

# *The* **Wharfinger**

Magazine of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust



Spring 2007

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FRONT COVER PHOTO:

The new approach to Over Basin  
by Maggie Jones

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## ◆ CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN ◆

**2007** is well under way – what will it bring for the H&G? I certainly cannot promise you a completion date for the restored canal between Hereford and Gloucester but what I can report is that there are exciting projects in hand. We can look back on 2006 and see progress on the Ell Brook Aqueduct, at Over Basin and at Yarkhill. Plus, as always, there is much ongoing vital liaison that frequently takes years to come to fruition!

Thank you to those who supported **THE WHARF HOUSE APPEAL**. I know it is not as exciting as buying a mile of canal, but **THE WHARF HOUSE** is an asset and future perpetual income stream that other canals restorations cannot match. **In order to give more time for you to consider giving (or lending!) your support we have extended the Appeal – please see p.26 – thank you.**

The Trading Company is planning a full summer (possible outings on p.21). Attendances at shows such as Crick and the National Waterways Festival are becoming increasingly expensive with pitches at around £500 but are vital in keeping the high profile the H&G has in the canal community. The Trading Company volunteers give their time and do not claim any travel/accommodation expenses. The only time we hire a van to take our displays and stock is to the 'National' (it is amazing what one can get into a Peugeot 206!). The National Waterways Festival this year is at St Ives, Cambridgeshire, 145 miles from base. **Any sponsorship for the van hire or attendance fees would be gratefully appreciated.** I am sorry to be asking for money again but every little helps, and our Treasurer is very willing to accept it! Liz Connors has not been too well lately and we wish her a speedy recovery. (Please see Important Notice on p.7. Ed.)

I have been reading some back numbers of **The Wharfinger** and one item from 1990 stood out. I quote "A few months ago a Member wrote asking us to stop appealing for help from the membership: pointing out that some of our Members might just want to be 'armchair supporters' and not take an active part. Obviously we respect this view but how else are we to appeal for help?" This is as true in 2007 as it was then so please give me a ring or e-mail me to discuss any help you can offer – *in any form*. It will be greatly appreciated. We must spread the load, both financial and physical; **your Council of Management cannot do it all alone!**

◆ Janet Moulton, Chairman



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## Why ...?



by Cliff Penny

Shortly after the last edition of **The Wharfinger** was published a Member asked me *why* the H&G CT was placing so much emphasis on our work at <sup>THE</sup> WHARF HOUSE - "*the time would be better spent getting the rest of the canal restored*". **If only life was that simple!**

It is vital that the H&G CT diversifies and establishes *dependable* long-term income streams, *which are directly under our control*, over and above the more traditional sources of revenue. *Why?* Well, we are not talking about running the 'day to day' business of the H&G CT Charity; **we are talking about the costs of running, maintaining and improving the restored Canal – an entirely different proposition in the magnitude of costs involved!**

Just after the Canal Trust was formed in 1992, the then Regional Manager of **British Waterways** wrote congratulating us when we reported that we had achieved support and protection Policies from each of the Local Authorities for the whole 34 mile route of the H&G Canal. "*Don't underestimate the future cost of maintenance – even when you only have a few lengths restored*" he (wisely) cautioned. When we were negotiating the 'Planning Gain' at Over we realised that there was a golden opportunity to plan for the long-term future of the Canal in the County *and secure a perpetual income* for the H&G Canal from both <sup>THE</sup> WHARF HOUSE and the annual contributions from the nearby houses. This had to be secured there and then – *why* – because there would not be a second chance at a later date; it had to form a fundamental part of the Planning Approval for the development (as have subsequent negotiations elsewhere along the line of the Canal).

Very recent events have demonstrated nationally (with **British Waterways** losing a significant percentage of their regular grant from the Government without warning) *why* we were correct in grasping such opportunities and putting into place *now* facilities *that are under our control* to provide some of the essential regular income that is required to **maintain and manage the Canal**. *[The costs of running the Canal Trust Charity are met from Membership subscriptions, print sponsorship and advertising. Income from H&G Canal (Sales), donations, regular payments into the Restoration Fund and any other income is directed towards small scale restoration and 'match funding'.]*

**Securing long-term regular income under our control** is also critical to our ultimate success when we apply for *major* Grant Aid for restoration of the H&G Canal. *Why?* Every major funding body now wants assurances as to how their money is to be spent and, quite specifically, *how the asset will be maintained in the long term*.

Maggie Jones explains on page 24 *why* she, and the other Over volunteers, are committed to complete <sup>THE</sup> WHARF HOUSE as soon as possible. Our Team have very effectively recycled materials salvaged from the Over Hospital but our paying B&B guests are not going to appreciate a salvaged NHS bath! £80,000 will complete and furnish the rest of the building; enabling us to harness its full promotional and income potential. (<sup>THE</sup> WHARF HOUSE Appeal – p.26).

So *why* are we doing all this at <sup>THE</sup> WHARF HOUSE – **to get the H&G Canal restored!**

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



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This year, due to popular request, we have sent you two books of tickets to sell to family and friends. More books can be sent to you if required (*please contact Janet Moulton – see inside back cover*).

We are very pleased to report that the printing of the tickets this year is sponsored by **Eastnor Castle** – *thank you*.

**Prizes to be drawn late afternoon at the National Waterways Festival, at St. Ives, Cambridgeshire, on 27 August, 2007.**

Our grateful thanks to **Black Prince Holidays, Mrs A Wood and Carol Grant** for donating the Holiday prizes – so every pound raised is a pound towards restoration of the Canal.

We appreciate that some recipients are not prepared to buy or sell draw tickets – we apologise but we do not have the resources to be selective in who receives tickets. *There is no obligation to return unsold tickets.* In order to save costs we have not included tickets in copies of **The Wharfinger** sent to Councillors, Local Authorities etc. If you wish to support us please contact Janet Moulton on 01432 264 366 and she will be delighted to send you some tickets. *Thank you.*

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Janet Moulton mentioned in her column that Liz Connors, our Treasurer, was unwell. Since Janet wrote her page unfortunately Liz's condition became much more serious. In mid February we heard that Liz had been transferred to a Birmingham hospital where she underwent lengthy neurological surgery. The very latest news is that Liz has spoken to Janet from her hospital bed and is looking forward to getting home soon for what clearly will be a lengthy period of recuperation.

**In view of this please do not send any Canal Trust correspondence/payments to Liz Connor's address in Sutton St. Nicholas.**

**Grand Holiday Draw counterfoils** and monies should be sent to Janet Moulton, 18, Coningsby Court, Coningsby Street, HEREFORD, HR1 2DF or can be taken to any 'third Tuesday of the month' H&G Canal Trust Social Evening at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle.

**Membership subscriptions** should (as in the past) be sent to the H&G CT at 6, Castle Street, HEREFORD, HR1 2NL.

**Any other correspondence that you would have sent to Liz, or financial queries**, should, as a temporary measure, be addressed please to Janet Moulton at the above Coningsby Street address.

Your co-operation is sought in ensuring that correspondence/payments are directed as requested above pending what we most sincerely hope will be a speedy recovery by Liz. *Thank you.*

◆ CRP

## Gas pipeline agreed

The **Department of Trade & Industry** has just approved the route of a new 192km (120mile) natural gas pipeline from Felindre (near Swansea) to Tirley, Gloucestershire. This 48inch diameter (not a misprint!) pipeline will carry one fifth of the UK's gas supplies needed to meet the UK's growing demands and address declining North Sea reserves.

A Member made us aware of the proposals, at an early stage in the route planning, and Cliff and David Penny established contact with **National Grid**. Our negotiations have been direct with the overall Project Manager for this massive undertaking and we have greatly appreciated his time, understanding and co-operation when he had so many competing priorities. *Thank you.*

The pipeline will cross over Oxenhall Tunnel (close to the Hereford portal) at a point where it will require reconstruction

as part of our restoration proposals. The level of the pipeline has been changed to keep it as high as possible to give maximum clearance over the Tunnel. A large reinforced concrete slab will be constructed below the pipeline, as part of the pipeline project, to span over the Tunnel supported on sound ground on either side so that the H&G CT's future works can proceed safely under the pipeline. Also, all pipeline construction traffic will pass over a large temporary 'Bailey' bridge set on the ground above the route of the Tunnel to prevent any risk of further collapse within the Tunnel. *We had to get this right – there would simply be no question of adjusting route or level at a later date!*

◆ CRP

*More details about the gas pipeline project can be obtained from National Grid's Community Relations Team on Freephone 0800 7310561.*



# Work at **Yarkhill**

by *Chris High*



The coppiced stretch at Yarkhill



The cleared bank at Yarkhill



**Above:** The partly assembled new site hut. **Right:** The very smart completed hut.



**O**ur normal Thursday workday arrived with disappointment. A look outside confirmed it was wet and raining. Do I ring round and cancel or just see what happens? But no one rings to 'cry off'. *All right then, I will go to Yarkhill and see who turns up.*

No sooner had I parked the car than Bernard swung in, followed by Eileen and Anne, Colin, Tim with Peter joining us on site – almost a full team. *Are we keen or just mad?!* Actually, it didn't rain that much. Enthusiasm and support of this magnitude is great when you're the leader and over the last three months the team have achieved much. The team continued coppicing and tidying and also burnt a pile of brush accumulated during the dry period at Barrs Lock. Following Tim's completion of brush cutting the far end 'wild side' bank the team burnt the brush he piled up in the canal and generally cleared the canal bed. *The site hut is now in use and much appreciated!*

Martin Danks obtained landowner permissions for the team, and invited guests, to have a walk along the route of the canal from Withington Marsh to Yarkhill in December to celebrate a year's work at Yarkhill. The majority of this stretch, which is still well defined but overgrown, includes two road bridges and two locks. The first bridge is still useable by the canal whilst the adjoining lock has been infilled. The second lock has suffered from slippage of the sides leaving only a narrow stream in the bottom. I did not expect to find lock stonework as this is normally 'taken for re-cycling(!)' but the slippage suggests





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*Above:* Water at last – heavy rains filled the normally dry canal bed making it a true canal!

*Left and below:* The Yarkhill team and guests walk from Withington Marsh to Yarkhill to mark a year's work at Yarkhill!

there is no hardcore backfill in place behind the lock walls.

Despite the rainy period we only had a little water in part of the canal and were still working in a dry bed, at the far end, in late December. This suddenly changed over the New Year – *water at last* – two foot of it along the whole length; it really did look like a canal!

If you are interested in helping on Thursdays, or a day at weekends, then contact Chris High 01568 615 575 *please* – you will be made very welcome!

◆ CH



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# RESTORATION

## at Oxenhall *by Brian Fox*

Last time I commented on global warming and how pleasant it was working through the summer with plenty of warm sunshine. This autumn has continued the trend with warm weather but plenty of rain as well, which creates its own challenges. Our current project spans the Ell Brook, which has been above normal level for most of the time, and this can make working on the scaffolding above it somewhat alarming! *However, any tools dropped will disappear never to be seen again.* Work was stopped one Tuesday when the water was too high but generally progress has been steady and the second arch is taking shape.

This is the time of year when the maintenance gang is also very busy. John, who is one of our trained chainsaw volunteers, finished tidying the trees on



the non towpath side up towards the lock, work that was left last Spring. Some of the willows have been partially pollarded and the edge of the adjacent field has been trimmed. Large amounts of brushwood were created but this has now been burnt and piles of timber are ready for our log man to retrieve. John and Chris have now absconded to Yarkhill on Tuesdays to tackle trees in need of attention (*you could say two fellas have gone to become tree fellers!*) and Bernard, who will shortly complete his chainsaw training, will be assisting to get some experience. Tim continues to look after general maintenance at Oxenhall, keeping the banks strimmed and hedges pruned, while Lucien or Peter are still cutting grass which continues to grow. A new fence has now been erected where the road crosses the canal, just



Ell Brook at its normal water level.



One of the very long mysterious wooden planks.



below the church, which will give visitors something to lean on and contemplate the canal below without falling in.

Nobody came forward with any ideas as to the purpose of the 2 large old planks pulled out of the Brook last year and which I mentioned in the last edition. However, the Editor has put his Civil Engineer hat on and advised that we need to put back (or renew) these substantial timbers in the stream bed, on the downstream edge of the cut stone bed protection under the arch. He has confirmed my theory that they were there to help retain the stone bed from being progressively undermined and washed away, threatening the stability of the whole structure. Meanwhile we are monitoring any erosion during the winter rains and so far everything is stable. The wood seems to be solid enough and if we put new timber in the bed these very old timbers could be cut up and made into wooden objects for sale on our stall – *but would they be antiques!?*

◆ BF

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## Extreme Gardening!



Above: The large broken willow bough is

*Our regular volunteer and correspondent, John Forrest, is still not claiming to be Alan Titchmarsh – however, following his 'Extreme Gardening' tales on p.26 of the last edition, he and his fellow volunteers have been undertaking large scale conservation pruning – but it was all a bit beyond secateurs . . .*

A very old and prominent willow tree on the edge of the canal towpath near to the aqueduct at Oxenhall, suffered from the recent gales. A major bough had been caught by a really strong gust of wind which caused it to twist in mid air, almost severing itself, resulting in



Photos: John Chappell



# Wind in the Willows



supported by the rope and pulley before being expertly lowered to the ground.

the outermost branches rotating and impaling themselves into the far bank of the canal. The plan was to carefully detach this broken bough from the tree trunk and slowly lower it, in a controlled manner, to the towpath below where it could be sawn up and removed.

A heavy duty pulley block was suspended high above the broken bough and one end of a multiplat rope lowered and attached. The other end of the rope was tensioned using a winch which was anchored to the base of a mature tree. The bough was then severed and swung gently whilst being lowered to

just above the water of the canal, where a second rope was secured and used to pull and guide the end of the bough to the edge of the towpath. Once it had been successfully 'landed', the pulley block system was released and repositioned on the 'Bailey' Bridge where the tractor was deployed to pull the full length of bough onto the towpath.

Finally, a chainsaw made swift work of cutting up the timber into logs which were then transported to our Horsefair Wharf compound. *Another job successfully accomplished!*

◆ JF

**Below:** The willow bough is brought to dry land to be cut into useful logs.



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## OVER *Update* by Nigel Bailey

Work nearing completion laying the paviors at the entrance to Over Basin. (See also cover photo.)

The final quarter of the year saw our volunteer work focused on *The Wharf Approaches project*. All of the paviors have now been laid between the pavement, the path around *THE WHARF HOUSE* and the 'Bailey' bridge. All of those points are at different levels so the profile of the new surface was pretty complex to set out and work to, as we had to ensure that it also would drain effectively in wet weather.

Because the paviors are laid in a herringbone pattern, the whole perimeter of the area has to be finished with small triangular shapes cut from the paviors. This is painstaking work! Each triangle is a unique shape and size and needs to be carefully marked and then carefully cut with an angle grinder. As I write, there are just a couple of metres of triangles still left to complete.

The low retaining wall to the left of the new paved area has now been completed and capped. Although the bricks we used

are new ones, they look like recycled bricks and both they and the capping stones were materials we had available on site. I can accurately claim that this wall has actually been the product of international co-operation: we were helped by Mike, a new volunteer from Australia. *Having worked with him for a day of bricklaying I'm considering compiling a short glossary of construction terms which differ between the two nations!*

Also nearing completion are the three steps from the paved area down towards the Basin, just beside the 'Bailey' bridge. They have been made with recycled blue bricks and look very smart. For the less able there is a new path which slopes down from the paved area to the Basin and this is also progressing very well. Progress would have been swifter but for poor weather in the last few weeks of the year. Now that the retaining wall is in place we can make a start on the landscaping of the area behind it ready for planting in the Spring. We should also



then be able to build the brick pillars to mark the entrance to the site; these are part of a number of enhancements to **THE WHARF HOUSE** that have just been granted Planning Permission by Tewkesbury Borough Council.

As part of this work we have now been able to make a start on an extension to **THE WHARF HOUSE** kitchen to provide a much needed store. The first step was to



Paul lays the last few edging blocks up to the back gate of **THE WHARF HOUSE**.



The winding path down to the Basin is also progressing well.

move the "back yard" to the area beyond the end of the disabled bedroom. This involved re-siting the paving slabs, fencing and gate. This effectively emptied an area in the "L" shape between the end of the tea rooms/ restaurant and the back of the disabled bedroom ready for the extension. The groundwork has begun so there should be more to report in the next issue. The work is essential as, pending the completion of this small extension to provide this much more convenient storage area for the kitchen, one of the bedrooms has acted as a temporary kitchen store until now.

With the mild weather continuing, we were able to enjoy our lunches outdoors beside the slipway well into December. This has the big advantage that lunch is eaten fairly quickly and work is soon resumed!

Following the recent very heavy rain, the water level in the Basin has been the highest we have seen. Optimum water level is "two red bricks down" on the wharf wall and it was recently level with the top of the top red brick and gently flowing over the dam at the end of the site. The previous highest level I recall was in December 2000 when the water almost topped the dam. This illustrates the significant water resources benefit arising from our negotiations for the clean surface water from most of the Staunton's Hill development to be drained into the Canal (rather than being immediately 'lost' into the flood waters of the River Severn).



Three small steps lead down to the basin from the bridge. These have been named Barrie's steps (as Barrie built them!).

Photos: Nigel Bailey and Maggie Jones

◆ NB



## AYLESTONE PARK CANAL PROJECT

### Update...

Towards the end of last year the Aylestone Park site became the unauthorised temporary home of travellers in two wagons and with four horses. Following action by Herefordshire Council they have now moved on.

Meanwhile the commencement of the contaminated silt removal has been delayed whilst the Contractor negotiates final authorisation from the Environment Agency. This temporary setback will at least allow the ground to dry out before heavy plant crosses the site.

◆ MD/CRP

## LLOYD JONES

Lloyd Jones of Ledbury was a long standing Member of the H&G CT and a good friend. He passed away on Sunday the 17th of December 2006, just 12 days before his 90th Birthday.

A small group of us had planned a small get together meal to celebrate his birthday, as we have for a few years now; sadly this was not to be.

Lloyd was an active Member and played an important role in the Sales Team, helped with the Craft Fairs and for many years warmly welcomed people and introduced the speakers at H&G CT Social Evenings. He will be sadly missed.

◆ Joyce and Mike Potts



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FRIENDS  
of the  
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# Giant Boat Jumble and Waterways Festival



Gloucester Docks  
Sunday 1 April 2007  
10am – 4pm

Fantastic bargains on boating,  
sailing, fishing and outdoor kit.  
Family entertainment all day long

## ALL JUMBLED UP

*Our Members Ray and Barbara Moses organise and 'man' an important part of our fundraising by attending the annual Boat and Watersports Jumble at Gloucester Docks each year – for which we are very grateful. However, the success of their annual efforts does depend on having appropriate items to sell . . .*

Once again we are organising a stall at the Gloucester Boat and Watersports Jumble in April. As usual we require items to sell please, either donated or to be sold on commission. The items must have a waterways connection, however tenuous, but please, no magazines as we still have plenty left from previous years.

We can collect items from the March Social meeting at **The Royal Oak**. If this is not convenient, please phone 01989 780325 or e-mail [r\\_w\\_moses@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:r_w_moses@yahoo.co.uk) to make alternative arrangements. *The more donated items we get, the more money we can make for the H&G Canal Trust.*

The **Annual Boat and Watersports Jumble** is held at **The National Waterways Museum**, Gloucester Docks. This year the event is on **Sunday 1st April 10am to 4pm**. Admission is a bargain at £3.50 as it includes entry to the Museum as well as to the Jumble – and accompanied children are free. ♦ **RM**



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## Social Evenings at The Royal Oak

Everyone is welcome to our monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of every month, 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

*Please note that due to an increase in the cost of our hiring the room there will be a £1 per person admission charge – we hope that you will agree this is a small price to pay for what are invariably interesting evenings.*

**MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>**

### Worcester and Birmingham Canal

*Alan White*

The author of a recent book on a local canal (Corporate Members of the H&G CT) will share his knowledge with us.

**APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>**

### Black Country Living Museum

*Don Shipman*

The Chairman of the Friends of the Museum will give us a talk on this fascinating canal side museum.

**MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

### Narrowboats to Norway

*Clive Field*

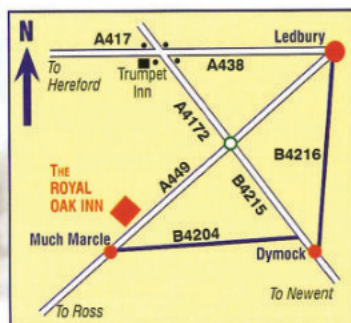
How do you get a narrowboat to Norway? Come and find out!

**JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>**

### Droitwich Canals

*Margaret Rowley*

It is 6 years since Margaret came to speak to us – things have moved on apace.







## Gloucestershire & Herefordshire IWA Branch

**31 March 2007, 3.30pm**

at National Waterways Museum  
Region AGM followed by a talk  
**Narrowboats to Norway**  
Clive Field

**3 May 2007, 7.30pm**

at Gloucester Yacht Club  
**Freight on Inland Waterways**  
David Hilling

Further details: **07913 261030**

## Over pen Days 2007

Visitors are always welcome at  
Over but on **Open Sundays**  
throughout the summer we are  
offering even more, including:  
guided tours • boat rides  
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handycrafts  
model boat demonstrations

**Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

## THE TRADING COMPANY H & G Canal Sales

### Possible outings 2007

The H&G CT would like to attend all the shows below and others to which we are invited.

Our small regular band of helpers cannot do it all – it will not be possible to attend everything unless we have some new volunteers to help out, please.

Please contact Janet Moulit if you think you may be able to attend any of these events, it is a good day out, you will be made very welcome and we always try to leave some time for you to look around.

◀ JM

<b>March 3-4</b>	Tractor World – Malvern
<b>March 24</b>	Archaeology lecture Bishop's Palace Hereford – <i>display only</i>
<b>April 1</b>	Gloucester Boat Jumble
<b>May 12-13</b>	Moirs Canal Festival
<b>May 26-28</b>	Crick Boat Show
<b>June 2</b>	Hartpury College Open Day
<b>June 10</b>	Forest of Dean Local History – Speech House
<b>June 23-24</b>	Braunston Boat Show
<b>June 30-July 1</b>	Saul Boat Show
<b>July 7</b>	Evesham Water Festival
<b>August 18</b>	Tibberton Fete
<b>August 25-27</b>	National Waterways Festival, St Ives
<b>September 1</b>	Alfrick Fete
<b>September 8</b>	Newent Onion Fair
<b>October 21</b>	Oxenhall Apple Day

# H&G Silverware Found!



*In Lucien Perring's article 'A Fantastic Gift', telling the story of the 'H&G canal fan' (p.18 of edition 89 of **The Wharfinger**), he asked if any reader knew the whereabouts of several items of silverware mentioned by the late David Bick in some correspondence which formed part of David's research for his book about the H&G Canal. As a result several H&G CT Members got in touch, including Hugh Conway-Jones, who thought he was able to track the items down.*

The note in the Autumn edition of **The Wharfinger**, asking for information about H&G inscribed silverware in the possession of a family in Tibberton, reminded me of research I did some years ago into the history of the Gloucester timber merchants Price Walker & Co. The late Peter Price of Tibberton Court showed me some silverware that had been presented to his ancestor, William Price, in gratitude for work done on behalf of the H&G Canal Company. I

knew that in the late eighteenth century, William ran the family timber business and also became a prominent builder in Gloucester, but what was his connection with the H&G Canal?

To answer this, I consulted the minute books of the Canal Company in the Public Record Office at Kew, and I soon found that in the very early days of the enterprise, it was William Price who organised the provision of labour and materials for

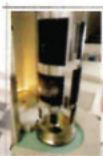
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Above: The Hereford and Gloucester silverware consisting of a teapot, coffee pot, jug, sugar bowl, tankard and large salver.

constructing the H&G Canal. As well as supplying timber from his own stock, he also arranged contracts for digging the canal, making bricks, supplying coal for brickmaking, delivering stone and making wheelbarrows. This continued for two years, but the amount of work was evidently increasing, and the Committee eventually appointed a full-time surveyor. To mark their gratitude to William Price, the shareholders' meeting on 7 Oct 1793 thanked him for the essential services he had rendered to the concern and agreed he should be presented with 'a piece of plate value £50'.

With my interest reawakened by the note in **The Wharfinger**, I made inquiries and found that the silverware is now on display at the **National Waterways Museum** at Gloucester Docks. A silver teapot, coffee pot, sugar bowl, tankard and large salver are in a showcase

on Level 2. Delia Garratt, Collections Development Officer at the Museum, kindly confirmed that they are inscribed "WP" and "An honourable token from the Hereford & Gloucester Canal Company". Also with them is a silver cream jug inscribed "WPP", which was evidently presented at a later date to William's grandson, William Philip Price.

◆ HC-J

Our thanks to Delia Garratt for arranging for Robin Smithett to have access to the Museum outside normal hours and for taking the time and trouble to get all of the artefacts out of their case especially for him to take the photograph for **The Wharfinger**.

◆ Ed

# THE WHARF HOUSE *fit-out of the upper floors*



Some of the volunteers who helped complete the first stage of THE WHARF HOUSE fitout in 2005.

As well as the work to the Basin approaches at Over, our volunteers have been working on a detailed strategy for completing the upper floors of THE WHARF HOUSE. With the work planned out, we have moved a team of volunteers inside to complete the decoration of the bedrooms and bathrooms. Over the past few weeks we have been busy sanding down the walls and windows, applying coats of paint to the latter. In the bathrooms the coving is being fitted. The many window sills have been filled, sanded and oiled. They are all made from recycled oak and mahogany.

We are keen to see THE WHARF HOUSE fully utilized as intended. Along with many other volunteers I have worked for several years on Over Basin, the car park and the landscaping around it. I watched eagerly in 2002 as the outer walls of THE WHARF HOUSE began to grow. We knew it was up to our own efforts to complete the building inside. In 2005 we completed the ground floor providing the H&G CT with a successful Tea Rooms/Restaurant and Visitor Centre for which we can feel proud. The B&B is a logical extension of this with each element helping to support the other and generate essential long-term income for the H&G CT.

The volunteers work hard and give up many hours of their own time working

both in THE WHARF HOUSE and outside because the vision of a restored and functioning Canal is worth working towards. For us office dwellers it's a great way to get fresh air and exercise, and yes, it is an excellent way to get some retired Members out of their homes for a day or two each week as well! Perhaps the odd aching back or tired limbs, but it is worth it. When we work at Over and the other sites along the line of the Canal, we are making our mark in something, that when complete, will be a huge benefit and asset to the wider community. It is a vision that is becoming a reality. At the Gloucester end THE WHARF HOUSE is a flagship for the Canal Trust. We love to welcome people to the Visitor Centre and Tea Rooms/Restaurant and to spend a few minutes talking about our vision – *what better place to recruit our supporters of tomorrow!*

An elderly Member was visiting us just this week. Before his lunch at THE WHARF HOUSE, he popped around the building to see the Basin. He came across one of our volunteers laying the paviors for the new path. "If I was rich, I would donate a million pounds to the Canal Trust," he said. Well if he were rich, a million would be fantastic! At present we need a few thousand to help to complete our work in the building and so make a significant contribution to our income both now and in the future. *Any ideas?*

◆ MJ



## We would like to recruit you to help!

If you would be interested in helping to complete

### THE WHARF HOUSE

or would like to help restore the Hereford and Gloucester Canal, please contact one of the following: –

#### OVER TEAMS

Saturdays/Sundays

Maggie Jones 01452 618 010

Wednesdays

Wilf Jones 01452 413 888

OXENHALL TEAM Tuesdays

Brian Fox 01432 358 628

YARKHILL TEAM Thursdays

Chris High 01568 615 575

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A half share may be available?

This is not time share and the boat is managed and maintained to a very high standard and moves to different locations around the canal network. No experience in boating is necessary.

If you would like further details please call Dave (H&GCT Member) on 07761 177529 after 7.00 pm.



## THE WHARF HOUSE *a fine blend of setting and dining ...*

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*Prior booking is advised.*

Morning coffee and cakes: **10 am – 12 noon**

Afternoon Tea and light bites: **3 pm – 5 pm**



**01452 33 2 900**

[www.thewharfhouse.co.uk](http://www.thewharfhouse.co.uk)

All profits from The Wharf House will be used for the promotion and restoration of the Hereford and Gloucester Canal.

# THE WHARF HOUSE

## A P P E A L

**T**his Appeal was launched in the previous edition with only a limited time for response (*and with Christmas and the New Year festivities in between!*). The Council of Management have therefore decided to repeat the request for assistance in this edition; we would greatly appreciate offers of *any kind* to help us with this specific project, *please*.

Not only will **THE WHARF HOUSE** contribute to the maintenance, management and improvement of the Canal (*now and in the long term*) it is also a very important 'unique selling proposition' that should set the H&G CT apart from the competing requests for funds when we apply for major Grant Aid for restoration of the Canal. *We hope that by understanding our approach our readers will appreciate why this building is every bit as important as restoring a small section of the Canal!*

The H&G CT has been acknowledged as leading the way in planning for self-sufficiency as a vital part of its promotion of the restoration/reconstruction of the H&G Canal. With the B&B, Tea Rooms/ Restaurant and Visitor facilities the building is unique within the UK inland waterways system; no other Canal Trust or Navigation Authority – large or small – (currently) owns such an asset. **Lady Knollys**, who until recently was **Chairman of the Inland Waterway Amenity Advisory Committee**, said:-

*"THE WHARF HOUSE is an excellent example of the Trust's initiative and demonstrates very well the concept of using waterside assets for public benefit ... it is very much the kind of project that IWAAC would want to see replicated across the whole of the inland waterway system."*

It is very important that we succeed and complete our work on the building as soon as possible - and preferably without recourse to significant commercial borrowing. Will you, your business (or one that you may be associated with) or, perhaps, your employer assist in one of the following ways, *please*:-

### Sponsor a Bedroom

£5,000 secures the right (*within reason!*) to name the room for 10 years and to maintain a company promotional folder in that room for the period of Sponsorship. The Sponsorship would also be acknowledged for the period within the Visitor Centre.

### Make a 'Soft Loan'

An interest free loan (*any amount from £800 upwards*) to be repaid in equal instalments between August 2010 and August 2017.

### Assist with the supply of materials

If your Company is willing to provide high quality bathroom fittings, bedroom furniture and furnishings etc at very keen prices then please do get in touch!

### Help us in any other way?

Please give details opposite.

On the facing page is a form – *please return it to Janet Moulton as soon as possible.*

Any shortfall will have to be secured by commercial loan with an impact on our day to day cash flow.

Thank you.

◆ CRP



to The H&G CT Chairman,  
Janet Moulton,  
18, Coningsby Court,  
Coningsby Street,  
Hereford,  
HR1 2DF

## THE WHARF HOUSE APPEAL

Please do not hesitate to contact Janet  
to discuss any aspect in greater detail.

I/we wish to express interest in supporting the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal  
Trust with the completion of the fitting out of <sup>THE</sup> WHARF HOUSE in the following way:-

### 1 Sponsor a Bedroom

(single donation, minimum £5,000).

I/we/my Company will sponsor a bedroom for 10 years; we wish to name the room

\_\_\_\_\_ OR we would not wish for any publicity ☐.

Please give your full details below\*.

### 2 Make a 'Soft Loan'

(any amount from £800 upwards).

I/we/my Company will make a 'soft loan' of £ \_\_\_\_\_ interest free on the  
understanding that it is repaid in equal instalments between August 2010 and  
August 2017. Please give your full details below\*.

### 3 Assist with the supply of materials

I/we/my Company wish to consider assisting with the supply of materials such as:-

\_\_\_\_\_ Please give your full details below\*.

### 4 Other ?

I/we/my Company wish to assist in the following manner:-

\_\_\_\_\_ Please give your full details below\*.

\*Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: (day) \_\_\_\_\_

Company (if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

(evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like us to send  
a replacement copy of

**The Wharfinger?**

☐

Thank you. We will contact you to discuss arrangements as soon as possible.

# FORMAL NOTICE OF 2007 AGM

TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY,  
AT THE ROYAL OAK, MUCH MARCLE, AT 7.30PM.

This is the formal Notice of the 2007 AGM in order to give Members the opportunity to make a note in their diary; this year the AGM will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July. The Agenda and the Annual Report will be in the next Edition of **The Wharfinger**.

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

welcomed and have to be made in writing, in a prescribed form.

Nomination forms are available from Janet Moulton [see *Contacts on the inside rear cover*] to whom they should be returned to arrive not less than 7 days nor more than 28 days prior to the AGM.

Every Member who is entitled to vote at an AGM may appoint a proxy to vote in his/her stead. A proxy must be someone entitled to vote at the meeting.

Proxy forms are also available from Janet Moulton and must be completed, signed and returned to her at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the AGM.

*Thank you.*

## A NATURAL EXPLANATION?

*John Chappell is another of our regular volunteers, working to help restore the H&G Canal for the long-term benefit of local residents and the wider community. However, as John describes here (in what is the first of a short series of articles), there is also an interesting benefit for our volunteers . . .*



Photo: John Chappell

Visitors to Oxenhall often comment on the youthful appearance of those helping with the restoration of the Canal. Despite the average age of the regular volunteers on a Tuesday of 70 plus this has always been attributed to fresh air, exercise and good company. Now another explanation can be revealed!

During the month of May our working environment is transformed by a plant which covers the area in a sea of blue. There has been much speculation as to the plant's name but it has now been established as belonging to the **Borage** family (and is in fact *Brunnera macrophylla*). This is not a native plant but has become naturalised, probably having escaped from the nursery which used to trade nearby.

Recent research now advocates the use of **Borage oil** as a potent anti-inflammatory, actively helping prevent signs of premature ageing. Borage also helps restore moisture and smoothness to dry and damaged skin.

So, now you know the secret of our youthful appearance! The plant is a perennial and we look forward shortly to enjoying its company when we shall again be putting it to good use. *Get your request for samples in early to avoid disappointment – or why not join us for the first hand experience – you will be made very welcome!*

◆ JC



# Severn Valley Boat Centre

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Following the H&G CT's purchase at auction of the numerous historical documents relating to the H&G Canal [see article on page 24 of edition 85 of

**The Wharfinger**] Council of Management Member,

Caroline Jones (whose 'day job' is in the Waterways Trust's archive

at Gloucester) willingly undertook the initial recording of the documents for us in her own time – and also ensured their safe-keeping. Following her evenings delving deeper into the collection we have now reached Caroline's sixth and final article giving more detail about some of the interesting documents that we purchased for just under £4,000.



5<sup>th</sup> instalment

## Miscellaneous

The last group of documents from the Bonhams Lot, bought by the H&G CT in 2005, can only be described as miscellaneous; they were all collected by Hubert Edy for one reason or another (and some seem more relevant to the Canal than others).

The first is a Notice advertising an auction at the *Exchange-Coffee-Room* on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1809. The items to be sold are those of a bankrupt and include shares in the Somerset Coal Canal, the Kennet and Avon Canal and the Globe Newspaper. Perhaps Hubert Edy was looking to increase his portfolio!

The next two are Notices to the public of Ledbury, one concerning "Trades' Unions" and another concerning an *efficient police* for Ledbury. The second is interesting because it is an answer to a handbill circulated to establish an *efficient police*. The respondent, who signs himself *A Fellow-Townsmen*, has no desire to change the policing of Ledbury asking *where are the Felonious Rogues of all sorts against whom an efficient police would be required to act?* He goes on to ask the inhabitants of Ledbury to *pause lest you create what, if it acted at all, would be, not an efficient, but, an officious police*. Strong stuff indeed! Did Hubert Edy perhaps sympathise with his point of view?

The next is a letter to the Harbour

Trustees at Banff, from a civil engineer named Thomas Afleck, dated April 1834. The letter concerns machinery for the removal of mud and sand bars from the mouths of navigable rivers and the publishing of a volume of notes and plans of the machinery. The publication will cost half a guinea and the letter is basically an effort to sell a subscription to the publication. It is possible that the Canal Company were interested in the machinery to clear the River Severn at the entrance to the H&G Canal at Over.

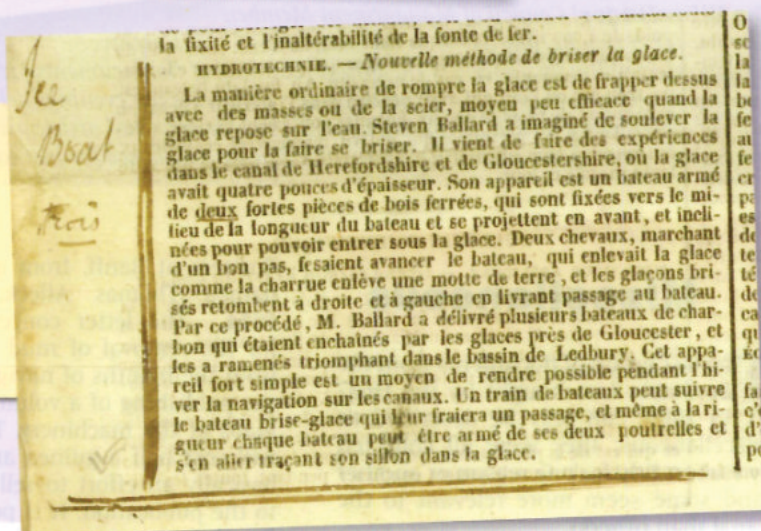
Following on from this we have a number of documents concerning the Rivers Severn and Lugg. The first is undated and is a draft petition from the Proprietors of the Canal Company in favour of a Bill to improve the River Severn. The Proprietors state that the canal is navigable while the River is not due to lack of water in the River, and that if a secure supply of water were available they would be able to extend their canal into Hereford, greatly increasing traffic. They are in effect arguing that an improved River Severn will improve trade on the canal and thus on the River; what is known as a win-win situation I believe! This is followed by a Severn Navigation Company document promoting improvement of the River Severn dated 1836. Although the Canal is not mentioned the document describes major improvement in the River by the construction of locks and weirs and the use of dredgers. Clearly these improvements would answer the earlier petition and be



*The surface of Water at in Leominster Canal } 36. 00  
at Leominster wharf*

Part of the document  
about the River Lugg  
dated April 1838.

Article in  
the French  
newspaper, **La  
Gazette de  
France**, also  
in 1838, about  
a novel new  
way of breaking  
ice. (translation  
opposite).



of benefit to the canal. A letter concerning the improvements, addressed to the Right Hon. Lord Hatherton, complements the document; the letter is dated February 6<sup>th</sup> 1837. The letter goes into some detail about the various improvements and attempts to answer another letter published about the improvements.

The document about the River Lugg is dated April 1838 and gives water levels in the River as measured by S Ballard at various bridges and other places along the Lugg. It mentions both the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal and the Leominster & Kington Canals and states that *The surface of the water in summit level of the H&G Canal will be 24 feet below the water in the Canal at Leominster.*

A very interesting document is a copy of a French newspaper *La Gazette de France* dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 1838. The paper contains an article about a novel method of breaking ice, now I don't speak French but the words Steven Ballard and le canal du Herefordshire et de Gloucestershire as well

as *le bassin de Ledbury* can be read. (See translation opposite)

The last of these miscellaneous documents is a Notice, in fragile condition, stating that the Proprietors of the Warwick and Napton Navigation intend to hold a meeting to discuss an agreement to convert their canal into a railway. This is dated October 7<sup>th</sup> 1845 and was obviously of interest to Hubert Edy bearing in mind the railway related documents discussed in the previous instalment of this series of articles.

The Bonhams Documents are deposited on loan at Gloucester Record Office to join our Railway Maps already held there. **Our archive is growing!** ♦ CJ

*Our repeated thanks to Caroline for the very considerable time that she has spent in cataloguing this important collection of historical documents and in writing what has been an exceedingly interesting series of articles for **The Wharfinger**.* ♦ Ed



### **Hydrotechnology – New method of breaking ice**

The most common way of breaking ice is to hit it with blocks or to saw it, which is not the most efficient way when the ice is sitting on water. Steven Ballard has thought of lifting the ice block, action which will break it. He has just experimented this in the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire canals, where ice was 2---- (2in) thick. His equipment consists of a boat mounted with two strong pieces of wooden railway (*railway sleepers*), fitted mid way on the length of the boat and going towards the front. They are inclined at an angle to penetrate the ice. Two horses, walking rather fast, pull the boat, breaking the ice as a cart would remove a clod. The broken pieces of ice fall on each side of the boat, enabling the boat to go through.

Using this method, Mr Ballard has freed several coal boats which were trapped in ice near Gloucester and has pulled them back into the Ledbury dock. This simple equipment is a way to enable boats to navigate on the canals during the winter. Several boats can follow the ice-breaker boat which will open the way. Another way would be to fit every boat with this type of equipment which would be able to open their own way through the ice.

Our thanks to Claire Varlet-Baker and Frederique Jouhandin for this translation of the newspaper article.

### *Donations for the Bonham's Sale Purchase*

*Now that we have reached the sixth and final article it is also appropriate for us to repeat our sincere appreciation to those Members and Supporters who have made generous donations towards the cost of our purchase:-*

Nigel Bailey, Gloucester £200  
Mrs Rosemary Ballard, Colwall £200

Caroline Jones, Lydbrook £200  
Mr Hugh Conway-Jones,  
Gloucester £200

The Ledbury and District Society  
£500

Mr Warren Marsh, Bristol £200  
Mr J Martin, New Radnor,  
Presteigne £250

Janet Moul, Hereford (*in memory  
of her late husband, Brian*) £500

Mr Robin Stiles, Bristol £250

Mr Michael Wright, St Albans  
£250

Together with smaller (but equally appreciated) donations we have raised a total of £2,930 towards the total cost of just under £4,000. *Thank you to all concerned.*

◆ Ed



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## The Skittles Social



**O**ur winters Skittles Social proved to be very popular with many of our volunteers and their families. To cope with the popularity, we ran three teams instead of just two. Which of the three teams knocked the most skittles down was hard to decide, as the main focus by that point was the arrival of a splendid buffet – this was seen as far greater importance!

Bernard Ingram, from our Oxenhall volunteers, was this year's highest scorer. After the buffet break, there was a very long game of 'killer'. It seems the players, by this time, were far more practised, and so the game went on until finally, Joe Restall, husband of gardener Annette, was declared the winner.

You could be forgiven for thinking these action shots show us skating, bowling, proposing, or even diving into the deep end! However, the best action shot has to be awarded to Barrie Haysman, for his kite flying impression!

◆ MJ



Photos: Ted Beagles and Maggie Jones



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by Tony Boonham

Regular readers will know that I write occasionally about our voluntary efforts – when I look back over the year its amazing what we have been given, some of it like new. *Thank you.* In addition to maintaining the hand tools much of our time is spent keeping all our machinery, used in maintaining the site, in working order. Also, some of you will have seen and perhaps had a short trip in our small trip boat **Mr Maysey** which, through strenuous efforts by the Wednesday gang, was refurbished in 2006.

During the past year we also got the ancient weed cutter boat repaired and working for the first time so that, with its twin weed cutting propellers, we managed to keep a large area of weed under control. This is a surprisingly complex operation and next year we are hoping to cut at the far end of the canal and so give the big carp their chance to take over weed control by eating the stuff! The restoration of the big Winget Cement Mixer was our next job; this machine had been out of action for some years. We stripped and cleaned it and, after quite a lot of work, it was ably reassembled with

help from Keith Wright and John Rogers (*John has an engineering background and is a recent recruit to the Engineering team.*) This old machine now runs very smoothly and safely. John has also recently stripped, cleaned and examined the pump section of our 3" Lister/Sykes Water Pump and he is now starting to reassemble it and we hope to soon have it operating at full efficiency.

Finding parts for the 55 year old Cement Mixer proved difficult but our thanks to **Mr Howard Jackson, Parts Manager from Winget Ltd** who provided us with an Operators manual and even blueprints! Secondly, thanks go to H&G CT Corporate Member **Simon Hayward from Ashleworth** who manufactured a new front axle and made a beautiful job of the Tilt handle assembly - not to mention a number of other small jobs through the year, and thirdly, to Henry who welded up the holes in the drum! **Victor Smith, the proprietor of Hartpury P.O.**, has been most generous in loaning us his Fiat flatbed truck on three occasions, which enabled us to transport materials that had been in a store that we had to relinquish. In October we learnt that **Chris Hanscombe, the owner of Gloucester Shop Equipment** and a long time supporter of the H&G canal, was about to retire as the lease on his workshop had expired. He most generously gave us some very professional electrical tools, a block and tackle, all sorts of nuts, bolts, shelving etc. Finally our thanks go to **Dave Hurran** who recently brought in a large number of miscellaneous tools, including a good number of gardening tools, which had been generously donated by **Mr Alan Vaux**, an Executor of the estate of the late Mrs Doris Thornton whose garden Dave used to look after. *Thank you so much.* Our gardening work around <sup>THE</sup> WHARF HOUSE continues to expand as, fortunately, do the number of volunteer gardeners and so a range of serviceable gardening tools is essential in addition to our other tools and equipment. ♦ **TB**



Putting the

'Can'

into **Canal !**

In the Summer Edition of **The Wharfinger** – back in 2003 – Gloucestershire Member Mark Bailey explained how he was collecting aluminium drinks cans, taking them to a local specialist aluminium scrap dealer from time to time, and sending the proceeds to our Treasurer. His article prompted Herefordshire Member Mrs Pamela Day to offer to act as liaison and transport for collectors south of Hereford City towards Ross and Monmouth (*Ed 78 page 23; Ed 80, page 15.*)

Since then Allan and Pamela Day have not only continued their personal collecting of discarded cans from their regular walks along the cycleway and footpath from their home into Hereford City but have also used their trailer to

collect quantities from a number of other H&G CT Members – *thank you.* These have been stored in their cellar awaiting a single delivery to the specialist scrap merchant where, hopefully, the larger quantity will attract a good price!

If you have been collecting aluminium cans, and live within a reasonable distance of Hereford, then please contact Mr & Mrs Day to arrange delivery or collection on 01432 275 443 or make contact by e-mail to [allan\\_day@lineone.net](mailto:allan_day@lineone.net).

Provided you get in touch before 24<sup>th</sup> March you should be in time to add to their current collection before it is taken to the dealer and turned into a worthwhile (and greatly appreciated) contribution towards H&G CT funds. *Thank you to all concerned.*

♦ CRP



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## GOODBYE KEITH

The Over Wednesday team are sorry to be losing Keith Wright after several years as a regular volunteer, come wind, rain, snow or sunshine. He and his wife Jackie are leaving Gloucester shortly to set up a new home in Brittany.

◆ TB



On his last day, Keith was waited upon by Wilf Jones – all part of the Service!

## SEVEN GONE!

In the last edition we invited bids for the set of seven latest **Nicholson's Waterways Guides** that had been donated to the Canal Trust. Thank you to our Gloucestershire Member who bid £110 for the set and collected them from **THE WHARF HOUSE** just before Christmas.

Also, our repeated thanks to the donor who was exceedingly pleased that his gift had been so successful in raising funds for the H&G CT.

◆ CRP

## LENGTHSMAN CHANGES

Due to sickness we have a new Lengthsman at both Over and Oxenhall. At Over Ted Beagles has taken over the Over Lengthsman's duties from Tony Boonham (*thank you, Tony and Ted*). Ted can be contacted on 01452 522 684. Also, Peter Moore has volunteered to take on this task at Oxenhall from Ken Anthony (*thank you, Ken and Peter*). Peter can be contacted on 01531 820 671.

◆ NB/BF

## MOWER PLEA(SE)

Having completed the masonry on House Lock, and well on the way to completing Phase 1 of the restoration of the Ell Brook Aqueduct, the Oxenhall Group have not taken their eye off the ongoing maintenance of the length of the Canal that is in the H&G CT's ownership. To help with this they need a rotary mower – is there a Member thinking of changing their present machine, who would be prepared to donate their old rotary mower to the Canal Trust, please? The contact is Brian Fox (01432) 358 628. *Thank you.*

◆ LP

## NAVVIES DEATHS ON THE CANAL?

In the next edition of **The Wharfinger** Nigel Jefferies delves into historic records to see if any Navvies were killed building Oxenhall Tunnel; the local church records being an obvious starting point – *if only the church hadn't been built after the Tunnel!* But Nigel doesn't let that put an end to the story...

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**16<sup>TH</sup> April, 2007**

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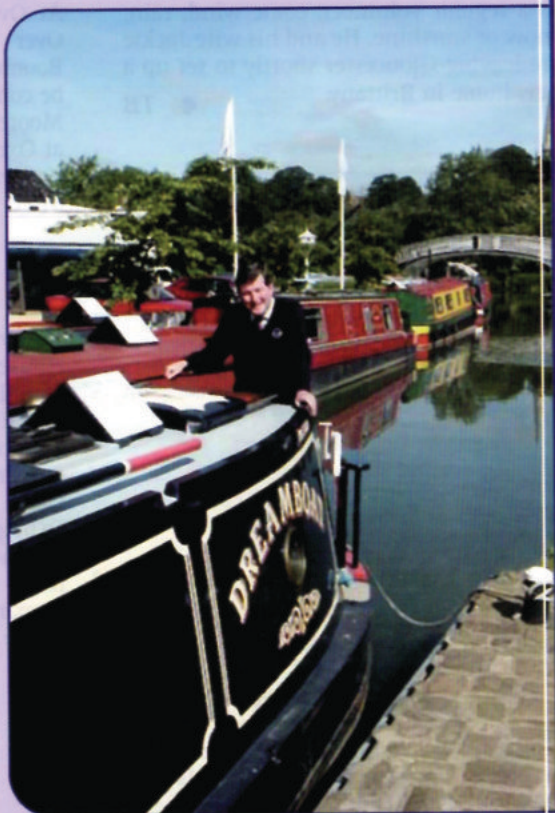
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## CONTACTS

**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 gardeners to first aiders, brickies to those willing to help with a shovel or pen.

**Contact any of these names TODAY!**

**Janet Moulton**  
18, Coningsby Court,  
Coningsby Street,  
HEREFORD,  
HR1 2DF  
Tel: (01432) 264 366  
jmoulton@tiscali.co.uk

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

*See Important Notice on p.7*

**Cliff Penny**  
"Coppice", Burley Gate,  
Hereford, HR1 3QS  
Tel: (01432) 820 420  
canal@penny-ep.co.uk

**David Penny**  
Tel: (01452) 332 900  
thewharfhouse@yahoo.co.uk

**Brian Fox**  
1, Holmer Hall Cottages,  
Roman Road,  
Hereford, HR4 9QU  
Tel: (01432) 358 628  
brianfox@tiscali.co.uk

**Nigel Jefferies**  
Tel: (01432) 850 661  
nigel.jefferies@virgin.net

**Nigel and Liz Bailey**  
Tel: (01452) 533 835  
nigel.bailey@blueyonder.co.uk

**Martin Danks**  
Tel: (01432) 344 488

**Maggie Jones**  
Tel: (01452) 618 010  
maggiejones@blueyonder.co.uk

Visit our Website ...  
**www.h-g-canal.org.uk**

**Wilf Jones**  
Tel: (01452) 413 888  
wilfred.jones@homecall.co.uk

**Ted Beagles**  
Tel: (01452) 700 476

**Peter Moore**  
Tel: (01531) 820 671

**Lucien Perring**  
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# The Wharfinger

## The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal

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

### THE CANAL TRUST

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 1,200 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 major restoration sites in each county, which together extend to some 3.5 miles.

