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Magazine of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust



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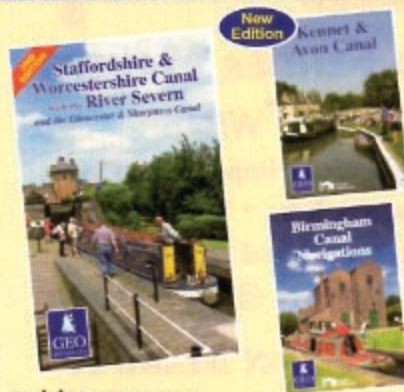
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FRONT COVER IMAGE

The new milestone at Yarkhill by Warren Marsh



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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Celebrating ... 25 Years along the Canal!



Since my last column exciting events have taken place within the H&G Canal Trust as we go from strength to strength.

At the AGM in July we welcomed Bernard Ingram as a co-opted Member to the Council of Management following the loss of Nigel Bailey, due to his move to Wales. Bernard is a regular volunteer at Oxenhall and Yarkhill and has many areas of expertise to offer (*how many Canal Trusts have a chainsaw wielding vicar on their Council?*). I am still your Chairman, so a few more columns to come – Cliff, I will try to get up to the required word count!

I had written my last column before the purchase of Llanthony was finalised. One of the frequently asked questions while out with the sales and displays is – *how are you going to join to the network* – now we can give a positive answer. It may be a number of years ahead but the route is there and in the meantime we have a steady income from the lock cottages and another area for our volunteers to get stuck into – scrub bashing, lock clearing and bridge painting.

Our 25th anniversary events continue to attract both members and non-members. A very enjoyable anniversary dinner at ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE was followed a month later with the buffet and lecture on Thomas Telford by Nigel Jefferies – his expert talk and enthusiasm for the subject made for another very good evening.

Permanent reminders of our 25th anniversary will be in place this summer with the unveiling of milestones at Yarkhill, Over and Oxenhall. These illustrate the diverse skills of our volunteers (*see how they were made on page 8*) – they will have more practice as we acquire more lengths of canal in the future!

Six months of major roadworks on the A40 at Over should not put you off visiting ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE and enjoy the riverside terrace – *I am hoping for a good autumn* – the less said about this summer the better . . .

Recent newspaper reports have quoted figures for the increase in canal-based tourism, not just for boats but as long green corridors. 34 miles from Hereford to Gloucester will be a wonderful addition to this network – to quote from **The Times**, "Canals are calming antidotes to the stresses of modern life. *Their past is our future*". Does that sound familiar? (*Our motto is on the inside cover of The Wharfinger*)!

♦ Janet Moulton, Chairman

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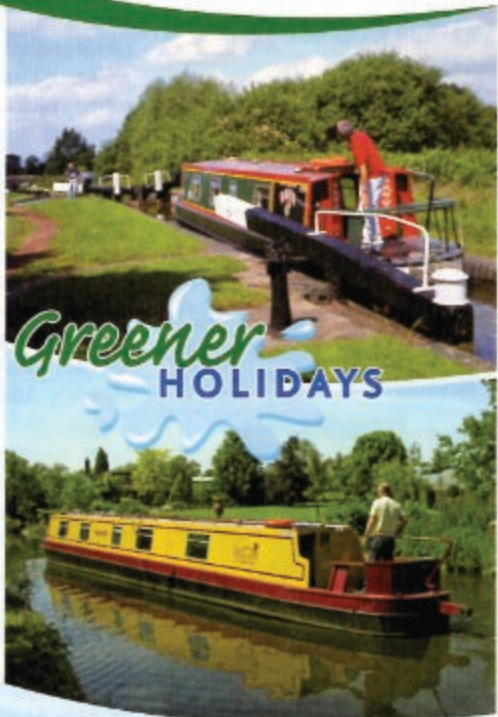
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It's just another challenge!

by Cliff Penny

Long-term readers, Members and supporters will know that our policy is not to have *any* problems, just a series of **challenges** – of differing sizes and grades of complexity! It is so easy to forget the many challenges that we have successfully overcome – some that others have considered insurmountable!

From the outset, the establishment of the original Canal Society was a challenge for the founding Members; but less complex than many that followed! Our subsequent Charitable Trust application just happened to be when the Charity Commissioners introduced an exceedingly complex upgrade to procedures. We became a "trial" of their very thorough new system – *after 18 months of hard voluntary work we succeeded!* Protection of the route of the entire 34 miles of Canal (and essential diversion routes) followed. Quite rightly, each (of what was then 7 Local Authorities) required convincing that we were a credible organisation with achievable long-term aspirations. A great deal of hard voluntary work, extending over a number of years (including a Public Inquiry), resulted in 'mission accomplished'. Plans for a Hereford Bypass, to the east of the City, would have blocked the Canal 2 miles short of the terminus. A major challenge by any standard and, for over a year, a considerable drain on our voluntary resources. A Public Inquiry decision that full provision should be made for the Canal, as a part of the Bypass costs, when (if) the Bypass was built to the east rewarded our *considerable* efforts. This decision subsequently helped to secure three new bridges in Hereford City – demonstrating that success in overcoming one challenge can present

other opportunities. *Many more challenges have come our way (large and small) and will do so in the future; talking of which ...*

We thought the summer floods of 2007, with the section of the A40 adjacent to THE WHARF HOUSE closed for two weeks in peak season, were quite a challenge ... thanks to hard work by all the staff, and a 'lost business' clause in our comprehensive insurance cover, last year was still a good trading year – continuing to build the business from strength to strength. *However, no-one could envisage that the same section of road would present a much bigger challenge this year!*

If you have approached Over from any direction in the past two to three months you will have come upon advance signs warning of major roadworks on the A40. Local radio traffic reports and the press reinforce the message – stay away whilst an additional (bus) lane is constructed and both carriageways are totally reconstructed. All traffic is running on a single carriageway contra-flow basis between the Over and Highnam roundabouts; no right turns are permitted. All visitors to the Canal (and THE WHARF HOUSE) from the Cheltenham, Gloucester or Ledbury direction have to drive all the way from one roundabout to the next – and then re-trace their steps virtually all the way back again! Instead of turning right 250 yards from Over roundabout they have to travel almost 3 miles! Whilst traffic from the Ross and Hereford direction (via Newent, Dymock and Highnam) can still turn left into the Over site they have to join the very slow moving contra-flow traffic to get there. Really helpful to our trade at THE WHARF HOUSE – *in particular as far as our growing*

lunchtime business trade is concerned, rather than being readily accessible, we may as well have re-located to Birmingham!

A huge amount of time has been spent talking to The Highways Agency, Gloucestershire County Council and other parties in order to try and minimise the effect of these works and to eventually get temporary direction signage to guide our intrepid customers to the door. On our part, changes were swiftly implemented to try to maintain income during the period of significant impact caused wholly by these roadworks. ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE extended opening hours to include Sunday and Monday nights, mounted a positive campaign in the local media and delivered promotional leaflets to selected areas with special discounts in order to tempt customers to make the journey. **Thanks to the steps taken, to 22nd July (the start of the floods last year) turnover was only 4% down.** However, our planned growth in business this year will not be achieved thanks to these

roadworks - and the work on fitting out the bedrooms has had to be dramatically scaled back, delaying this additional promotional and income resource.

The roadworks will continue until November (over 6 months in total). Please do visit ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE – whilst you should allow a little longer for your journey your support will be doubly appreciated by all concerned (*your discount voucher is on page 23*). Rest assured that the huge amount of work that has already been taken to build both the trade and reputation of ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE will start all over again in December ... the H&G Canal Trust is determined that ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE will be utilised to the full, as intended, to promote and contribute (in all respects) to the restoration of the H&G Canal. **Working together, we will overcome the challenge!** [Despite all this, there have been yet more excellent reviews of ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE in the media; the most recent in the September issue of *Cotswold Style*.]

◀ CRP



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Celebrating ...

25 Years!

Anniversary Events

Reports of Anniversary events:

Anniversary Dinner at ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE page 22

Yarkhill Open Day page 23

Over and Oxenhall Open days will follow in the next edition.

AYLESTONE PARK CANAL PROJECT

25TH Anniversary Celebrations

PARTY ON THE PARK

18th October 2008

The Aylestone Park Association announce that they are hosting a 'Party on the Park' to celebrate both the completion of the first stage of the works on Aylestone Park and the 25th Anniversary of the H&G Canal Trust.

Further details of entertainment and other arrangements were not available in time for inclusion here but will be announced in

the local press and on the H&G CT's web site – or can be obtained from **Martin Danks,** 01432 344 488.



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During the Council of Management discussions about the commemoration of the formation of the Canal Society 25 years ago it was decided to hold a number of events in both counties; CofM also considered it would be appropriate to celebrate with something that would be longer lasting.

As was common on many parts of the inland waterways system the H&G Canal had milestones marking each mile (and half mile) along its length. These consisted of a large sandstone block with a cast iron mileage plate at the top. Over the years most of the original milestones have disappeared although it was possible for measurements to be taken from 3 original stones; they were not precisely the same, probably due to the individual styles of the stonemasons involved.

It was decided that 3 replica milestones should be erected, one at each current active restoration site (Over, Oxenhall and Yarkhill) and they would be manufactured as close to the original pattern as possible. The stone itself was identified as a sandstone coming from the Forest of Dean and we were lucky enough to find a source in the Forest, the rough stone being purchased (at a discount rate) through the owner of **Cope's Quarry**, who left his card at **THE WHARF HOUSE** on a visit some time ago. *Once an offer of help is made it is filed away and never forgotten!*

ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES



Left: the three large rough sandstone blocks ready for shaping.

Above: Jeff Hopper dresses one of the milestones.

Right: A finished stone, complete with its mileage plate (cast from a wooden pattern made by Nigel Jefferies) for the Yarkhill site.

The stones have been dressed and shaped by the Oxenhall team, mostly Geoff Hopper, and CofM member Nigel Jefferies has made wooden patterns from which the mileage plates have been cast. They have made something which will hopefully last another 200 years or so!

It is intended to affix a small plaque to each stone, at a later date, indicating the reason for the erection and the date. The first milestone to be unveiled was at Yarkhill. The unveiling formed an important part of the Open Day there in August (see report on page 33). The milestone at Over followed (unveiled during the Open Day held there at the very end of August) and the third stone was unveiled at the Oxenhall Open Day in mid-September (just as we were going to press). Detailed reports and photographs of the Over and Oxenhall Open Days, and the milestone unveiling ceremonies, will be in the next edition of **The Wharfinger**.

Whilst this article has concentrated on the sandstone part of the mileposts the cast iron mileage indicator plaques form the other vital part of each milestone! In the next edition an illustrated article by Nigel Jefferies will tell us more about this part of the work.

◆ **BF/CRP**



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Llanthony Lock

"We have an interesting project for you at Llanthony"

That is how it was put to Paul Henshaw who is leading the work on our new acquisition in Gloucester.

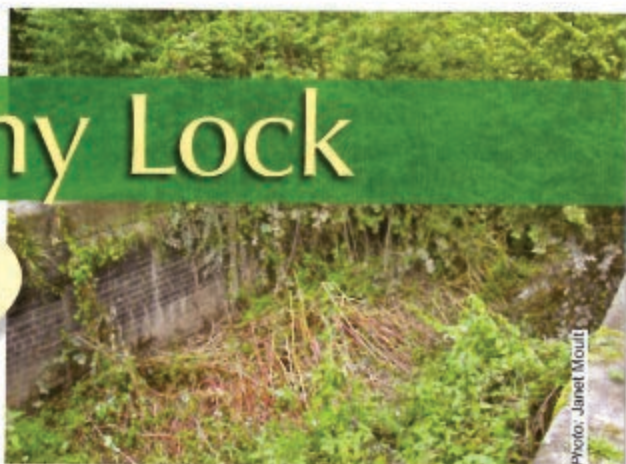
"My initial reaction was why Wales" said Paul!

From the very first visit to the new location, it was apparent that the site has tremendous potential for improvement for it to become a positive attraction in the local area.

Over the coming months we will be carrying out exploratory surveys and from these, developing specific work programmes which will not only stop the site from deteriorating any further but will start the long haul in realising its full potential.


Already it is clear that we will be carrying out some preventative maintenance on the cottages to ensure that they do not deteriorate for the winter. Other priorities include the creation of car parking facilities for volunteers and visitors to the site, and starting a regime to eradicate the Japanese Knotweed which is prevalent on the northern section by the lock area.

In the longer term we will be clearing all the undergrowth from around the lock to stop any further deterioration of the brickwork and the footbridge will need some attention.



Llanthony lock under a blanket of vegetation.

Photo: Janet Moulton

We are looking forward to building a team of volunteers to help. Initially we will be working on Tuesdays and then will extend this to Saturdays. So, if you have DIY skills or you just enjoy working out of doors for a change, give Paul a call on 01684 292 997. You will be made most welcome. There is something here for everybody and it is an ideal opportunity to get involved at the very start of the project.  **PH**

WE HAVE THE POWER!

Gloucester City Council has erected a new wind turbine just behind our two cottages by the lock at Llanthony. We have been able to support this sustainable resource by agreeing that they could connect their turbine to the National Grid by means of the supply at our cottages. This saved half the cost of installation and, in return, we receive the spare electricity whilst the Council has free power for its pump to keep the wetland on the island well watered. They also keep the "Renewable Obligation Certificates". A win for GCC and for H&G CT.



Photo: Maggie Jones

The wind turbine at Llanthony is 15 m high and will generate over 5 kw/h of electricity.

 **DRP**

RESTORATION at Oxenhall *by Brian Fox*



The top coping stones have now been laid to complete one side of the aqueduct.

If you have a few hours to spare on a Tuesday and like a breath of fresh air then why not call in at Oxenhall and see what we are doing?

Regular readers will be aware that our primary task at present is rebuilding the aqueduct which carried the H&G Canal over the Ell Brook. Bricks and stones (or masonry to be technically correct!) are what we work with and training can be given for those interested. It also involves pushing wheelbarrows, mixing mortar and concrete, cutting, lifting and transporting said stones and bricks to fit them in their requisite place on the wall. Not a job for the faint hearted and by the end of the day it is time for a hot bath and feet up. Anyway, you will be pleased to know that the aqueduct is nearing completion and if you really want to build up the muscles then don't delay. The top coping stones have now been laid to complete the upstream side and our efforts are directed at the other side. There is still a bit of work to do under the arch – where it can get a bit wet!

There are many other jobs which we

tackle, mainly associated with maintenance of the length of canal which has already been restored. It was reported in the last issue that the spillweir over the temporary dam below the Cottage was not coping with excess water and would need to be redesigned and built. Martyn, who has some experience in working



Hedging, laid last winter, has burst into growth.

with water, came up with a design for a new weir and started on the construction together with Keith and Peter. This involved a lot of earth moving, relaying a new channel lined with more of the bricks and blocks retrieved from Over, on a bigger scale than the original, and with 3 overflow pipes feeding into it. All we need now is another July deluge to test it - well *October would be better!* By the way, there are now hundreds of fish (mostly rudd, I think) in the pound which was only refilled in March. *We suspect a bit of restocking has been going on.*

Another maintenance job is, of course, just cutting the grass and trimming hedges to keep the towpath clear. Potholes and general unevenness in the track to the Cottage are levelled so that vehicles are not inconvenienced. More substantial hedge/tree maintenance is undertaken (out of nesting season) and is quite popular on a winter's day – especially with a bonfire thrown in for good measure. I can report that the experimental hedging which was laid last winter has now burst into growth along the full length so we shall be continuing with this work next winter. Lucien's cuttings have also started to shoot so they will be used to fill any gaps in the hedge.



STOP PLANKS

Replacement of the stop planks at the lock has now been put high on the agenda. On close inspection it was discovered that the top one was rotting and the next one down: not much better so they have now been removed, lowering the water in the pound by about 8". A search is now going on for a sawyer to cut some lengths of more appropriate timber. While the water is lower it is not flowing over the spillweir and through the culvert under the Cottage so we shall take the opportunity to inspect the lining of the culvert and also relay the bricks on the spillweir because they are coming loose. The culvert under the towpath will also be inspected. And, finally, some repairs must be made to the canal bank where the swans are accessing the water and wearing away the ground! We can't afford to have cars sliding off the track to the Cottage and into the canal!

Our top priority at the moment is shaping three commemorative milestones which are to be located at our 3 active restoration sites and unveiled this summer as part of the 25th Anniversary Celebrations. *Further details are in the article on page 8.* We didn't imagine the masonry skills that we have learnt at Oxenhall would assist the H&G CT to create replica milestones – and another stone has been inscribed with initials and the date for insertion into the structure of the aqueduct when it is finished.



Two stop planks have been removed from the lock.

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If there is nothing to appeal so far then how about some maintenance of various bits of machinery? We do not have any mechanics among us at Oxenhall at the moment but basic servicing is undertaken on the tractor, saw bench, cutting wheel, mowers, strimmer, concrete mixer, etc. Speaking of which our concrete mixer finally gave up the ghost and could not be cajoled into working again so, after mixing tons concrete at the lock (and more recently for the aqueduct), it has to be scrapped. The word was put about and John Forrest discovered an electric one in his back garden (which was in the way!) so he kindly donated it to the Canal Trust – and, as we already had a portable generator to power it, that should see us through to the end of the aqueduct – which is what matters for the moment. I must point out that this all happened the week before John got married and went off on honeymoon! *Thanks John and please come back soon, we are working up a programme which requires your skills.*

COME AND SEE !

If any of the above appeals to you then please come to Oxenhall on a Tuesday to introduce yourself, or have a word with me on the 'phone beforehand if you wish.

For those who don't like (or are unable) to participate in the physical stuff then there is much background work to be done and those of us who sometimes like to get dirty, wet and cold couldn't continue without this essential input – so if you are prepared to use your negotiating or other professional skills to assist our progress please get in touch with Janet Moulton, or any of the team mentioned on the inside back cover, to discuss. And if you are unable, for any reason to get further involved, then please continue to pay your subscription and just read about us in **The Wharfinger!** *Armchair Members are an essential part of the composition of the Canal Trust and the more Members that there are then the more influence we have when promoting the ongoing restoration of the H & G Canal.*



Photo: Brian Fox

The donated concrete mixer is put to good use.

As Brian says ... if you haven't already done so, pick up a leaflet today and help us restore this Canal by joining the Trust or recruiting a new Member!



Membership forms are available from **The Wharf House** or Membership Secretary, Nigel Jefferies. (see inside back cover)

Work at **Yarkhill** *by Chris High*



Welcome to 'New Boy' Paul Hatt, who comes complete with his own vintage tractor!

At Yarkhill the last three months has seen a mixture of rain and warmth resulting in rampant growth of vegetation. Much strimming, mowing and ditch clearance has taken place *but, in the short term, nature is winning!* Paul Hatt is a welcome addition to our team. *Paul comes with an added asset – a vintage tractor with topper and side bar cutting facilities!* The top of the towpath, canal

and ditch bank has already been cut and 500 yards of the dry canal bed mown.

Despite the maintenance workload, 'wildside' restoration has still been moved forward. Willows that were already on the ground have been cleared, stumps have been dug and pulled, and logs moved to storage at the site hut. Soil deposits have been dug and moved to the site hut dam and bumps and dips

Below: A large tree stump is removed.

A considerable improvement here ...



levelled. We now have a 310 yard stretch of reasonable access which will assist further restoration. Plans are being made to carry out digger work and to prepare for this a height survey of towpath, canal bottom and 'wildside' bank has been carried out. The results showed less variance than visual inspection suggested – but could also indicate that the towpath has settled and could need raising along its whole length.

The towpath has also attracted our attention with the addition of hardcore in several wet places, the planting of two donated horse chestnut trees on the ditch bank and the preparation of the milestone site. Coppicing of two years ago is now bearing fruit and hawthorn 'hedge' trimming has been started.

Visitors continue to appreciate our work at Yarkhill and we were pleased to be part of the **Herefordshire Walking Festival** when we took twenty-two walkers from Kymin through to the River Lodon and back.

Our sincere thanks to all the landowners not only for allowing access but also for the considerable preparatory work that they carried out.

◀ CH

and here...



Above: Twenty two visitors from the **Hereford Walking Festival** enjoyed their walk along the Canal.

Below: Bernard Ingram uses his new chainsaw qualifications to make a useful branch from a fallen tree



Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally

No one can ever say that Janet Moulton is other than a most active Chairman of the H&G CT (and of the Canal Trust's Trading Companies). She also has a myriad of other roles within the Canal Trust as well (not forgetting writing for **The Wharfinger**). Here we learn that Janet is also an early riser . . . !

Herefordshire was looking beautiful at 5.30am on June 28th. I was on my way with a loaded car to the Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally in Northamptonshire. After meeting up with Member Steve Bence (and a welcome cup of coffee) we went to set up the H&G CT stand at Braunston Marina. The marquee was alongside one of the wharves – probably the nearest to a narrowboat at any show I have attended.

The weather was great (no rain on the Saturday) and the crowds were out in force. A wedding was blessed on one of the boats and the boat parade needed the skills of the owners to manoeuvre 72 ft narrowboats into 73 ft spaces!

I went off for an early lunch and came back to find a cheque for £200 had been presented to the H&G CT by long-standing supporter Tim Coghlan, owner of Braunston Marina, and David Suchet (thank you).

Close of show, return to Steve's, a welcome break



Braunston Church is a well known waterways landmark overlooking Braunston Marina.

and then a drive back to Hereford. Derek Weaver and Penny Shetliffe travelled up on Sunday and met up with Des Pick (our demon draw ticket seller) and another good day ensued. The displays and stock were packed up and returned by Penny to my garage. What a change – they were dusty but *not muddy!*

♦ JM



Steve Bence (centre) is presented with the cheque by Tim Coghlan (left) and David Suchet.

Photos: Paul Bennett

The **Crick Boat** Show 2008

Our regular readers will see two familiar names here - one of our annual Trading Company visits is to Northamptonshire where we have been an exhibitor to (what is now called) the Crick Boat Show since its inception many year ago. Our display, and the volunteers who 'man' it, are made very welcome on site - just as this contribution to **The Wharfinger** is welcomed from our immediate past Chairman, Dick Skeet.

What is it with the Crick Boat Show? The first year was *flooded out*. Two years ago there was a *major fire* nearby which meant many visitors were unable to reach the site. Last year it was *so cold* that the trip boats were prevented from running because the canal had frozen over. (I exaggerate, but only a little - certainly no one would have wanted to be on a trip boat anyway!)

But 2008 was brilliant, the jinx was broken. After setting up on Friday, the first day of the show dawned with blue skies and warm sunshine. This year was going to be different. *Unless, of course, you had heard the weather forecast...*

Saturday was busy, with a steady stream of people coming to our stand,

even spending their money and showing interest in 'our' canal. And then there was Sunday when the rain started. **Stair rods, coming sideways.** One of the advantages of being in the large marquee was that it was dry inside and for much of the day we entertained good numbers of (very soggy) people escaping from the elements outside. It must be the Crick Boat Show - with business as usual!

The Monday Bank Holiday morning, however, was dry, the wind having blown away the worst of the rain overnight. Unfortunately it had also blown away some of the smaller marquees and rendered the larger ones too dangerous for public access. At 10.15 the order was given by the show organisers to pack our belongings immediately and **evacuate the site.** *The show, quite literally, was over.*

On a more positive note we are pleased to report that takings over the two days this year were actually up on the three days of last year and an ever increasing interest was shown in the H&G Canal. Our thanks to all those who supported us over this memorable weekend.

Next year? *I suggest moving Crick to the Canal du Midi - or would that be too warm?*

◆ **DS**



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Hartpury

College Open Day

In a clever test of our versatility, and with the success that we had at the Tall Ships event at Gloucester Docks, Janet 'entrusted' the Gloucestershire volunteers with the running of our Trust Stand at this year's Hartpury College Open Day.

Having never visited the college before we were a little naive as to the best place to pitch our gazebo. *'Just go along that row and when you find a space set up your stand'*, we were told by a friendly event organiser. Well, the first place was found and we prepared to off load the equipment but were stopped by *'you can't pitch there, move elsewhere.'* by fellow traders.

We moved on up the row; lovely view of the events arena and surrounding countryside. We set up the stand, expecting more people to arrive further along. But no, we were at the end of the line. Not the best place for the greatest foot-fall past our stand. Most visitors got as far as the giant beef burgers and hot dogs and turned around.

The nice man on the loudspeaker noticed. *'Do not forget the stands at the end'* he said and listed us all included a plug for THE WHARF HOUSE.

The sun was glorious, the dog agility display entertaining, but trade was sluggish. I grabbed some Grand Holiday Draw Tickets and headed off to the man with the loudspeaker. *'Oh'*, he announced, *'I am being handed something here'* He read out the tickets in detail and encouraged people to come to us. It worked! Several people were back at the stand by the time I got back and we also sold them to visitors whilst they paused over their giant beef burgers. What we lost in other trade we sort of made up for in draw tickets!

◀ MJ

Saul

Boat Show

Again the Gloucester volunteers were allowed out with the Trust Stand! We had a couple of experienced team members on the Saturday, Barbara and Ray Moses.

Last year saw this event cancelled with flooding, so it was good it was able to be held this year. Janet had wisely booked a space in the marquee. The weather was changeable and the wind became strong. Several gazebos had to be taken down so we were glad to be safe in the marquee.

There was a good steady flow of visitors over the two days and a lot of interest shown in our Canal, especially the Llanthony purchase. We gained eight new Members and again sold plenty of Draw tickets and copies of **The Wharfinger**. Our hosts, Cotswold Canals Trust, made us feel very welcome, *thank you*.

◀ MJ

THE TRADING COMPANY
H & G Canal Sales

Remaining outings for 2008

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

Please contact Janet Moulit if 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

September 13 Newent Onion Fair

September 14 Leominster Vintage Show

October 19 Oxenhall Apple Day

November 8 Ledbury Craft Fair

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.

Janet has put together some great topics for you to enjoy over the next few months. We look forward to seeing you there.

SEPTEMBER 16TH

River Severn part 1

Brian Draper

We start a trip along the Severn – you will have to wait until next year for the second part!

NOVEMBER 18TH

By canal to Switzerland

Jeremy Coles

a trip abroad on a winter's evening

OCTOBER 21ST

Wild in West Wales

Les Kedward

Superb photography for our natural history evening

DECEMBER

Please note: no meeting in December.

For the Inland Waterways Association Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Branch meetings please see page 28.



Photo: Maggie Jones

Just some of the large audience who attended a 2008 Social Evening.



Please see page 7 for information about our forthcoming
25th Anniversary Celebration Events.

THE WHARF HOUSE

CANAL TRUST ANNIVERSARY DINNER

THE WHARF HOUSE hosted the Trust's Anniversary Celebration Dinner in early July. Nigel Jefferies, a Member for all those 25 years, warmly welcomed the diners and applauded the work and time given by the Trust's volunteers.



Top right: Nigel Jefferies addresses the assembled diners.

Above and below: The Members and their guests enjoy the Anniversary meal.



Photos: Dick Skeet

BRISTOL AUSTIN 7 CLUB



Photo: Ray Moses

Earlier in the year the Bristol Austin 7 Club met at THE WHARF HOUSE for coffee during their St. George's Day run. H&G CT Members Ray and Barbara Moses now own this 1930 Austin 7 which was driven from Peking to Paris, in the summer of 2007, by drivers Kip and Carmen Waistel of Hereford to raise money for charity.

TASTE

THE WHARF HOUSE played a major role in the local food fair, **Taste**, at Gloucester Docks in August. Mr Elgie's fruit juices from the banks of the Canal at Oxenhall and the wines from Strawberry Hill Vineyard were featured. Also on the stand, were tempting nibbles from THE WHARF HOUSE's own kitchen and a display promoting the objectives of the Canal Trust.

CHRISTMAS MENUS



THE WHARF HOUSE has launched its enticing seasonal menus for Christmas Parties. These can be viewed on www.thewharfhouse.co.uk. Or, if you prefer, phone 01452 332 900 for further details, and to book.



Photo: Gloucester Citizen

THE WHARF HOUSE staff member, Natasha Turvey, helps to promote the restaurant and some of our local producers at Taste.

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OVER *Update*

by Barrie Haysman



The ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE sits well with the nearly completed 'Skew Gardens' in the foreground.

The summer quarter has been a demanding one again with most of the rain seemingly falling on the Wednesday volunteer days, and with our gardeners playing 'catch up'. The rain and sunshine is perfect growing weather, which is bad news for us, speeding the growth of the vegetation! It has been a major task just to keep pace with cutting the grass and strimming round the hedges and the flood plain – with planting in the flower beds and grass seeding thrown in for good measure. And the willow beds are thriving so Mike is now looking for more outlets to sell them to.

Most of the bird boxes are now in use with second clutches in some of them, it's so nice to see many new varieties of small birds coming to the Over site (which does have some drawbacks for them because it has also attracted a kestrel to hunt on the site!). The Kingfishers have sensibly moved their nest from under the 'Bailey' bridge to the bottom of the site away from any danger posed by the cats from the nearby houses.

^{THE} WHARF HOUSE project has moved its attention to the maintenance of the

external paintwork. We have rubbed down the annex door, the front door and that to the visitor centre, undercoated and completed two top coats. We have also started painting the restaurant doors, rubbing them down and the first undercoat has been applied. At the same time we took time to repair some earlier damage to the doors.

The build of the balcony has progressed to a point nearing completion. The side railings and side floor panel has been welded in place and the flooring has been sealed and waterproofed. The underside of the balcony (which is over the entrance to the Visitor Centre) has been given its first coat of paint and a plaque fixed to the front commemorating the handing over of the shell of ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE to the H&G CT in 2005.

The construction of 'Skew Gardens' has continued to progress to a point that you can see the completed walls and the coping stones on top. The gardens have been 'soft' landscaped and contoured, from the new walls to the edge of the path, shaping the earth into a marked 'v' shape. 30 wheelbarrow loads of wood chip have been moved from the car park

and spread on the earth and the first of many shrubs planted.

Hartpury College has been bringing horticultural students to site to assist (*thank you!*). They have built a herb garden for ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE and started planting it. Another of their projects has been building a floating moorhen island (of pallets and straw bales) in the canal basin - and in any spare time they have also assisted our volunteer gardeners in cutting grass and strimming those areas that needed it.

Our 'mechanical' crew have been very busy and had some notable successes. A water pump and outboard motor which had been submerged during the floods of 2007 have been stripped down and new components fitted; we can report that they are now running well. We had a minor hiccup starting the water pump, in the absence of John we used a *left handed* starting handle so we put a lot of effort into turning over the engine, used a lot of quick start fuel and failed miserably. *The next week we found the right-handed handle and it started first time of turning!*

Bridge Training (working for the Job Centre) have been providing the Over site with up to 8/9 volunteers on a Mondays and Thursdays. They have been doing various works around the site. They have dug a pathway across bottom of ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE bank, removing the hardcore which was hard work. Another task given to the Bridge Training crew has been continuing the chipping path down to the end of the canal basin. With the round trip now being 900 yards the moving of the wheelbarrow loads of chippings has become a marathon! *This work was led, believe it or not, by a gentleman named Elvis Presley - so we can now tell everyone that "Elvis has not left the building" and that he is alive and well working for the H&G CT!*

◀ BH

Right: The marathon wood chip moving and tow path laying is completed by volunteers from the Bridge Project.



BEFORE

As work began on the footings to the wavy walls.



NOW

The wavy walls of 'Skew Gardens', with the coping stones in position.

Below: 'Skew Gardens' showing soft landscaping and a good position for a bench.



"Elvis Presley is alive and well working for the H&G CT"



Farewell to a friend – ROY JAMIESON

It is with much sadness that we report the death of one of Over's volunteers, **Roy Jamieson**.

As a young man from the North East, Roy trained as a teacher but gave up teaching for a preferred life working on the canals for British Waterways. He had a fantastic knowledge of the waterway system and in later life, as his health deteriorated, he took up a job at the Waterways Museum in Gloucester working on the archives for the Waterways Trust. He had many stories about life on the canals and hopefully some of this knowledge will be passed down for generations to come.

Roy worked with us for a number of years, building the Basin at Over, landscaping the area around the Basin and then working with the volunteers on the fit-out of ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE. He was a true volunteer, who would turn his



hand to any task required despite not being of the best of health. He suffered from kidney failure some years previously and although a transplant gave him some years of reasonable health, his last few years were controlled by three trips a week to the hospital for kidney dialysis.

Roy had a love of painting and woodwork. He also taught himself the keyboard and joined a choir in his later years. Roy leaves two sons, Simon and Alistair, their wives, Carrie and Vicky and three granddaughters. The family have asked that instead of floral tributes, donations can be made in memory of Roy to either **'The Cotswold Dialysis Unit'** or **The Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust'**. *Thank you.*

All donations should be made via Co-operative Funeralcare, Northampton.

◆ MJ



The neatly trimmed grass and freshly laid woodchip towpath makes a pleasant walk at Over.

THE COURTYARD TURN THEIR SPOTLIGHT ON YARKHILL

Senior Managers at The Courtyard, Herefordshire's Centre For The Arts, had a team building day with a difference recently – when they volunteered to go down and get dirty with our volunteers at Yarkhill. Vanessa Winters, the Courtyard's Sales and Marketing Manager, describes their day on the H&G Canal . . .

The idea came about after the H&G CT hosted a very successful evening at the popular Hereford city venue, with screenings of rare and archive footage of the old canal and rail networks which once linked the two cities, as well as much of the country. **Courtyard** Operations Manager, Alex Green, who worked with the Canal Trust to help organise their event earlier this year, explains, "Our senior management team had been discussing ideas for a team-building day for a while, but we couldn't agree on an event which suited us all. Helping the Canal Trust seemed like a fantastic idea – not only did we have to work as a team to clear our designated section of the old canal, but we were also able to play a part in the restoration of a wonderful part of our local heritage."

So, on a sunny Thursday in July, the 9 members of The Courtyard's senior management team donned wellies and gardening gloves and trekked with rakes, shovels, saws (and sandwiches and flasks of tea!) to a peaceful 900m stretch of the old canal at Yarkhill. Under the watchful



Courtyard managers report for 'scrub-bashing' at Yarkhill

Photo: Vanessa Winters

guidance of Chris High, volunteer co-ordinator for the Yarkhill site, the team set to work cutting back scrub, raking out the canal banks, and tidying the old towpath. 7 hours later, the dusty and dishevelled team were rewarded with a freshly-cleared section of old canal, and another small milestone for the Canal Trust as the restoration work continues.

Courtyard Chief Executive, Martyn Green, comments, "It was a very successful day and I'm delighted that we were able to play a small part in supporting another deserving local charity. As a charitable organisation ourselves, we know just how vital the role of volunteers and supporters is, and we certainly got a lot out of our day. I would recommend it to other local organisations looking for something that bit different as a team-building day!" ♦ VW

We greatly appreciate corporate team building visits such as this (see the report on another recent team building visit to Oxenhall on page 29). Apart from making a small but important contribution to our progress it also increases awareness of the H&G Canal (and of our voluntary work on it) whilst forging links between the business community and the Canal Trust. Such visits are welcome at any of our restoration sites – please contact the relevant co-ordinator (see inside front and back cover for Contacts) to discuss. – Ed.



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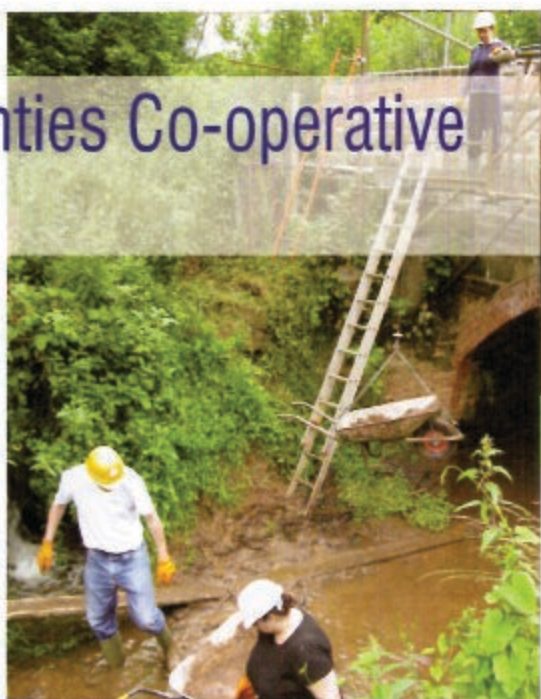


The Mid Counties Co-operative at Oxenhall

In July we had a visit by volunteers from the **Mid Counties Co-op** who were looking for some voluntary work to get them away from their office environment. They are allowed so many hours per year and are keen to take advantage of any such concessions given by their employer. Similar groups have worked on numerous tasks at Over, but we have not had any such group at Oxenhall before. A few of them came to look at the site a couple of months ago and were shown some potential jobs which they could be involved in so they went away to think about it! They soon got back to us to say that there were about 8 of their staff who had shown an interest in what we had to offer and a date was fixed.

On the day only 4 could attend, 3 ladies and a gentleman colleague. The job we had planned involved working in the bed of the Ell Brook to clear excess deposits of soil which had accumulated over the years and were impeding the smooth flow of the water through the aqueduct. This had been highlighted last July when the rains came and we had floods all over the place including Oxenhall. So here we were, exactly one year after, keeping our fingers crossed that the rain would keep off and the water level would be low enough to work in safely.

Fortunately the water level was at its lowest of this summer so far, and there was no need to consider the jobs we had in reserve. Our electric hoist was set up on the scaffolding and after a Health and Safety briefing, and demonstration of how to work the hoist, our visitors were left to get on with the task. They were dedicated to the work and determined to get on with the job and have something to show for their efforts at the end of



the day. Meal breaks were convivial affairs with a chance to chat to the local volunteers – but no longer than was absolutely necessary. They had all put in a great effort and worked very well as a team. A considerable amount of soil was been barrowed away, although there is still plenty left for the next team which we have been promised will be coming next month. Well done and thank you ladies (and not forgetting Michael who did his share) and we look forward to your next visit.

◀ BF



Photos: Brian Fox



THE ELL BROOK

*Our regular reports on restoration at Oxenhall frequently refer to our work on the aqueduct spanning the Ell Brook – just one of the many natural obstacles that were successfully overcome 200 years ago when the navigation was first constructed. Oxenhall volunteer (and a regular columnist in **The Wharfinger**) John Chappell decided to delve deeper into this watercourse . . .*

The Ell Brook (the name is said to be derived from 'elm') rises on the slopes of May Hill, a well known local landmark easily recognised by its top-knot of trees. The brook is fed by several tributaries rising in Kilcot, Gorsley and around Four Oaks, a total catchment area of some 16 square

miles. During heavy rainfall the local red sandstone is capable of absorbing huge amounts of water and when saturation point is reached this is rapidly released, resulting in a flash flood through the narrow valley running down to Oxenhall (just outside the town of Newent).

At the H&G Oxenhall site the Ell Brook has carved a 15ft deep channel and in times of flood the water can rise from 6ins deep to bank high in a couple of hours. When this section of the canal was built, in 1795, the depth of the channel through which the brook flowed required an aqueduct to be built to carry the canal over it. When our restoration of this stone aqueduct was first considered the initial survey suggested that the deterioration and extent of collapse of each face was so severe that it was beyond repair and would have to be demolished. Further expert assessment suggested otherwise and our restoration work took high priority before further deterioration occurred.



Ell Brook Aqueduct with our steel former in place at the height of the flood.

Work had to be postponed on more than one occasion as, when the Ell Brook was in full spate, it was a force to be reckoned with! In the past scaffolding has been swept away and deposits of stone and silt washed down from upstream making it difficult, in the early stages, to work from the river bed. As reported in **The Wharfinger**, despite these hazards, when conditions allowed, restoration work continued and is now almost complete, a credit to all involved. There is still much to be done in the area and wet winters will always hamper progress on site. Summers too are likely to be wetter if global warming forecasts



A live willow fence keeps the bank stable adjacent to Ell Brook Aqueduct.

are correct and it seems likely the '*angry red water*', written of by locally born poet John Masfield, will be seen more often throughout the valley!

The Ell Brook waters used to be sufficient to drive several mills along its length, the first being Crookes' Mill close to the site of the present work in Oxenhall. There is nothing left of this today, it was demolished in 1896 when a pumping station was built. A further six mills were supported by the brook before it reached Malswick and along this section the canal closely followed the brook. In the days when goods produced by the mills were transported to their various destinations by the H&G Canal the valley must have been a hive of industry.

Several mills survived (though not working) until the Second World War when many pieces of the mill machinery were claimed for scrap metal. Malswick Mill itself was an exception, and was still in use in 1945 despite being in a poor state, and some remains having been converted to private dwellings.

Curiously after the mill at Malswick the Ell Brook becomes known as the Leachford Brook which eventually joins the River Leaddon at Limbury. The last section of the Leaddon runs close to the H&G Canal, at our Over site, where its waters are discharged into the River Severn a short distance upstream of **THE WHARF HOUSE.**

◆ JC

A NATURAL EXPLANATION?

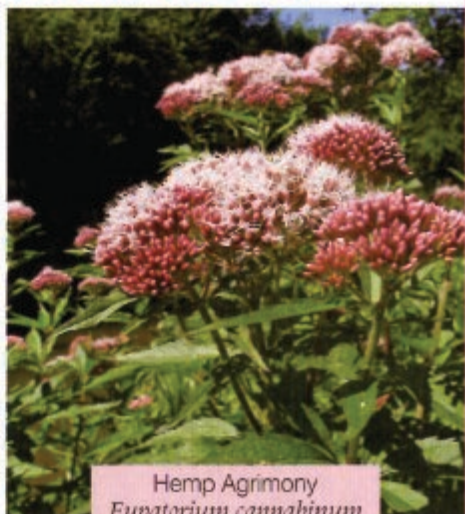
John Chappell, one of our regular restoration volunteers, continues his series about nature in the Oxenhall area. When I heard that this time we were covering a plant with links to cannabis he had me worried – and it might explain how some of our Oxenhall volunteers keep on going, regardless of what the weather throws at them . . . and, thanks to John, we now know there certainly is no excuse for them to stay at home if they have a feverish cold – the cure is on site!

E*upatorium cannabinum* or Hemp Agrimony is perhaps one of the most striking plants growing by the side of the canal at Oxenhall.

The plant is a very handsome, tall-growing perennial and is common on the banks of rivers and ditches which tells us that it needs a damp situation to thrive. Blooming in late summer and early autumn the flowers are arranged in crowded masses at the top of the stems and the leaves are similar to that of Hemp, hence both the English name and the Latin specific name which is derived from cannabis. Unfortunately for us volunteers the resemblance ends there!

Loved by bees and butterflies it is avoided by rabbits, sheep and cattle, in fact it is said that only goats will eat it.

Medicinally it can be used as a cure for feverish colds and influenza using a homeopathic tincture or, more simply,



Hemp Agrimony
Eupatorium cannabinum

Photo: John Chappell

a tea made with boiling water poured on dried leaves; this is said to give prompt relief at the onset of catarrh or influenza.

Eupatorium cannabinum is a useful plant for the back of the garden border and is easily raised from seed sown in the spring in a cold frame or even straight in the ground. There is an attractive double form sometimes encountered in garden centres.

Next time you visit Oxenhall check for this plant, there is some growing both above and below the lock, it's worth looking out for!

♦ JC



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Yarkhill Open Day



Above: Chris High welcomes visitors to the unveiling of the Yarkhill milestone.



Mrs Clews unveils the milestone with Chris High.

A very successful Open Day was held at Yarkhill as part of our 25th Anniversary Celebrations in August. A number of guided walks along the canal towpath were organised together with the unveiling of the first of three milestones along the line of the H&G Canal.

The milestone at Yarkhill was very kindly unveiled by local landowner Mrs Clews, who said she was very honoured to be asked to perform the unveiling ceremony. She expressed her admiration for all the

hard work and improvements that were being made to enhance the Canal, providing an attractive walk for everyone at Yarkhill, and that she and her husband always enjoyed their walks along the towpath.

Early Sunday morning preparation included reclaiming the wind-blown gazebo from the field on the opposite side of the Canal! Despite this, and spells of rain, over sixty visitors enjoyed the unveiling ceremony, including subscribers to the H&G Canal Restoration Fund (see report on page 34). More than one-hundred and fifty visitors called at Yarkhill Village Hall to see the exhibition and take refreshments – and in excess of 100 braved the weather and enjoyed the walks along the Canal.

◆ CD/CH



Photos: Warren Marsh and Colin Dymott

HAPPY RETIREMENT!

David and Helen Dawson have for many years supported the H&G CT both in the form of Corporate Membership and with full page advertising for their highly successful **CanalCraft (Boat Sales)** and associated businesses – in more recent years based at Dobsons Wharf, Shardlow, Derbyshire. They have recently advised us that they are retiring and that the business has been sold; we wish David and Helen a long and happy retirement.

Closer to home Hereford advertiser **Peter Bell** has announced that he is closing his well regarded office supplies business and retiring; thank you for your support, Peter, and we wish you and your wife a very happy retirement too.



RESTORATION

*The H&G CT Restoration Fund raises 'ring fenced' funding dedicated to a specific project each year; contributors are invited to attend a gathering to see how their money has been spent (with our volunteers invariably turning the money into work that is worth many times the amount raised). Over the past year the money has specifically assisted work to progress on two sites in Herefordshire. Within weeks of taking over the Restoration Fund Secretarial duties Peter Lawrence organised a very successful day out (and found that his duties extended to report writing for **The Wharfinger**) ...*

A conducted tour of Aylestone Park by Martin Danks on a wettish August Sunday gave subscribers to the Canal Restoration Fund a good idea of where their money goes. The need to give Hereford folk a new place to play, walk, delight the eye and dally by a

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FUND DAY OUT



Some of the Restoration Fund members viewing the work completed at Yarkhill.

restored canal became plain as they followed the laboriously laid paths that our volunteers had constructed around the 43 acres of the new Aylestone Park.

They moved on to Yarkhill; it was also the Open Day there. Walking down to the canal, work was explained by Ralph, before the splendid new milestone was unveiled before some 60 people. The group explored the full length of the site and then were served a very good lunch by Janet Moulton and helpers. It gave a chance to find out more about the Canal Trust from Council Members as we sat together around a table.

A fulfilling if long and tiring morning. Just a few pounds each month, from a small but increasing number of members,

Restoration Fund members eat a hearty lunch after viewing the work at Yarkhill.



Photos: Warren Marsh



I wish to contribute to the
H&GCT Restoration Fund

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

GIFT AID: I wish The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust to treat all subscriptions/donations that I make from April 6th, 2001 until I notify you otherwise, as gift donations.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Liz Connors, 18 St Ethelbert Close,
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To (Name and address of your bank)

Please pay to the account No. 11600694, sorting code no. 16-21-20 of the **Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust** at the Royal Bank of Scotland, 21 Broad St., Hereford HR4 9AP the sum of £ _____ on this day and thereafter monthly on the 1st of the month until further notice.

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really does combine to enable our "hands on" volunteers to get going with specific elements of projects like Aylestone and Yarkhill (this past year) - and at Oxenhall and Over in earlier years. If you want to become part of the Restoration Fund, whose members give more than just the membership subscription to the Canal Trust, please complete the above form and return to Liz Connors. *Thank you.*

PL

25 things to do in 2008

In the last two editions of **The Wharfinger** we asked you to enter into the spirit of our **25th Anniversary Year** and see just how many boxes you could tick – just to remind you we are repeating the first 13 – and adding a further 6 – with 6 more to come!



- 1 Recruit a new Individual or Family Member to the H&G CT. ☐
- 2 Sell (or buy!) Grand Holiday Draw tickets. ☐
- 3 Take a friend to ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE for the first time for morning coffee & cakes/afternoon tea and light bites. ☐
- 4 Help run a H&G CT Open Day or other event. ☐
- 5 Subscribe to the H&G CT Restoration Fund. ☐
- 6 Attend a 25th Anniversary Event. ☐
- 7 Attend a H&G CT Social Evening (and bring a friend who has not been before!). ☐
- 8 If you are an individual Member of the Canal Trust please consider 'upgrading' to Joint/Family Membership. ☐
- 9 Sell (or buy!) another book of Grand Holiday Draw Tickets. ☐
- 10 Recommend an interesting speaker for a Social Evening. ☐
- 11 Re-cycle The Wharfinger – give it to a prospective Member and then please encourage them to join the H&G CT. ☐
- 12 Attend the AGM on the 15th July. ☐
- 13 If you pay Income Tax, please ensure that you have agreed to 'Gift Aid' your subscription. ☐
- 14 Display a H&G 'car sticker' on your car. They are available for sale in ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE Visitor Centre at Over or by post from Mail order Sales – Contact Heather Worth (see inside back cover). ☐
- 15 Recruit a new Corporate Member to the H&G CT – perhaps your own business (or that of your employer) or a business that you regularly deal with can be persuaded to join? Currently Corporate Membership is just £20 per annum (or £400 for Life Corporate Membership) – they will be made very welcome! ☐
- 16 Give some trade to one (or more!) of our advertisers, and tell them that you did so to support the supporters of the H&G CT. ☐
- 17 Have lunch or dinner at ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE – and why not take a friend too? ☐
- 18 Help to 'man' our promotional display at an event that is local to you. Janet Moulit will be pleased to discuss opportunities with you, and you get free entry to the respective event too! ☐
- 19 Collect some Membership Forms (our colour folded leaflet that includes a brief history of the canal, map and Membership application/rates) and distribute them to friends and colleagues (see page 15). Everyone can help to recruit new Members! Thank you. ☐

If you able to say "I already do that" – then thank you. By the end of our 25th Anniversary Year we will have listed 25 boxes for you to tick!

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*Based on the findings of Professor Mike Tipton, world authority on immersion-related deaths.



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OUR CONDOLENCES

Following the recent death of Member **Mr N Alder**, from Ross on Wye, his solicitor wrote enclosing a cheque from his Estate for £1,000 to be specifically utilised in connection with our work on the former BW tug Alder (currently under restoration at Over). *This is greatly appreciated.*

In 2003 Hereford Member **Mr Allan Day** and his wife Pamela offered to collect aluminium cans on behalf of the H&G CT and to act as a point in Hereford where other collectors could bring their cans. Mrs Day has recently advised us of the sad death of her husband Allan and has very kindly passed on a collection that was made at Mr Day's funeral to the H&G CT. *Our condolences and sincere appreciation.*

STILL COLLECTING

Mrs Day has stressed that she is willing to continue to collect aluminium cans for the Canal Trust and to pull together collections from the Hereford area. If you have been collecting aluminium cans (or are willing to start), and live within a reasonable distance of Hereford, please contact Mrs Day on Hereford (01432) 275 443.

£3,000 DONATED FOR RESTORATION

Council of Management recorded their great appreciation of an anonymous donation of £3,000 which has been given specifically for use on work on the Canal from Withington Marsh to Crews Pitch. Details of where the money will be used will be given in due course. *Thank you.*

CHANGE OF REGISTERED OFFICE ADDRESS

In common with many other Canal Trusts and Societies the H&G CT are affiliated to The Inland Waterways Association. Many utilise the IWA Head Office address as their Registered Office (*rather than that of a volunteer post holder who will change from time to time – as may their address*) thus giving a more consistent address for the Registered Office of the individual Canal Trust or Society.

We have greatly appreciated the IWA's 'hosting' of our Registered Office Address from the outset. However, for the second time in recent years, the IWA have found it necessary to move offices [New address: The Inland Waterways Association, Island House, Moor Road, CHESHAM, HP5 1WA – telephone: 01494 783453].

Now that we have freehold premises

of our own the H&G CT Council of Management have resolved to change the Registered Office Address of The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust (and that of the associated H&G CT Companies) to **THE WHARF HOUSE**, Horseshoe Drive, Over, Gloucester, GL2 8DB.

This change of our Registered Office address does not, in any way, change our relationship with the IWA. *Please also note that our Registered Office address is NOT for routine correspondence – all our day-to-day contact addresses remain unchanged.*

Please support our advertisers whenever you can – support our supporters!

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6TH October, 2008

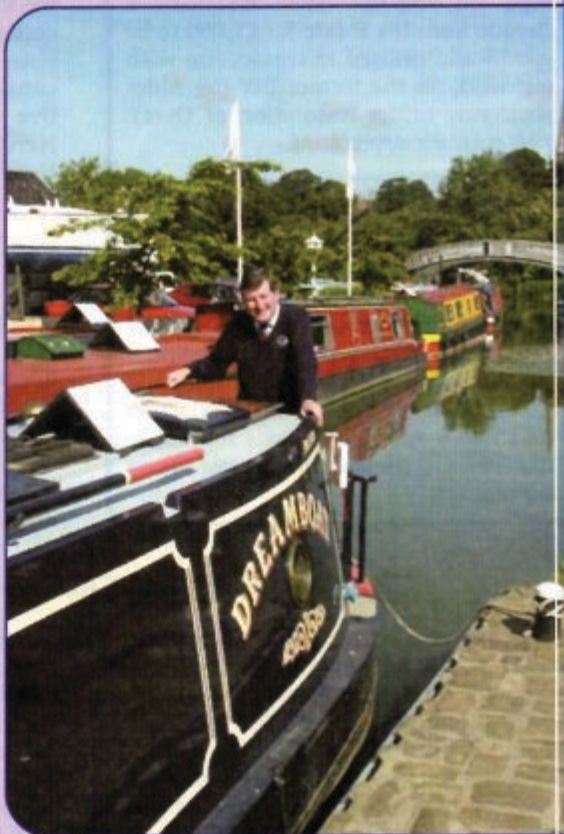
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CONTACTS

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
Tel: (01432) 880 155
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Cliff Penny
"Coppice", Burley Gate,
Hereford, HR1 3QS
Tel: (01432) 820 866
canal@penny-ep.co.uk

David Penny
Tel: (01452) 532 900
thewharfhouse@yahoo.co.uk

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

Nigel Jefferies
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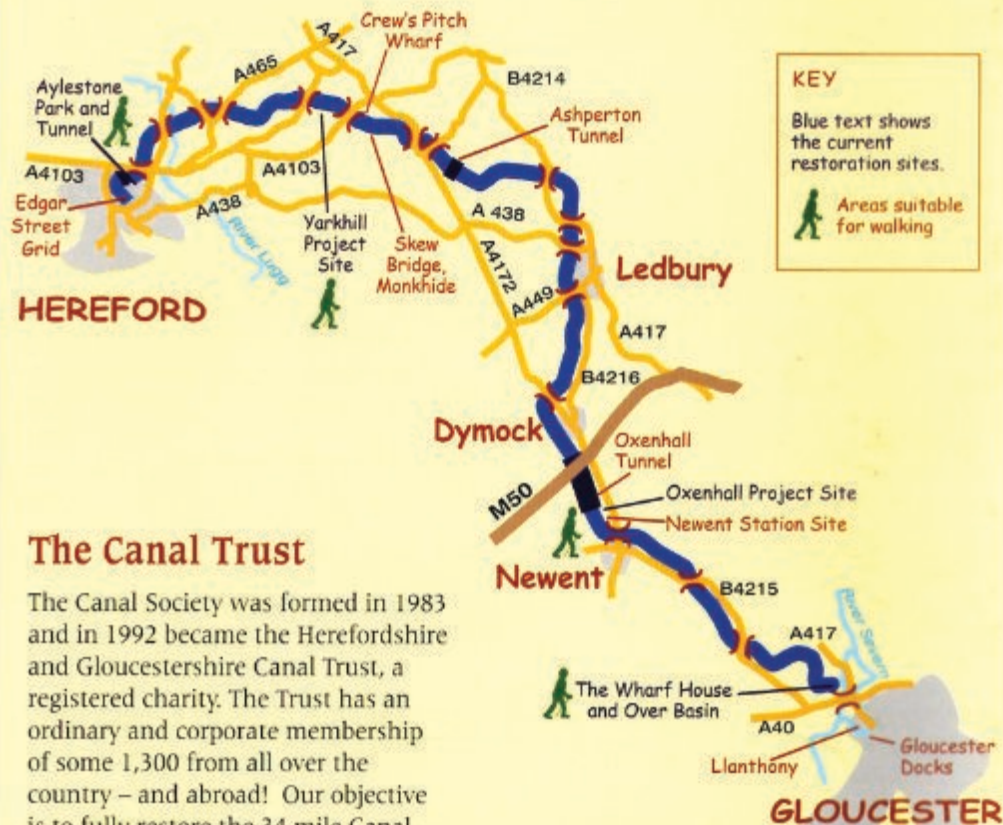
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The Wharfinger

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 in 1992 became the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust, a registered charity. The Trust has an ordinary and corporate membership of some 1,300 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. We have major restoration sites in each county, which together extend to some 4 miles.

Please note: Unless indicated it should not be assumed that Rights of Way exist. We are working on the Canal with the co-operation of the land owners and their neighbours – please help the Trust to maintain its good relations with them. Thank you.