boat she wanted to ensure that this went to a good cause. Our friends at the Worcester and Birmingham Canal Society (who are Corporate Members of the H&GCT) very successfully operate a narrowboat 'Cecilia' that gives waterways holidays to the less able, and other deserving individuals/families. Like everything we do, theirs is a wholly voluntary venture. W&BCS Vice Chairman (and 'Cecilia' Co-ordinator), David Wheeler, said "It never ceases to amaze me at the generosity of some people – I have spoken to Janet to thank her for her very kind gesture".



## AYLESTONE PARK CANAL PROJECT

Just as we went to press we had the fantastic news that the Aylestone Park Association had secured a £100,000 grant towards the restoration of the Canal and other works. We are very grateful for all the voluntary time that Council Parks Officer, Fran White, has put in to help secure this – *Thank you*. This in addition to the more than £30,000 already pledged by Herefordshire Council.

This money will fund the restoration of the Canal on the edge of the Park; the creation of 2,5km of footpaths and cycleways around the Park and linking the Canal out into the local community – including about one third of the route to eventually take people over the tunnel if they don't want to walk/cycle through it! It will also contribute towards the costs of building a new foot/cycle bridge over the Canal linking the Park to Staniers Way/Roman Road; extensive tree planting and conservation works; fence removal and replacement; the construction of two view points and interpretative signage – an extensive package of works on a very large site.

Thanks to a last minute request from Essex WRG for some work, they spent a weekend removing a substantial fence which had been erected along the towpath some years ago. This gave us a further 50 metres of walkable towpath, and most of the initial clearance of the Canal completed.

By the time you read this Brian Fox will be starting to gather together the local team of volunteers. The first task will be tree planting over the last weekend of November/first weekend of December with Herefordshire Council/the local community. The team will then spend the winter months completing the preparation to permit the major works to commence early next year.

Most of the above extensive list of works that have now secured funding on the Park site will be undertaken by the Canal Trust volunteers, WRG, and volunteers from other organisations working with us.

There are exciting times ahead with lots of varied work for any volunteers who wish to join us – so please contact Brian Fox to volunteer today!

◆ **DRP**

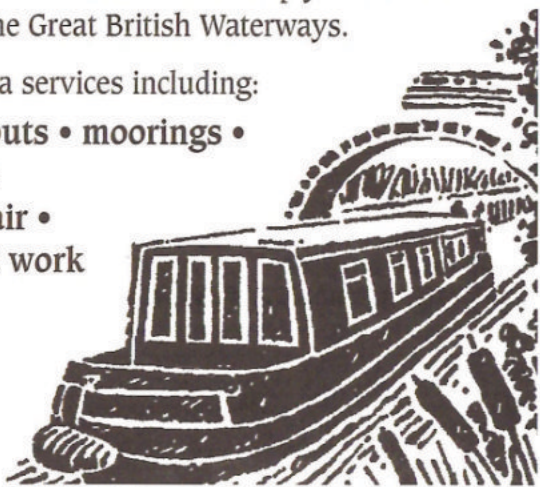


# Buying a Boat..? Booking a Holiday..? Own a Boat..?

**W**hether you are looking to buy a narrow boat or hire one for a holiday, or you already own one, you need to look no further than Alvechurch. With over 25 years experience in hand, building boats and operating the UK's finest fleet of holiday craft, you can be sure that we can help you with all you need to cruise on the Great British Waterways.

We also offer full marina services including:

- diesel • gas • pumpouts • moorings •
- brokerage services •
- boats for sale • repair •
- breakdown and refit work
- boat painting •
- signwriting •
- RYA Helmsman
- Training.



## [www.alvechurch.com](http://www.alvechurch.com)

Tel: 0121 445 2909 Fax: 0121 447 7120

Email: [enquiries@alvechurch.com](mailto:enquiries@alvechurch.com)

Alvechurch Boat Centres Ltd, Scarfield Wharf, Alvechurch, Worcs B48 7SQ



# RESTORATION

## at Oxenhall and Newent

### OXENHALL

*The section from the tunnel to the aqueduct.*

What a difference a month makes. Traditionally we have held the annual Oxenhall Open Day in October and it has always rained at some point during the day. This year it was brought forward by a month and the sun shone all day making this delightful part of Gloucestershire look even more attractive than normal.

I hope that those who came to see us were impressed with the progress on the lock and also the considerable changes which are currently being undertaken along this whole stretch of canal. Not only have the Wrinklies achieved remarkable progress on the lock over the last few months but Tom Bennett has been at work with his large excavator and the WRGies descended on us for a weekend.

Starting at the top end of the Oxenhall section, the path up to the Tunnel was cleared on the Tuesday before the Open



Day with sterling work being done by a brush cutter in the hands of Dave Jones and John Forrest while the rest of the team followed up laying all the cuttings on the wet surface to aid those walkers who haven't been able to get to the tunnel so far this year. The wettest parts were either built up with extra soil or pallets laid over so that it is now possible to access with just a decent pair of shoes. The plan is now to keep this path open throughout the year with regular maintenance parties.

Moving down to the lock we are well on target to complete the lock walls this year but there is still the cill to rebuild together with the oak beams across the top, landscaping the non-towpath bank and repairs to be done to the footbridge. Ladders must be specially made to fit into the ladder recesses. No gates will be put on at this stage but water will be let into the lock at the lower level.

In order to achieve this it has been necessary to build a temporary dam about 60 yards below the lock which will impound the water to a depth of about 4 feet in the lock becoming deeper as the dam is reached. Tom Bennett hired us his large excavator from TM Plant and dredged the pound, building the dam with the spoil over one weekend. The

London WRG, help to shape the pound below the lock.



Photo: Brian Fox

final touches to the banks will be completed over the next few months by the WRG machine which is much smaller and ideal for finishing off. While Tom was passing he tidied up the lower pound just above the aqueduct so that it is now recognisable as a canal although it will not be finished off until the aqueduct is rebuilt.

This brings us down to the aqueduct which has been in a sorry state of repair for some years now. It was decided by the Council of Management earlier this year that the next project for the Wrinklies, after the lock, would be the aqueduct but nobody knew exactly what state it was in. The whole thing was covered in trees, brambles, and nettles and had been declared unsafe by the FODDC so that it became necessary to erect a footbridge over the brook to take the public footpath which runs through here. The original footbridge provided by the Council was replaced by the 'Bailey' bridge erected by Canal Trust volunteers some years ago and enabled us to take vehicles along the towpath.

One of our Members owns a major Structural Engineering Consultancy in London and offered to have a look at the aqueduct in order to assess its condition and what might be the best way to undertake repairs. The trouble was that you couldn't see the stone for trees and this is where the WRGies came to our rescue by offering to clear it. A gang of about 25 came down from the London area during the weekend of the Open Day and







Above: Looking down from the aqueduct to Eil Brook.

Left top: The top of Eil Brook aqueduct showing the edge of the canal channel.

Left middle: The side of the aquaduct has been uncovered to show the original stone face.

Left: Tuesday 'Wrinklies' working in Eil Brook, below the aqueduct.

gave it the treatment so that not only was the vegetation cleared but also some of the buried stonework uncovered just in time for the initial survey visit.

Another job which the WRGies appeared to enjoy was the demolition of a large caravan which had been languishing in our yard since it was declared surplus to requirements at Over and brought here. It is now stacked in neat piles of scrap metal ready to take to the scrap merchant and earn a little cash. The wood was mostly burnt and we now have a large space in the yard which no doubt will soon have something filling it.

Indeed, within a couple of weeks the two large trees by the Lock had been felled (having been declared unsafe) and a large pile of logs brought into the compound ready for splitting and sale!

## NEWENT

*From the aqueduct to the fire station.*

Moving on down the line of the canal we immediately come to the Willows nursery site which has been quiet for a long time (over 3 years now) and which will have to remain so for the time being but I can report that there should be good news soon. Watch this space.

Beyond the Willows is the land which the Trust now works on thanks to Gloucestershire County Council and extends down as far as Bridge Street by the fire station and beyond. The WRGies were also at work here cutting down trees and stump pulling. A temporary fence to keep out fly tippers has now been completed and another fence erected on top of the old railway bridge abutments as a safety precaution.

Altogether an exciting time for the work parties at Newent and no doubt for the local people as word gets around of our intentions to restore about a mile of canal next to the town – more in a future issue of **The Wharfinger**.

As a treat one of our regular volunteers, Margaret, actually volunteered to organise an away day for the Wrinklies. It was more like *"I'm going to see the Dudley Canal tunnels, does anyone want to come with me?"* Anyway, she soon had enough to fill a minibus and off we all went for the day - the tunnels in the morning and then on to the centre of Birmingham for the afternoon to see Brindley Place etc. On the way through the tunnel we were asked if anyone wanted to try a bit of legging so three of our group volunteered to have a go – no doubt practising for the day when our tunnel at Oxenhall is opened! A very enjoyable day which could well become an annual event if Margaret can be persuaded to arrange everything.

◆ BF

## E. B. HAYWARD & Co.

We are a family run business established 40 years ago, specialising in sheetmetal work and fabrications in most metals including mild steel, stainless steel, aluminium, titanium, copper and brass.

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

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

It has been our pleasure in supporting the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust for over 10 years, and we will continue to *work together in the present, to revive the past, and secure a better future.* ©H&GCT

For further details please  
contact Simon Hayward –  
Tel: 01452 700384  
Fax: 01452 700740



SHEETMETAL WORKS  
ASHLEWORTH  
GLOUCESTER  
GL19 4JJ

## INSURANCE

With over 25 years experience insuring Inland Waterways Craft, isn't it time you found out why we're the best?...

We have over 11 different policies for narrowboats and various craft on the Inland Waterways, we can ensure that we'll pick the right cover for your craft.

We also offer the official discount policies for IWA and NABO members.

Whatever your type of craft, we have policies to suit all, including 'FITTING OUT', 'RESIDENTIAL', 'COMMERCIAL', as well as 'PRIVATE PLEASURE'.

Our Inland Waterways specialist, Michael Stimpson, can give advice on the insurance of all aspects of commercial and leisure craft of the Inland Waterways, why not call us today, and find out what we can do for you.

perhaps we should be talking...



Michael Stimpson & Associates (Part of the Mardon Insurance Group)

P O Box 115 . Rickmansworth . Herts . WD3 1WB

Tel: 0800 515629 . Fax: 01743 236359

email: [stimpsonm@aol.com](mailto:stimpsonm@aol.com) website: [www.insurance-marine.co.uk](http://www.insurance-marine.co.uk)





# THE TRADING COMPANY H & G Canal Sales

## 2003 DIARY PART THREE

**JULY 13TH** and Ray, Barbara and Janet were beside the Avon for the **Evesham Water Festival**. This turned out to be another very hot day, but luckily we were under the trees that line the river. We also had a good view of the decorated boats – some ingenious transformations!

The following weekend we took our displays to **All Saints in Hereford** on the Saturday and had a constant stream of visitors to look at the displays and buy from the Sales stand. Council of Management members were on hand to answer questions, especially regarding Hereford, and the overall impression was *when not if* we restore the canal in Hereford. The rest of the sales team were at the **Marcle Steam Fair** - and were joined on Sunday by the All Saints crew.

**AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY** weekend saw the **National Waterways Festival** at Beale Park near Reading (*see page 26*). Many thanks to those who helped and to John Craven who made the Grand Holiday Draw.

**SEPTEMBER** started with the **Newent Onion Fair**, where Tom and Marjorie Bennett, Penny Shetliffe, Brian and Shirley Fox, Caroline and Bethan Jones and Chris Blunden did sterling work among the thousands of people who attended this growing (numerically and horticulturally) event. Good sales and new members were achieved.

The last weekend in **SEPTEMBER** was a busy one. On the **27TH** a **South West Canals Day** was held at the National Waterways Museum in Gloucester – Janet and Becca Moulton attended with a small display and Nigel Bailey gave a presentation on the Canal. Four other canal societies were there – but, unfortunately, not many of the public. Better publicity by the organisers will be required next year as the idea is a very good one.

The **28TH SEPTEMBER** was our annual **Oxenhall Open Day** and for the first time in almost living memory it did not rain! In fact it was so warm that teas were served outside the Village Hall. Liz Connors and Jill Southall slaved away in the kitchen with the Weavers, Moults and Skeets on the stand. Brian Fox and Tom Bennett made the most of the weather with their guided walks (*below*). The same day our Over colleagues had one of their monthly Open Days and a number of visitors took advantage of the good weather to see progress at both sites - making it yet another successful day for the Canal Trust.

The year still has not finished so there will be one more instalment of the diary before we start thinking of 2004!

This is only possible thanks to our team of volunteers - and even they have some holidays! We have more events that we would like to attend if we had a few more volunteers; *please* contact Janet Moulton (*Contacts – inside back cover*) for details of how you could ensure that we promote the work of the H&GT, and raise funds, at more interesting events near and far in 2004!

◆ JM

Photo: Cliff Peary

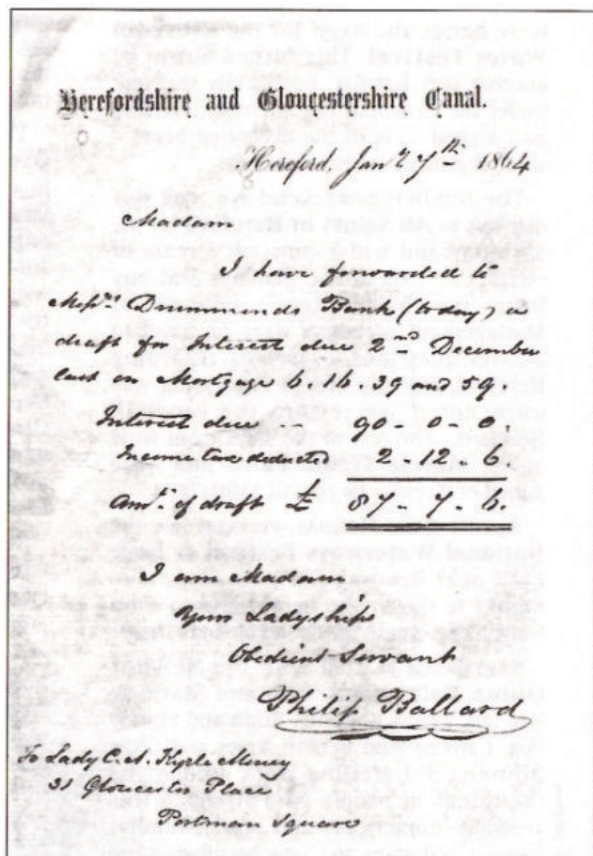
# Canal Company Documents

## *Recently Acquired by the Trust*

Not a great deal of contemporaneous material generated by the Canal Navigation Company, for those interested in scripophily, has come to light.

In his book about the canal David Bick illustrates some of the items which he has discovered; copies of the enabling parliamentary Act, a number of original share certificates and some of the second issue, a notice informing people of the impending closure of the canal and tickets from the weighing machine at Newent Wharf. Recently however, the Trust was sent on approval, from the north of England, fifteen documents, which the Council of Management decided to purchase. We thought that copies of some of them would be suitable for display in THE WHARF HOUSE at Over.

All but one are printed or written on pale blue paper and date from the 1850's or 60's. The great majority are addressed to Lady C. A. Kyrle Money of 31, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, and are notification of the payment to Messrs. Drummond's Bank, of mortgage interest, together with details of the income tax deducted. They are signed in typical Victorian subservience by Philip Ballard as her ladyship's obedient servant. They indicate at the top that they were sent from the Canal Company office in Widemarsh Street, Hereford. One is an undated notification informing the recipient that the Canal Company is now in a limited position to redeem



mortgages. It is unaddressed, but since it came from the same source, presumably it was sent to Lady Kyrle Money. One of the items is illustrated above.

◆ *Nigel C. Jefferies*

*Do you have or know the location of any canal documents that could be donated or acquired by the Trust? Please contact Dick Skeet.*



Putting the

**'Can'** into **Canal !**

Following Mark Bailey's article on page 23 of the Summer edition of **The Wharfinger** Mrs Pamela Day contacted The Editor:-

On reading the article in the Summer 2003 edition written by Mark Bailey my Husband, Allan, and I decided to collect the aluminium cans that we had been picking up from the public path and cycle-way into Hereford City. We had been putting these into the Council's recycling bag each fortnight but now we retain the aluminium cans (using a magnet to identify and discard the steel cans) for the H&G Canal Trust. Personally, we do not buy drinks in cans so our rate of collection is slow, so I have asked our neighbours to help, and we wonder if there are more of you who will collect these cans if I undertake to act as liaison and transport?

It would take a long time and lots of space to store a full load but if there are 10 or 20 members collecting in the area south of Hereford City, towards Ross and Monmouth, I am willing to put it altogether and transport it to the dealer from time to time.

My telephone no. is 01432 275443 or contact us by e-mail: [allan\\_day@lineone.net](mailto:allan_day@lineone.net)

Alan and Pamela Day are willing to use their trailer to collect quantities of cans from Members and supporters from time to time (in the area stated) and take them straight to the dealer. *If you are willing to act as an area co-ordinator for another area (on a similar basis) please get in touch.*

◆ CRP



## LOGS FOR SALE

We are once again running the log delivery service. Last year's loads proved very popular with our customers.

**£50 a lorry load**

(including delivery up to  
15 miles of Over/Newent)

For more information please contact  
Maggie Jones, details at back of  
**The Wharfinger.**



## RICHARDSON School of Motoring

contact

**Dave Hall**

**A.D.I. RoSPA D.I.A. I.A.M.**

**Phone 01432 270552**

**or 07761 177529**



# SOCIAL EVENINGS

*Monthly Gatherings at The Verzons by Janet Moul*

EVERYONE IS WELCOME to our monthly meetings held  
on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7.30pm for 8pm start.

**DEC 16TH**



## Christmas Social Evening



*plus Further update on Over – David Penny and Nigel Bailey*

**JAN 20**

## Across Sweden on MV Juno

*A trip on the Gota Canal – Alan Keef*

**FEB 17**

## Gloucester's Riverside –

*Illustrated with past and present views of the quay, bridges  
and other riverside features – Hugh Conway-Jones*

**MAR 16**

## S A R A - Severn Area Rescue Association

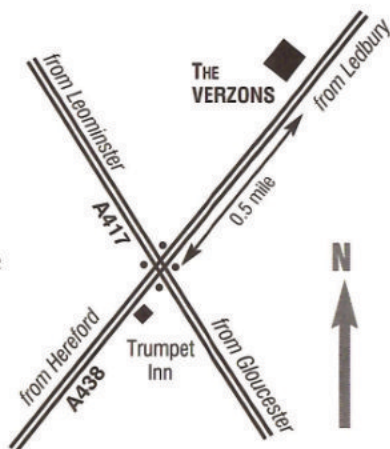
*The people you hope you never need! – Dave Walker*

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).

### **PARKING AT THE VERZONS**

Please park in the overflow car park – inside the  
entrance on the right – for all meetings.

*Why not join the 50-60 strong attendance  
at our highly successful socials for an  
enjoyable evening!*





# OVER OPEN DAYS '03

*As regular readers will be aware we held Open Days at Over on the last Sunday of the month from April to October in 2003 and as Liz Bailey, our Over Events Co-ordinator reports, they were a great success.*

THE WHARF HOUSE was open to visitors each Open Day for a guided tour at 12.30 and many people came to see the progress. We boosted sales this year with a number of new initiatives. Ice creams were popular during the summer months, Caroline's hand-painted canalware sold very well, Arty's caricatures were fantastic and thanks to Michael Hunt's birthday treat of a flight in a light aircraft, we have been able to sell a range of aerial photographs of the basin. Thanks Ted for enabling this to happen.

The success of Open Days depends on the good will of lots of people and I would like to thank everyone who helped out during the year. My particular thanks go to Dot, Jill, Maggie B and Joan for their constant supply of cakes and to Dot for her delicious rolls.

In between Open Days, we held an Alney Island walk and BBQ led by Nigel

Bailey. This was well supported and I would like to thank the volunteers for pulling together in my absence, at very short notice, to enable the event to go ahead. I gather that David displayed hidden talent in the fresh fruit salad department!

The Residents and Restoration Fund Members BBQ was attended by almost 50 people. A lovely Summer's evening contributed to its success and special thanks go to Sharon for her now famous puddings, to Maggie B for helping me with the food and to Nigel and Mike B for their expertise on the BBQ.

During the winter months, we shall be having 'work-ins' at THE WHARF HOUSE and I will endeavour to ensure that all volunteers are provided with a good lunch – so there is an added incentive to come and help! If you would like to give a hand please contact Wilf Jones or Maggie Jones.

◆ LB

Photo: Cliff Penny



◆ A very sunny September Open Day.

# CANAL CRAFT

## ***IF YOU WANT TO BUY A BOAT, OR SELL YOUR BOAT,***

THEN CANAL CRAFT (BROKERAGE) LTD  
the trusted leader in narrowboat sales  
EXISTS TO HELP YOU

THE COMPANY IS STAFFED BY ENTHUSIASTS  
WHO'S CANAL EXPERIENCE TOTALS OVER A HUNDRED YEARS.

### ***IF YOU WISH TO BUY***

WE ISSUE COMPREHENSIVE STOCK LISTS (USUALLY OVER SEVENTY BOATS)  
**NEWLY PRINTED EACH DAY**

(or see our display ads in the leading waterway magazines)

BOAT PRICES RANGE FROM £7,000 TO £70,000

WE HANDLE RESIDENTIAL BOATS IN ALL AREAS

WE CAN SUPPLY FULLY FITTED OR PART FITTED NEW BOATS

OR ASSIST YOU IN A DESIGN AND BUILD PROJECT

WE ARE LICENCED CREDIT BROKERS AND ARRANGE INSURANCE FOR YOUR BOAT

WE ASSIST WITH MOORING LOCATION IF REQUIRED

FIRST TIME BUYERS GUIDE AVAILABLE FREE ON REQUEST

### ***IF YOU WISH TO SELL***

WE WILL MEET YOU AT YOUR BOAT

ANYWHERE ON THE CONNECTED SYSTEM.

WE PROVIDE A FREE ON THE SPOT VALUATION

BUT THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO USE OUR SERVICE.

WHY NOT CALL US AND FIND OUT WHY WE ARE-

## ***THE TRUSTED LEADER IN NARROWBOAT SALES.***

phone 01604 832883/832889

fax 01604 832885

or E-MAIL us!

ask for RICHARD, ALISON, HELEN, OR DAVID

Canal Craft (Brokerage) Ltd., Mill Wharf, Gayton Road, Blisworth, Northants NN7 3BN

Tel. No 01604 879029 Fax No. 01604 879078

E-mail [info@canalcraft.co.uk](mailto:info@canalcraft.co.uk)

Visit our new Internet site:- [www.canalcraft.co.uk](http://www.canalcraft.co.uk)

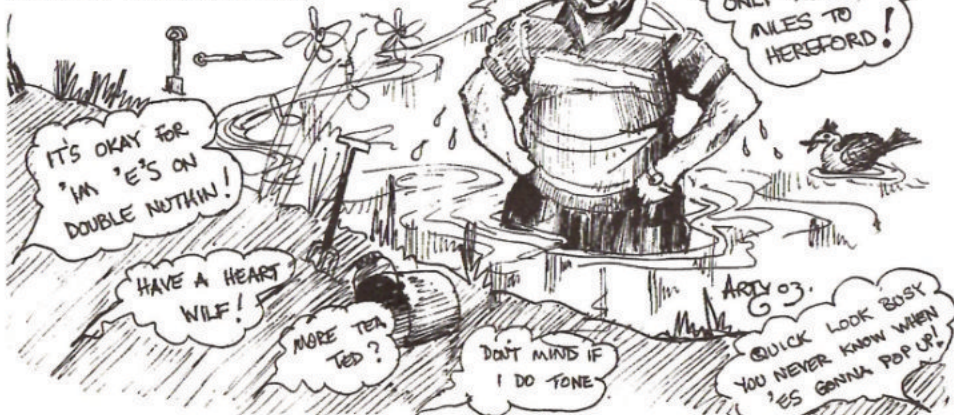


# OVER BOARD

Volunteer Mike Hadley has a friend who had a problem with her conifers: they had become drastically overgrown so she had them cut down and had the cut boughs chipped. This presented her with another problem: an enormous heap of woodchip at the foot of her garden. The Over site has a big appetite for woodchip - on the towpath, on the new beds in the car park and around the many trees planted on site. So the challenge became how to shift the enormous pile of free woodchip from Malvern to Over.

The solution was to borrow the Waterways Museum's lorry and increase its capacity by fitting boards to its sides and tail. Then to borrow three wheelbarrows and shift the woodchip by hand the length of her very long garden. This procedure was repeated over three Sundays and on each occasion, during this very hot summer, the garden seemed to get longer and longer as the day wore on. The easy part was unloading at the Over end (because the lorry tips).

Arty's impression of life on a Wednesday at Over with volunteer co-ordinator, Wilf Jones - they love him really!



The very satisfactory result is that the woodchip has been used in all the ways mentioned above, so thank you to everyone involved in the operation.

No sooner had this woodchip all been brought to site than we also had five lorry loads kindly donated by Forestry Operations of Ross on Wye and delivered to site, which has met all our needs for the year with a little spare. Thank you.

Over the last three years we've grown used to working on the site alongside CJL, Swan Hill's groundwork contractors. They helped us out on many occasions, lending us equipment and sometimes working for us during their lunch break and occasionally we were able to return the favours. Now they've completed their work on site and moved on, bequeathing to us amongst other things (such as many tons of road



planings!), four wheelbarrows all of which have seen better days! Rickety they might be, but we are putting them to good use in place of several we had stolen.

The stone retaining walls in the car park are now complete, thanks to a final load of stone brought over from the rapidly-diminishing stockpile at Oxenhall. Now the mini excavator "Blue" is back on site, the car park surfacing can be completed.

This year's Restoration Fund BBQ was attended by 50 people who thoroughly enjoyed their meal and a good chat on a wonderfully balmy late-summer evening. A new feature this year was the floodlighting powered by our own generator which enabled our guests to remain till well after darkness had fallen.

We have maintained a good water level in the Basin through the summer thanks to the pump loaned by Andrews Sykes and, once again, the barley straw has kept the blanket weed at bay. We already have a stock of straw for next year, thanks to Brian from

the Model Boat Club. The banks are now looking more mature with various reeds and yellow flag irises and even the willow saplings, planted the year before last, decided that they would grow after all.

Our team of Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme youngsters continues to flourish – as one completes his or her spell working with us another seems to take their place. We have kept them busy painting, planting, weeding, sawing, watering and generally fetching & carrying...and they even seem to enjoy it.

Finally, the H&G CT now has a flag! I should be able to write "another flag" because one was made for us about 18

months ago. However, before it could be sent to us it was mislaid and none of us ever saw it. Now thanks to Caroline Jones we have a wonderful flag showing the H&G crest in black on yellow which we can fly from our flag-pole on Open Days, high days and holidays. ♦ NB



Photo: Nigel Bailey

♦ All modes of transport welcome at Over.



Photo: Ted Baileys

♦ During maintenance of our Volvo dumper an old nest was discovered tucked away in the engine.





# THE WHARF HOUSE

Our Monthly 'Work-ins' are producing a good boost to progress, as can be seen by the neat edging to the paths around the front and car park sides of the House.

Our plan is to complete the brick-paving of the paths at our December work-ins and also to continue with the stud walling on the second floor. During the **week-long work-in** in January we plan to do all of the stud walling on the first floor and the ceiling to the ground floor.

We now have electric lighting to help us through the gloomier months and excellent progress has been made on the wooden floor blocks (*see page 29*) whilst volunteer, Carole Ellis, has dedicated hours to painting the many windows.



*Above:* The edging bricks shape the paths and allowing ample planting areas.

*Above right:* The paviors are laid creating curved paths.

*Right:* Volunteers lay the paviors in a herringbone pattern in the sunshine that blessed the November WHARF HOUSE Work-in.

## WANTED - PAINT



Do you have any tins of paint sitting around? If you do and no longer have any use for them, we can use them in THE WHARF HOUSE.

*Please contact Wilf Jones, thank you.*



## The Wharfhous Weekend Work-ins

Dates for the Weekend Work-ins are: -

**December 13/14 February 14/15  
March 20/21**

... and a 9 day Work-in in January: -

**Saturday 17- Sunday 25**

Lunches will be provided so we are hoping for a good turn out from volunteers please!

Please note the normal Wednesday and Saturday volunteer days continue to run at Over.

*Over Volunteers please contact ...*

THE WHARF HOUSE - Wilf Jones (01452 413 888)  
**Wednesdays** - Ted Beagles (01452 522 648)  
**Weekends/work-ins** - Maggie Jones (01452 618 010)



*Photos: Mike Hunt and Ted Beagles*

# Not The Mappa Mundi

*but saved from an auction nevertheless!*

*David McDougall has been instrumental in securing a very important historical record on behalf of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust – for which we are very grateful. Here David tells the story of a map that won't fit in your pocket ...*

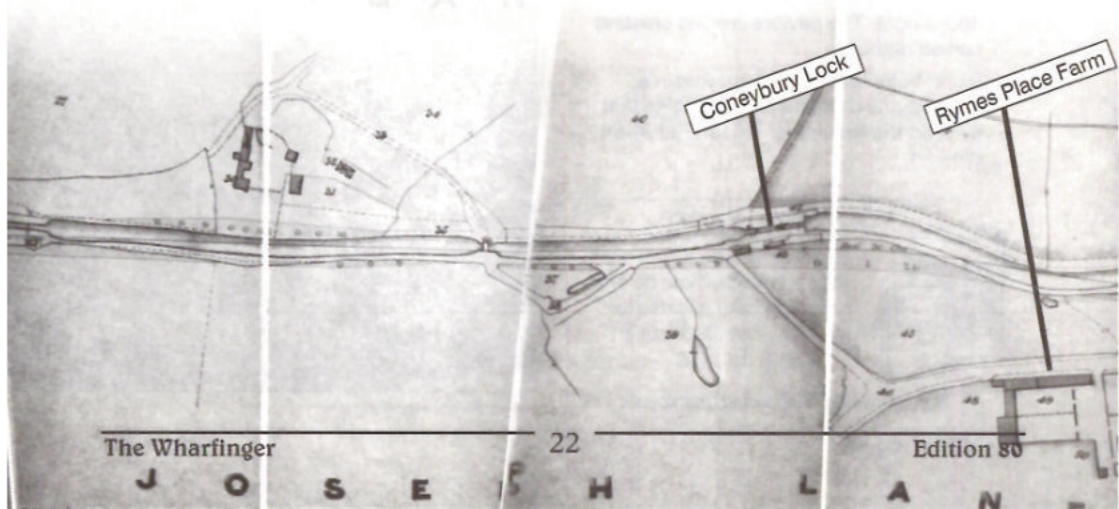
It is a well known fact that the Hereford & Gloucester Canal closed when the Great Western Railway built their (long defunct) branch line over much of the route between Over and Ledbury in 1882. The scheme to build the railway dates back over ten years previously. The proposed Newent Railway intended to use the canal line between Over and Dymock, passing through Oxenhall Tunnel and joining the Ross – Ledbury Railway which would make use of the canal route north of Dymock.

Although the necessary Acts were obtained, plans drawn up and capital subscribed by the shareholders, much of the scheme was never carried out. Using the tunnel was not practical, probably because of the rapid rise of Oxenhall locks for the approach and the restricted size of the bore. The Newent Railway, when built, turned away from the canal by Devin's Lock and made a long gently rising detour to rejoin the canal line beyond Dymock en

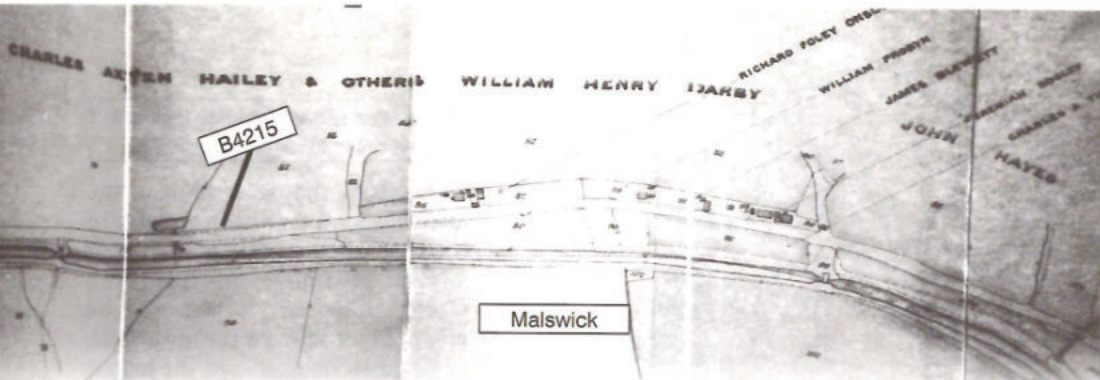
route to Ledbury. This change of plan left much of the canal unconverted and ensured the survival of many of its features in this area.

The best source of information on the canal before its conversion will undoubtedly be the plans drawn up for converting it into the railway. Highly accurate large-scale surveys were needed to work out the levels, gradients and radii for the railway's track.

To obtain the Act of Parliament for the railway all the properties along the route had to be identified, along with the landowners and any extra plots needed or surplus to requirements. These details made up a book of reference to the plans. By law copy plans and books had to be deposited or lodged with the County Surveyor's office and the Records Department of the Houses of Parliament. Further copies would be kept by the proposers of the railway, their Engineers and Legal departments.





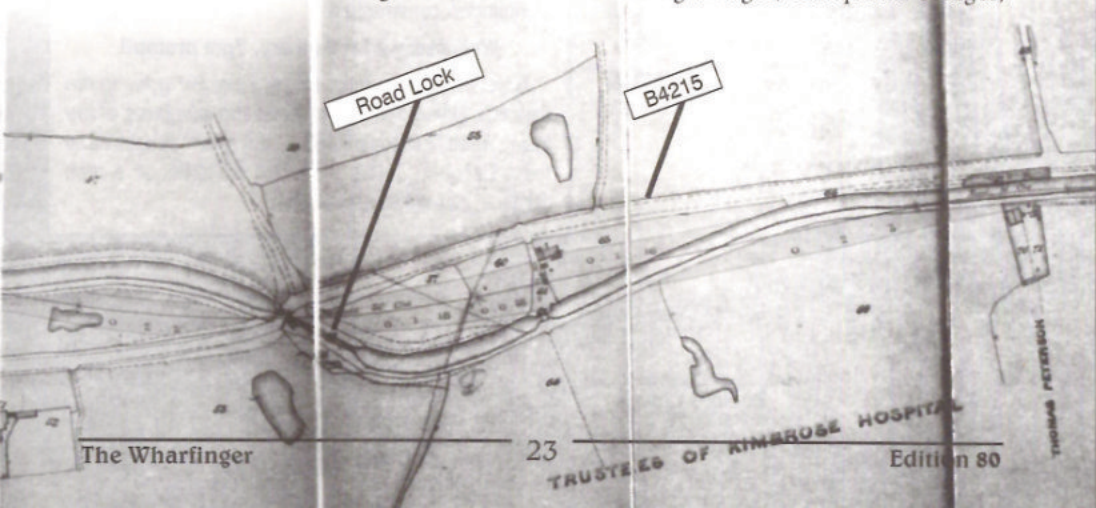


A locally held copy of part 1 of the Newent Railway construction survey map has been known for some time, showing the canal from Over to Malswick. News that the owner was considering selling it at auction but was open to negotiation beforehand, and keen to find a good and relevant home for it, was matched to the challenge of finding material that could be reproduced on display panels at The Wharf House at Over. The map is ideal for this, it is large scale, hand-coloured, in good condition and not faded. When unfolded the map is nearly twelve feet long! The railway shows as a thin red line superimposed over the canal coloured in blue. Cuttings and embankments needing extra land are shown in red with land areas calculated in imperial measurements. All significant buildings near the route are shown in detail with living accommo-

dation hand coloured in red. Numbers of land parcels and properties are keyed to the book of reference [not with the plan but probably available elsewhere]. The parish boundaries are exactly as shown for Highnam, Lassington, Rudford, Tibberton, Highleaden and Newent.

Landowners' names are given in detail, attractively sign written in dual coloured block lettering. This map is almost a work of art. It is mounted on linen and folds up neatly into leather covers impressed with gilt letter titling 'Newent Railway Plan 1'. Every curve of the canal is followed; tight curves needing specially shaped triangular sections of map so that when opened out the map takes up the route of the canal as it snakes about.

The scale is an amazing 4 feet to the mile or 20 chains to the foot [take your pick]; so the detail is superb. Here are all the swing bridges, humpback bridges,





PARISH OF CHURCHAD  
HAMLET OF BISHAM

White lines show the concertina folds that make the map so delicate.

culverts, the towpath, hedges, locks [Rudford, Double, Coneybury and Road locks], lock cottages as well as the railway planning details; the curve radius, the station site at Barbers Bridge etc, etc. Even the Civil War monument by Barbers Bridge has been plotted.

The map is regularly stamped with the ownership of The Great Western Railway Chief Engineers Plan Office, Paddington No 17189A - with reminders to return it. The clues to its origin are here, the A might suggest it was the railway company's master copy as would coloured crayon marks across redundant loops of the canal with their land areas worked out and potential or actual purchasers identified.

Finally the cost – a substantial but not excessive £500 has been paid by the H&G Canal Trust to secure this important record. The map has been deposited for safekeeping at the Gloucestershire Record Office where it can be maintained in the excellent condition in which it has been found.

◆ DMCD

### Tour of the Gloucestershire Records Office

Strongrooms, conservation display, related deeds, our map and the proposed plan of 1791 and a commentary from Caroline Jones about historical artefacts related to the Canal. The Map will only be available for viewing at pre-arranged events such as this, for conservation reasons, so we can preserve its fantastic condition which has survived despite its complicated construction.

**Wednesday 21st January, 7pm prompt!**

Advance booking only, £5 per head (£1 goes to the Records Office, the rest towards the purchase of the map). LIMITED NUMBERS – get your tickets early from Caroline Jones – 01594 861286 or e-mail [caroline\\_jones@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline_jones@btinternet.com).

Rudford Church



Why not join ...

## The Green Gym?

*Our Member, and Over volunteer, Tony Boonham thought an article like this may attract one or two more people who just need a little bit of encouragement – and help them with their own health at the same time!*

Some of you may know that I am a little disabled; I suffered quite a serious stroke 6 years ago, but despite this I am told I have made a remarkable recovery. This is in no small part due to my starting work at the H&G Canal 2 yrs ago. Working in the fresh air, in very pleasant surroundings, with my friends on the Wednesday Gang has been very therapeutic for me and has really built up my confidence – and aided my gradual ability to do more and more with my damaged right side.



This style of recovery is called the Green Gym and many Doctors recommend it. If you thought that you couldn't contribute to the Canal, because you have suffered heart problems or a stroke, why not ask your Doctor what he would recommend; remember that here you work at your own pace and you are never asked to do something beyond your capabilities. If you

need a break you take one when and where you like and, of course, you don't have to come for the whole day. I really look forward to work on Wednesday because it helps bridge that gap between full-time work and retirement; and I feel that I help in a small way in a very worthwhile project.

◆ TB

## Down, down, down

I have successfully completed my solo parachute jump of 12,000ft. It was amazing but very quick. I jumped into a cloud and couldn't work out which way I was facing for about 5,000ft (which took about 28 seconds).

I would like to thank everybody very much for their generosity in sponsoring me. So far I have raised £478.01 and still have a bit to collect so should break the £500 mark soon. Half of this total will be going to Hereford & Gloucester Canal Trust and the other half to Focus, the Cheltenham hospital Oncology Unit Charity.

Amy

*(Amy paid for her jump and training herself.)*

to

## Earth !



Landing in the middle of the Oxfordshire airfield Amy gathered up her parachute and heads back to the hanger.

# NATIONAL WATERWAYS FESTIVAL, 2003

*For many years Lesley Steans has been one of our volunteers assisting the Trading Company at various events, and regularly helps at the annual IWA National Waterways Festival each August Bank Holiday. This year Janet Moulton asked her to also become a new contributor to **The Wharfinger** so Lesley reports on the H&G Canal Trust's successful presence at The National Waterways Festival at Reading.*

**T**hursday dawned with a problem – we were due to set off at 9am to travel to the IWA Festival and help on the H&G stand, but my partner Des woke up with sciatica. He couldn't sit, stand or lie down without severe pain and we thought we would have to stay at home. But an emergency appointment with the GP and some horse-strength painkillers later, we set off at just after 11am to meet up with Derek and Taryna Weaver, Ray and Barbara Moses, Simon, Kelly & Matthew Dyer and Janet and Beki Moulton.

The many display panels were set up without a hitch and we adjourned back to the campsite to set up our tent and a well-earned supper. As we settled down for the night the presence of the main railway line to London, just across the fields, was regularly brought to our attention, but the previous interrupted night and busy day didn't let it bother us too much.

Friday is usually quiet – traders and boaters making up the main of the visitors to the stand, but as the day wore on, the stand was doing very well. Des was going a storm with the Grand Holiday Draw tickets and a set of picture plates that had been donated to Janet for the H&G were snapped up the second they were put on display! At cashing up time, it was the



Our Stand at this year's National Waterways Festival in Reading

best Friday we had ever had.

On Saturday, the campsite had its 8am visit by Mr Patel with his mobile shop – what that man couldn't squeeze into his MPV wasn't worth buying – croissants, toilet rolls, lettuce and newspapers to name just a few items for sale! The day was bright and sunny which turned quite hot later on – as the weather warmed up, someone (I can't remember who) had the bright idea of a doggy rest stop in the form of a container of water (container kindly donated by the man in the next-door stand). Dogs and owners alike were very appreciative and it had the added bonus of drawing people to the stand, to either buy Grand Holiday Draw tickets, or view the displays.

Sunday was dubbed (informally) 'mad puppet day' – the presence of glove puppets in the form of a cow, pig, frog and duck proved irresistible to me and impromptu puppet tricks began – the lucky dip tub, with its polystyrene chips, being the favourite play-site. Mutterings from Des about 'unruly cow' were ignored!

On Monday, Kelly Dyer set up children's games at the front of the display stand, which proved very popular. Children were queuing up at one stage to guess which container held a small ball, or pick a 'picture' card to match against a prize and even the losing children were awarded a gift. That also brought interest in the Lucky Dip and while parents were



waiting for their children, Des would swoop to sell prize draw tickets! Steve Bence, Peter Lawrence and Penny Shetliffe swelled the ranks of the volunteers with Steve and Penny taking up the 'mad puppets' mantle and Peter proving a very able 'talker' upon the progress of the Trust and its activities, to interested parties.

Janet's late husband Brian was honoured in a presentation in the main arena today, for his contribution to the restoration of Britain's waterways. 'Countryfile' presenter John Craven, who was present with Janet and Beki to receive his award. Skeleton crew (2) were left on the stand, whilst the remainder of us went to the arena to applaud and support Janet and Beki when they accepted Brian's award.

By 5pm on Monday it was all over for another year. Takings were added up – it was another successful National, with the profile of the H&G raised another notch; people from other canal trusts sought out the stand to discuss our progress, enquire about strategy in discussions with local authorities and construction companies, asking for advice, etc. It was very gratifying and it was apparent that H&G is leading the way! ◆ **LS**

John Craven pulls out the winning draw tickets at the Festival; Des Pick looks on.



## GEOprojects

Award winning maps & atlases

### INLAND WATERWAYS OF BRITAIN SERIES

#### Britain's Waterways

##### Cruising rings & other things

Brian Roberts

An illustrated guide to selecting a holiday on the inland waterways with detailed maps of cruising rings and other routes. Shows hire bases, hotel boats and describes visitor attractions.



£9.95



#### cruising maps . . .

- Basinstoke Canal £4.00
- Birmingham Canal Navigations £4.75
- The Broads £4.75
- Caledonian Canal and the Great Glen £4.75
- Coventry and Ashby Canals £4.75
- including the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal
- Forth & Clyde and Union Canals £4.75
- Grand Union Canal
- Map 1 Birmingham to Fenny Stratford £4.75
- Map 2 Braunston to Kings Langley £4.75
- Map 3 Fenny Stratford to the Thames £4.75
- Map 4 Leicester Line, Soar Navigation and Erewash Canal £4.75
- Huddersfield Broad and Narrow Canals £4.00
- Inland Waterways of Britain (GB route planner) £5.75
- Kennet and Avon Canal £4.75
- Lee and Stort Navigations £4.00
- Leeds and Liverpool Canal £4.75
- Llangollen and Montgomery Canals £4.75
- Macclesfield and Peak Forest Canals £4.00
- Oxford Canal £4.75
- Shropshire Union Canal £4.75
- South Pennine Ring £4.75
- Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with the River Severn and Gloucester & Sharpness Canal £4.75
- Stratford-upon-Avon Canal and the River Avon £4.75
- Thames, the river and the path £4.75
- Thames and London Rings Atlas £11.75
- Trent and Mersey Canal
- Map 1 Preston Brook to Fradley Junction £4.75
- Map 2 Great Haywood Junction to Cromwell Lock £4.75
- Worcester and Birmingham Canal £4.00
- with the Droitwich Canals

Available from shops and waterside outlets or direct from:

GEOprojects (UK) Ltd  
8 Southern Court • South Street

Reading • RG1 4QS.

Telephone: 0118 939 3567

Fax: 0118 959 7356

E-mail: sales@geoprojects.demon.co.uk

Call for details of credit card payment.



## SEVERN VALLEY BOAT CENTRE

QUALITY BOAT BUILDERS SINCE 1974



Buying a boat is as simple as SVBC. Stop dreaming and start cruising. You are welcome to visit us and see boats at all stages of completion. Fully fitted, sailaway or shell – we can advise on design or build to your specification – our quotes will please you. Finance terms available. Part exchange considered.



On site facilities include: Repairs and servicing, chandlery, brokerage (full list on request), Fletcher sports boats, Shetland cruisers, Yamaha outboards, craneage, moorings and storage, surveyor and B.S. examiner.

We have been appointed as main dealers for the **SHIRE** range of engines.

CANAL COLLECTION

SEVERN VALLEY BOAT CENTRE, BOAT SHOP, MART LANE,  
STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN, WORCS. DY13 9ER.

TEL: 01299 871165 FAX: 01299 827211

E-MAIL: [sales@severnboat.co.uk](mailto:sales@severnboat.co.uk) WEBSITE:  
[www.severnboat.co.uk](http://www.severnboat.co.uk)



# Vices, blocks and shadows!

Firstly, I should like to start with a very grateful 'thank you' to Mr Bennett of Westbury on Severn, and Mr Derrick Wooden (H&G and Gloucester and District Model Boat Club Members) for their generous gifts of a 5" and 8" metal work vice respectively. Also, to Mrs Judy Whitbread for an equally generous gift of a woodwork vice. You will be pleased to know that by the time you read this both workbenches will have been completed and all the vices will be in use. That is, of course, unless somebody decides my services will be better used elsewhere. Thanks to their generosity this appeal is now closed

We now have the new (to us) Roper sit on mower; this is a powerful beast at 14hp and considerably bigger than the previous one. It took but one hour to mow the grass at Over and mowed areas that the other mower wouldn't touch - and with its 5 forward gears (we've only had it into 3rd so far) it is very nippy. Charlie Kavangh who kindly stores, services and operates the mower has had to widen his trailer by 8 inches to accommodate it!

I have designed and made several kits to assist in cleaning the hundreds of hardwood flooring blocks that we have to prepare; these blocks will be laid on the ground floor of <sup>THE</sup> WHARF HOUSE having been reclaimed from the former Over Hospital. Part of this cleaning job requires the removal of 3/4" staples driven into some of the blocks (some blocks have as many as 6) and they are the very devil to remove. This is an ideal job if you are looking for something to do, so please bear this in mind when you are gazing

out of the window on a wet Saturday or Wednesday and wondering what to do next; we've got just the job for you!



One of my next jobs will be to make a tool 'shadow board'; it is very simply a large piece of chipboard, cleaned down and painted white and screwed to the wall above the workbench. Hand tools are then attached/hung onto the board and the outline of the tool is then drawn round in black marker pen so that we know which tool is out and, more important, where it goes back. By now many of you are thinking, "*my word he hasn't asked for anything yet*" - WRONG - yes, I need some tools to go on the shadow board, please!

We have very few engineering hand tools and mainly we bring our own and yes, you've guessed it, it's the one that you haven't brought that is the one that you need. Besides that, it would be better, I'm sure you will agree, to have our own tools rather than always relying on somebody else remembering to bring the right one. So this is an appeal for spanners, sockets, screwdrivers, files, pliers and all those similar hand tools. If you have any lying around that you don't need, then here is a chance to clear them out and do us a great favour as well. The workbench will be in active use by the time you read this, that is if we can lift it. I have deliberately over-engineered it a little so that Wilf can work on it without it breaking - it's a joke Wilf, honestly!

◆ TB

See inside back cover for how to contact The Toolman - Tony Boonham

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My Wife and I, in recent years, became Joint Life Members of the H&GCT and as I am now an octogenarian your excellent magazine is my main source of keeping abreast of the Canal Trust's progress - even though I try to visit an Open Day if I can each year.

Therefore I was delighted to read about progress in Hereford and, in particular, the map of the Canals route was extremely interesting. This brings the progress into perspective so vividly. Could we have more such plans - eg. Oxenhall to Newent. Also it would be nice to know what is the next task at each site once the current work is completed. As a sort of 'armchair Member' I thought I would put the suggestion forward if it is not already being planned. Best wishes for the Canal and **The Wharfing** in the future,

Mr DM Kirby, Worcester.

Thank you, Mr Kirby. The 'mission' of **The Wharfing** is to keep Members, supporters and all other interested parties aware of our objectives and progress in the most interesting and economical manner. It is good to hear that we are going some way towards achieving this. Whilst the outline map of the Canal, on the outside back cover, is intended to give an overall indication of the route we occasionally produce more detailed plans within the magazine for various sites - such as that for Hereford - as the editions of **The Wharfing** go by. These take a lot of time to prepare therefore I cannot promise one in every issue, and we tend to await several items being announced in an area (as was the case in Hereford). It is highly probable that we will have good reason to produce one for the Oxenhall/Newent area soon!

As for the next task at each site our 'Restoration Roundup' pages do, from time to time, cover what is in immediate prospect. Reporting on the longer term planning is more difficult; initial negotiations are frequently complex (and sensitive) and, therefore, have to remain confidential if we are to maintain the high rate of recent successes! As soon as we have reached a stage where something can be reported then it will be in **The Wharfing**. ♦ CRP

## Providing a quality and cost-effective tree care service



**FORESTRY  
OPERATIONS  
ROSS-ON-WYE  
TEL: 01989 780412**

Established 18 years,  
Public Liability Insurance,  
Free Quotes

### ALL ASPECTS OF TREE WORK

Felling,  
pruning,  
deadwood  
removal,  
dangerous  
trees, hedge  
topping &  
maintenance



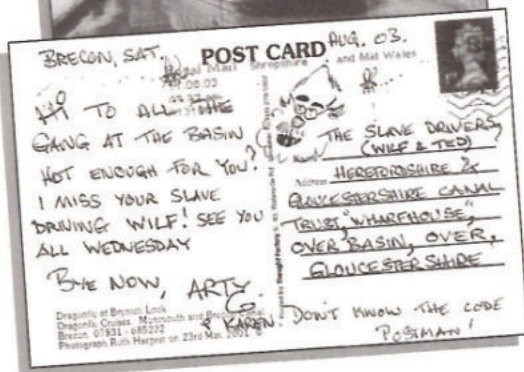
Photo: S. Gubbay



# Not Quite ... THE LAST PAGE

## FIRST POST THROUGH LETTERBOX

It was good to receive the first post through our new letterbox at **THE WHARF HOUSE**, for it was not a bill or junk mail but a post card from Wednesday Volunteer, 'Arty' on holiday in Wales. It was also delivered by another volunteer and postman, John Woods!



## OUR THANKS TO ADRIAN HOPE

We would like to give our thanks to **Adrian Hope**, Arboricultural Consultants and Contractors, who this time lent his experience to Oxenhall where he felled some difficult trees that had been declared dangerous, and even brought in a crane to do the job effectively.

**ADRIAN HOPE**  
TREE SERVICES



Telephone: 01531 660557  
email: ahopetrees@supernet.com

Invitation to all our Volunteers –

## SKITTLES



Join us in this popular event at

**The King's Arms,  
Ross Road, Newent.**

Saturday 10th January, 7.30pm

**£6.50** (including Buffet)

BY ADVANCE TICKET ONLY

Please contact Maggie Jones 01452-618 010

COPY DEADLINE  
FOR THE NEXT  
ISSUE IS:

**17TH JANUARY, 2004**

## UPTONE HOUSESITTING PLUS

**You go for a holiday and  
leave your headaches to us.**

We will finish those jobs that  
have been hanging around  
for ages. Customised  
quotes on request.

ASK FOR

**Barry or Anthea**

**Tel 0207 221 4870**

**Fax: 020 7792 3043**



*At the heart of England's waterways*

Braunston Marina are proud to  
support the restoration of the  
Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal

*Working together, in the  
present, to revive the past,  
and secure a better future.* ©H&G  
CT

**Braunston Marina,**

The Wharf, Braunston, Nr Daventry,  
Northamptonshire, NN11 7JH

Telephone: 01788 891373      Fax: 01788 891436

<http://www.braunstonmarina.co.uk>  
[sales@braunstonmarina.co.uk](mailto:sales@braunstonmarina.co.uk)



# CONTACTS

## Dick Skeet

Stoneham House, Maund Common,  
BODENHAM, Herefordshire, HR1 3JB  
Tel: (01568) 797 032  
email: dick@skeetr.fsnet.co.uk

## Liz Connors

18, St Ethelbert Close, SUTTON ST. NICHOLAS,  
Hereford, HR1 3BF  
Tel/Fax: (01432) 880 155  
email: Liz@Harbinger4.freemove.co.uk

## Cliff Penny/David Penny

"Coppice", BURLEY GATE,  
Hereford, HR1 3QS  
Tel: (01432) 820 420  
Fax: (01432) 820 877  
email: canal@penny-ep.co.uk

## Brian Fox

1, Holmer Hall Cottages, Roman Road,  
HEREFORD, HR4 9QU  
Tel: (01432) 558 628  
email: brian.fox@xalt.co.uk

## Janet Moul

18, Coningsby Court, Coningsby St.,  
HEREFORD, HR1 2DF  
Tel: (01432) 264 366  
email: Janet.Moul@ukgateway.net

## Nigel Jefferies

Tel: (01432) 850 661  
email: nigel.jefferies@virgin.net

## Nigel and Liz Bailey

Tel: (01452) 533 835  
email: nigel.bailey@blueyonder.co.uk

## Tony Boonham

Tel: (01452) 700 476

## Dave Jones

Tel: (01531) 820 008

## Maggie Jones

Tel: (01452) 618 010  
email: maggiehome@btinternet.com

## Wilf Jones

Tel: (01452) 413 888  
email: wilf.jones2000@btinternet.com

## Penny Shetliffe

MAIL ORDER SALES, Little Lugg,  
Cross Keys, HEREFORD, HR1 3NP  
Tel: (01432) 820 623  
email: penny@shetliffe.freemove.co.uk

Printed by Print Plus, Widemarsh Street,  
Hereford, HR4 9HN (01432) 272 025

*Visit our Website ...*

**www.h-g-canal.org.uk**

*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!**

## UK SUBSCRIPTION RATES

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual	£7.50	Joint/Family	£10
Senior Citizen	£5	Joint Senior Citizen	£7
Corporate	£20		

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Individual	£150	Joint/Family	£200
Senior Citizen	£80	Joint Senior Citizen	£110
Corporate	£400		

**PLEASE NOTE:** All subscriptions and donations are treated as being made under the Gift Aid scheme unless you state that you do not wish us to do this. Payment made by Standing Order greatly assists us and payment remains under your control. **All payments to:**

**6, Castle Street, Hereford, HR1 2NL**

## ADVERTISING IN The Wharfinger

Show the support of your business by advertising in **The Wharfinger**. Rates start at £12, there is a series discount and we will gladly design your advertisement free of charge. Heather Worth, Tel. 01432 270 552, has the details.

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

Membership records are computerised. Your entry is available for inspection if you send a SAE to the Membership Secretary.

Whilst we try to ensure dates are correct please verify them with a relevant Organiser.  
©2003-4 Published by the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust.

The Wharf House Company Ltd [No. 4627931] and H & G Canal (Sales) Ltd. [No. 2710215] are part of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust Ltd. group of companies. The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust is a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee [No. 2704407] and is a registered charity [No. 1010721]. Registered Office: - 3 Norfolk Court, Norfolk Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1LJ.

# 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 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.

