

The **Wharfinger**

Magazine of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust



Spring 2009

£1

free to members



WHO DOES WHAT?

WORKING TOGETHER IN THE PRESENT, TO REVIVE THE PAST, AND SECURE A BETTER FUTURE®

Vice Presidents:

*R. E. Barnes TD.
James Hervey-Bathurst CBE
Duff Hart-Davis
Mark Harper MP
Sir John Lushington Bt
Diana Organ
Bill Wiggin MP*

Council of Management:

CHAIRMAN:
Janet Moulton

COMMITTEE:
Tony Austin-Bailey
Liz Connors
Martin Danks
Brian Fox
Bernard Ingram
Nigel Jefferies
Caroline Jones
Maggie Jones
Cliff Penny
David Penny

Finance:

TREASURER/CHAIRMAN:
Liz Connors

COMMITTEE:
Brian Fox
David Penny
Nigel Jefferies
Janet Moulton
Martin Danks
Chris High

Herefordshire:

Aylestone Site

LEADER:
Martin Danks

Yarkhill Site

LEADER:
Chris High

Gloucestershire:

Llanthony Site

LEADER:
Paul Henshaw

Over Site

WEDNESDAY LEADERS:
Ted Beagles
Willy Jones

SATURDAY LEADERS:
Barrie Haysman
Maggie Jones
Tony Boonham
Malcolm Claxton
Paul Henshaw
David Penny
John Rogers

LENGTHSMAN:
Ted Beagles

Oxenhall Site

LEADER:
Brian Fox
John Forrest

LENGTHSMAN:
Peter Moore

Health and Safety:

Tony Austin-Bailey

Liaison:

**LOCAL AUTHORITY/
PLANNING:**
Penny Environmental
& Planning
Wally Thrush

LAND OWNERS:
Brian Fox

Publicity:

PRESS LIAISON:
Robin Smithett

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT:

TEAM LEADER:
Maggie Jones
Ted Beagles
Liz Connors
Colin Dymott
Nick Dymott
Caroline Jones

**PHOTO LIBRARY/PRESS
CLIPPINGS:**
Lucien Perring

Member Services:

SECRETARY:
Nigel Jefferies
GIFT AID: Liz Connors

Social Events:

Janet Moulton
**RESTORATION FUND
SECRETARY:**
Peter Lawrence

Talks and Walks:

Nigel Jefferies
Ted Beagles

Support to Council of Management:

MINUTES:
Tony Austin-Bailey
ADMIN: Janet Moulton
**IWA NOMINATED
MEMBER:**
Caroline Jones

The Wharfinger:

EDITOR:
Cliff Penny
DESIGN/PRODUCTION:
Maggie Jones
ADVERTISING:
Colin Dymott
POSTMASTERS:
Janet Moulton
D and M Gray

Honorary Posts:

ARCHAEOLOGIST:
Ron Shoesmith

Those in italics are not Directors.

THE TRADING COMPANY H & G Canal Sales

DONATING ALL PROFITS TO THE CANAL TRUST

CHAIRMAN/MANNING:
Janet Moulton

**TREASURER/COM REP/
Co. SECRETARY:**
Liz Connors

**MAIL ORDER SALES/
SALES GOODS:**
Heather Worth

CRAFT FAIRS:
Pat Skeet

COMMITTEE:
Barbara Moses
Ray Moses
Derek Weaver
Penny Shetliffe

THE WHARF HOUSE

The Wharf House, Over, Gloucester, GL2 8DB
Visitor Centre Restaurant, Tea Rooms,
Superior B&B, overlooking Over Waterside

Telephone 01452 33 2 900
www.thewharfhouse.co.uk

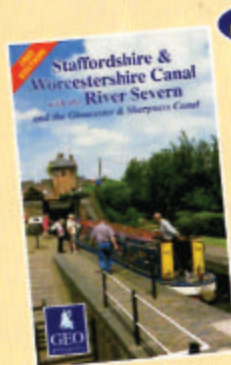
DONATING ALL PROFITS TO THE CANAL TRUST

CHAIRMAN: Janet Moulton
FINANCIAL DIRECTOR: Liz Connors
COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR: David Penny
BOOK-KEEPER: Marilyn Balderstone
WEBSITE: Natasha Turney

GEOprojects

Award winning maps & atlases

INLAND WATERWAYS OF BRITAIN SERIES



cruising maps . . .

- Basingstoke Canal and the River Wey Navigations £4.50
- Birmingham Canal Navigations £4.95
- The Broads £4.95
- Caledonian Canal and the Great Glen £4.95
- Cheshire Ring £4.95
- Chesterfield Canal and the River Trent West Stockwith to North Clifton £4.50
- Coventry and Ashby Canals including the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal £4.95
- Forth & Clyde and Union Canals £4.95
- Grand Union Canal
 - Map 1 Birmingham to Ferry Stratford £4.95
 - Map 2 Braunston to Kings Langley £4.95
 - Map 3 Ferry Stratford to the Thames £4.95
 - Map 4 Leicester Line, Soar Navigation and Erewash Canal £4.95
- Huddersfield Broad and Narrow Canals £4.00
- Inland Waterways of Britain (GB route planner) £5.75
- Kennet and Avon Canal £4.95
- Lancaster Canal with the Ribble Link £4.95
- Lee and Stort Navigations with the E. London Ring £4.00
- Leeds and Liverpool Canal £4.95
- Llangollen and Montgomery Canals £4.95
- Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal £4.00
- Oxford Canal £4.95
- River Nene & Nene-Ouse Link, Peterborough to March £4.95
- Shropshire Union Canal £4.95
- South Pennine Ring £4.95
- Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with the River Severn and Gloucester & Sharpness Canal £4.95
- Stratford-upon-Avon Canal and the River Avon £4.95
- Thames, the river and the path £4.95
- Thames and London Rings Atlas £11.75
- Trent and Mersey Canal
 - Map 1 Preston Brook to Fradley Junction £4.95
 - Map 2 Great Haywood Junction to North Clifton £4.95
- Worcester and Birmingham Canal £4.00 with the Droitwich Canals + postage

Available from shops and waterside outlets or direct from:

GEOprojects (UK) Ltd
8 Southern Court • South Street
Reading • RG1 4QS.
Telephone: 0118 939 3567 Fax: 0118 959 7356
E-mail: sales@geoprojects.net
Website: www.geoprojects.net
Call for details of credit card payment.



CONTENTS

Page

- 3 Chairman's Column
- 5 Editorial – Remember 2009 ...?
- 6 Sir John Lushington Bt.
- 8 Grand Holiday Draw 2009
- 9 The Canal Trust Craft Fair at Ledbury
- 10 Llanthony Lock
- 12 The Restoration Fund 2009
- 14 Over Update
- 16 News from The Wharf House
- 18 Work at Yarkhill
- 20 Social Evenings at The Royal Oak
- 21 H&G Canal Sales Outings 2009
- 22 Restoration at Oxenhall
- 24 Training the Ell Brook
- 26 "Why do they do it?"
- 28 A Natural Explanation
- 30 Thomas Rothley
- 33 Gloucester Boat Jumble
- 33 IWA Branch Social Meetings
- 34 Shocking Ruffianism in Gloucestershire
- 38 Got a Light?
- 39 Not quite the last page

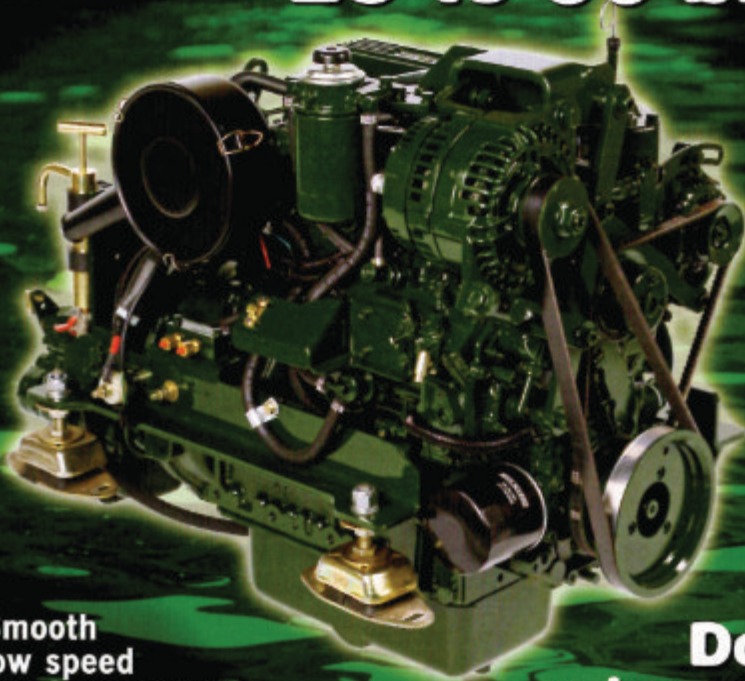
Inside back cover: Contact details



FRONT COVER IMAGE: Spring is just around the Corner! – a frozen Oxenhall Lock by John Chappell

BETA Green Line

28 to 90 bhp



- **Smooth low speed running** as standard with our heavy flywheel

- **Two Alternators** are standard - high output domestic alternator at low rpm

- 3.5kVA or 5kVA - 230 volts Travel Power option for your washing machine, microwave, etc

- **Excellent back up service** with a 3 year warranty

Does not smoke in locks - very low emissions

***BETA* MARINE**

Tel: 01452 723492

Simply the BEST engines available!

www.betamarine.co.uk

◆ CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN ◆

IBy the time you read this, I hope to be more mobile as I am now on crutches after a knee replacement – exacerbated by trudging about in mud? (Yes, I know – that word again – not that I'm obsessed!). While I am less mobile than I would like to be, it has turned my mind to how people with long term mobility (and other) problems get around and about.

It has struck me that the canal system is becoming more accessible to the less able in many ways. Many charities now run boats specifically adapted for trips or longer holidays. My 90 year old mother-in-law enjoyed trips with the Peter Le Marchant Trust at Loughborough, and the Bruce Trust has a number of boats on the K&A. One of our long-term supporters, **Starline**, can adapt private boats in response to any special need. Fishing is another hobby enjoyed by those in wheelchairs with special landing stages along the canals. Towpaths are, for the most part, on the level and without steps. They are an ideal place for everyone to get their 20 minutes exercise three times a week and also act as a 'green lung' in towns and cities. They allow everyone to see a bit of nature and wildlife while keeping up with the changing seasons.

As we move forward with the restoration of the H&G, accessibility will be a top priority. ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE Restaurant and Visitor Centre is already fully accessible to people with disabilities. The B&B accommodation will have a specially adapted 'accessible' ground floor room. When we come to restoring further stretches of the Canal, we will be doing all we can to make the environment suitable for everyone.

We are looking forward to a successful season with some decent weather! See Trading Company Outings on page 21 for details of this year's travels and, if you're in the area, do pop along to the stand to say hello!

◆ Janet Moul, *Chairman.*

*Your
HELP
please!*

My garage is full of the displays and equipment that we take to smaller events, but there is no room for the extended display used at the National Waterways Festival. Do you have a lockable dry garage or shed (preferably in the Hereford – Ross – Ledbury area) where we could keep the panels? They would only need to be accessed for this one event in August. If you think you could help, please give me a ring and we can discuss the space requirement. *Thank you.*

MIDWINTER TRANSPORT

ESTABLISHED 25 YEARS

With a full range of vehicles including

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



**TOTALLY COMMITTED
TO DELIVER**

Newent 01531 820276

Fax: 01531 821303

Little Carswells Farm, Upleadon, Newent, GL18 1ED

www.midwintertransport.co.uk

email: info@midwintertransport.co.uk

Remember 2009 ... ?



by Cliff Penny

Obviously the hot topic remains the economy – on both a personal level and in respect of the H&G CT's prospects for the year ahead. It would be foolish to try and ignore it, yet some will say that there is little that we can do as individuals to influence the impact of the economy on us all. Whilst that might appear to be the case there is much that the Canal Trust can (and is) doing to try to minimise adverse impact – both in the short and long term. Our finances have always been closely scrutinised (thanks to hard work by our long-standing Treasurer Liz Connors). The Finance Committee and the Council of Management will be taking all steps possible to manage our income *as far as we have control over it*, and our expenditure, in the light of what is happening elsewhere.

As in everything we do, it is not just our own actions that influence our destiny but also those of third parties too. It has never been more critical that we watch the reactions of others to the current economic situation to try and ensure that they don't take short or medium term decisions that have far reaching (adverse) impacts on the H&G Canal. In the past we have regrettably had to expend very considerable effort in, for example, *successfully* challenging the (then) Department for Transport's costings and lack of provision for the Canal in the original proposals for a Hereford bypass. Also, we *successfully* challenged a local authority's strategic Plan Policy that was wholly inadequate in defending the route of the Canal within their District. In addition there are many Planning Appeal decisions where we have

successfully ensured that development did not adversely affect the Canal. For many years now such conflict has been avoided; developers have entered into *meaningful* negotiations with the Canal Trust – resulting in a number of projects that have proved *successful* for all concerned.

Will "the economic crisis of 2009" result in, and be the excuse for, bad strategic decisions that will be felt for generations to come – and fly in the face of what has already been decided (and tested) in Public Consultations and Inquiries? What a shame it will be if 2009 proves to be a year to be remembered because we are yet again in conflict.

By the time that you read this we will have experienced at least two months of what 2009 has in store; *will it all be doom and gloom?* As you will read elsewhere in this edition ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE has started the year as it means to go on – bucking the national (*and international*) trend and smashing turnover records for January by a considerable margin!

As far as the Canal Trust is concerned, the weather always follows as a very close second to pound notes, yet the weather is something that (thankfully?) we most definitely are unable to influence. Its effect on our voluntary endeavours is wide-reaching. Restoration, maintenance, promotional and fund-raising work can all be seriously affected; as can trade at ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE. Hopefully the weather in 2009 will be kinder to us than in recent years *but, if not, the H&G CT will rise to the challenge!*

◆ CRP

Sir John Lushington Bt.

My connection with the H&G CT is through my first cousin (twice removed), Beth Gadesden. She was my maternal grandmother's first cousin! As was reported on page 7 of edition 96 of *The Wharfinger* our family had the opportunity to allocate a portion of Beth's estate to charities of our choice. The H&G CT was chosen as Beth had been a member for many years and had always been interested in the progress of restoration.

I feel very privileged to be invited to be one of your Vice-Presidents. My



Sir John Lushington Bt.

interest in canals goes back 40 years when we started to take several holiday on the English and French canals. One wonderful experience was to sit in the bows of a 60ft boat watching a dabchick swimming ahead under water, keeping up with the boat (we were going down the Northampton Arm, and back again, just for fun).

The work of the H&G CT in restoring one of the links to the system is to be greatly commended. Our industrial heritage is one of the finest in the world and the canals form a vital link and reminder of the achievements of our forebears. I look forward to following your progress with great interest – I am sorry that I live so far away that my visits will be rather intermittent.

♦♦ JL

This photo: Howard Colegrave, MHH Northantsshire Hunt



Beth Gadesden, cousin to Sir John Lushington.



**A&D Marine
Services Ltd**

COVERED DRY DOCK FACILITIES
REPAIRS AND REFITS TO ALL TYPES OF CRAFT
WELL STOCKED CHANDLERY
OUTBOARD MOTORS SALES AND SERVICING

HEMPSTED DRY DOCK,
338 BRISTOL ROAD,
GLOUCESTER GL2 5DH

Telephone: (01452) 415430
Fax: (01452) 307674
www.admarineservices.co.uk

A.J. Griffiths



*Professional Fencing
Supplied and Erected*



- All styles of Post and Rail
 - High Tensile Wire
 - Gates erected
 - All areas covered

Tel: 01531 890326
Mob: 07773 249269

Fencing Contractors
www.ajgfencing.co.uk

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

GRAND HOLIDAY DRAW 2009

Friends and colleagues will be eager for a great holiday for just £1!

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST - H&GCT SALES GRAND HOLIDAY DRAW 2009

- 1ST PRIZE** **NARROW BOAT HOLIDAY for FOUR**
Donated by Black Prince Holidays
ONE WEEK PRIOR TO 31.3.10 Excluding Bank Holidays
- 2ND PRIZE** **ONE WEEK SELF-CATERING HOLIDAY**
for Four at a private Bungalow in quiet Herefordshire village
near Welsh Border. Spring/Summer 2010. Donated by Mrs A Wood
- 3RD PRIZE** **TWO NIGHTS DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST FOR 2**
THE WHARF HOUSE Over, Gloucester.

TICKETS £1 each

Promoted by E. Carver, 10 St. Elizabeth Close, Sutton St Nicholas, Hereford, HR1 3PF
Prizes to be drawn at
National Waterways Festival,
at Ratcliffe-on-Soar, 31st Aug 2009. Registered under the Gambling Act 2005

Again 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 **Bulmers** – thank you.

Prizes to be drawn late afternoon at the **National Waterways Festival, at Ratcliffe-on-Soar, on 31 August, 2009.**

Our grateful thanks to **Black Prince Holidays, Mrs A Wood** and **The Wharf House** 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.*

PRINT PLUS

the complete printing service and more

Tel: 01432 272025

- stationery • leaflets • mailers • posters • newsletters • brochures
- prospectuses • calendars • magazines • books • exhibition panels



126 Widemarsh Street • Hereford HR4 9HN • Fax: 01432 353962 • ISDN: 01432 262988
Email: enquiries@printplushereford.co.uk • www.printplushereford.co.uk

The Canal Trust **Craft Fair** at Ledbury

by Pat Skeet



As with so many H&G CT activities, our annual Craft Fair involves a great deal of essential volunteer 'behind the scenes' activity in planning and organising the day - it doesn't just happen! This is in the capable hands of **Pat Skeet** - who also wrote this report on yet another rewarding event . . .

Saturday, November 8th, saw our Annual craft Fair in St. Katherine's Hall, Ledbury. We had several new stallholders and were looking forward to a colourful occasion.

We were not disappointed. The weather was mild and dry after a very wet night and we had a steady trickle of customers through the morning and again in the afternoon. The trickle unfortunately dried up at lunchtime, so fewer were able to benefit from our superb range of home-made soups than might have done! The atmosphere was happy and relaxed all day. Unfortunately the current financial situation saw most stallholders' takings down slightly, but they were satisfied, if not flush! The refreshments sold brilliantly, a suitable testimony to the delicious cakes and soups on offer.

Thanks to the very hard work of the team of volunteers, a record profit for recent years of over £308 was made. As with all of our Trading Company events it is not just sales that are important and our updated display panels generated further interest in our voluntary work. *My grateful thanks go to all who helped in any way and a request that November 14th. is put in your diary for next year.*

◆ PS

Top: Caroline Jones demonstrates the craft of Canalware painting.

Left: Dick Skeet indicates the location of Llanthony Lock.

Below: Needlework, glass engraving, greetings cards - some of the varied stalls at this year's Fair.



Llanthony Lock

Paul Henshaw reports



Top: Alan breaking up clods in the new garden.

Above: Ted's new gate to the footbridge.

Below: Work is progressing clearing alongside the lock.

Work has continued apace during the last quarter. The programme to remove the undergrowth for the proposed car park is now complete. A Method Statement for the project has highlighted the various bodies and organisations from which we need to seek approval. This will be the next phase of the project. We are now in the process of thinning the willows along the southern river bank and can now actually see the weir whilst we are enjoying lunch al fresco style!

Ted Beagles has completed the new steel gate which has been installed at the entrance to the footbridge and very fine it looks too. *Thank you Ted.* We have developed a small garden area by the footbridge, to enhance the entrance to the site, and Wendy Henshaw has kindly offered to take this over and handle the planting.



Lunch al fresco style!





Above: Found in the undergrowth – the new volunteer mess hut! A lick of paint and it will be as good as new? Note the cat flaps!



Above: Pivot plate from the old swing bridge.



Alder trees planted by the river bank.

Approval was granted by the local TPO (Tree Preservation Order) Officer to carry out a modest lifting of the canopy of the black poplar, which is protected, and this has now been completed. In addition 20 Alder trees have been planted by the river bank. On the Northern side of the site 2 new volunteers, Alan McBride and Alan Brown, have made really good progress clearing undergrowth. *We extend a very warm welcome to them both.* Whilst undertaking this work they came across the old pivot plate for the swing bridge.

Simon Baggart is continuing the sterling work renovating the outside loo and a new vent fan has been fitted in the bathroom of one of the Lock Cottages.

If you would like to get involved with our work at Llanthony please contact me (Paul Henshaw) on 01684 292 997. You will be made very welcome.

◆ PH



Simon on the Job!



**Steam Trains into Snowdonia
Country Walks from Stations
Spectacular Waterfalls
Cafés, Gift Shop, Free Museum
Easy Parking at Tywyn Wharf**

Wharf Station, Tywyn, Gwynedd
01654 710472 enquiries@tallyllyn.co.uk
www.tallyllyn.co.uk

The Restoration Fund 2009

The purchase of Llanthony Lock, the Lock Cottages and a considerable area of surrounding land was made possible thanks to the timely legacy of **Beth Gadesden** (see full story in edition 96 of **The Wharfinger**).

Recognising that fund-raising will become even more difficult over the coming year the H&G CT Council of Management has decided that the Llanthony Lock restoration project will be supported in 2009 by the proceeds from **The Restoration Fund**. This will enable preliminary works to be undertaken in preparation for the work required, in the longer term, to identify major funding for the ultimate restoration of the Lock and approaches.



The lock and cottages at Llanthony.

Later in the year all of the Restoration Fund contributors will be invited to an exclusive buffet at **The Wharf House** and a conducted 'VIP tour' of the Llanthony site to see how the work that their contributions have funded is progressing. Details of **The Restoration Fund** are on the facing page.

New subscribers are welcome to join at any time and the Fund Secretary, Peter Lawrence, will be pleased to answer any queries on 01684 564 075; alternatively please just complete the form and return it to our Treasurer, Liz Connors, at the address indicated on the form.

Thank you.



FORMAL NOTICE OF 2009 AGM



**TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST JULY, 2009
AT THE ROYAL OAK, MUCH MARCLE, AT 7.30PM.**

This is the formal notice of the 2009 AGM in order to give Members the opportunity to make a note in their diary; this year the AGM will be held on Tuesday 21st July. The Agenda and Annual Report will be in the next edition of **The Wharfinger**.

In accordance with the H&G CT'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 Liz Connors [see **Contacts** on inside back 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 Liz Connors and must be completed, signed and returned to her at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the AGM.

Thank you.



Above: Some of the Restoration Fund subscribers in 2007 viewing the restoration work at Oxenhall, completed with their support.

It is now over seven years since we launched our **Restoration Fund**, designed to raise 'ring fenced' funding for specific projects along the 34 mile length of the H&G Canal in both counties. *Our volunteers invariably turn the money into work that is worth many times the amount of the funds raised!*

HOW IT WORKS

We invite Members and supporters to contribute a small regular payment each month which will be used to help finance specific projects (*and take this opportunity to again thank those who already contribute*).

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

Please support the **Restoration Fund** – *this source of funding really is greatly appreciated by both the H&G CT and our volunteers! Thank you for your support.*



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: _____

Please return to:

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

BANKER'S ORDER

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.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

My account no: _____

Sort Code: _____

OVER

Update

by Barrie Haysman



Ted Beagles makes a start on the roof of the old site hut on a particularly frosty New Year's Eve.

Our gardeners have been busy during the dormant period for plants cutting back hedges, trees and undergrowth. ^{THE WHARF HOUSE} flower beds have been given a bit of a short back and sides where they had got a little out of control and some transplanting between areas has also taken place. We are producing a planting plan for the gardens round ^{THE WHARF HOUSE} to provide an even better visual presentation for everyone coming to visit us here at Over.

The **Bridge Training** volunteers have complemented our volunteers, and undertaken various works on site,

concentrating at the bottom of the Canal. Clearance of the overgrown far Canal bank, and improvement of the wooded area, has been started by removing brambles and the deep undergrowth (and trimming of the ivy that was stifling the growth of the trees). 800 bulbs of 3 different varieties of daffodils have been planted on the woodland bank so hopefully, in time, it will be an area of colour for those enjoying a walk alongside the edge of the Canal (*thank you to one of our neighbours, Mr Tony Peters, for the gift of the daffodils*).

During the cold period we have been



GOING ...



GOING ...



GONE!



Wilf Jones checks the foundations dug for the drop bollards at the entrance to Over Basin.



The paviors are being relaid in places where heavy vehicles have caused settlement.

doing some heavy work clearing up all around the site and had some big bonfires! The areas cleared of undergrowth have been made neat and tidy and prepared for filling and levelling so we can increase the 'picnic area' in size. We had a special team day one Saturday starting to empty the materials from the 'Old Site Hut' in preparation for its removal. Then, during the weeks following, the contents of the small gardens around it were transplanted and the hut was stripped of its internal walls and internal cladding and windows. A Method Statement and Risk Assessment was prepared and agreed (*thanks Wilf*) and on New Years Eve the Wednesday gang descended on the Hut with cold determination (*to match the weather!*). We started 'top down', first removing the roof, followed by the walls – and the light gave out just as we were removing the last of the flooring – a hard days work but one finished on time.

Works on the driveway (between Horseshoe Drive and the approach to the Lock) have started; the first part was putting in concrete foundations and then fitting 3 bollards. The repair of the driveway has also been started to correct settlement caused by heavy vehicles. The pathway and the lower part of the driveway were taken

up in the cold weather, when the paviors were frozen in, and deeper foundations dug so the driveway would be better able to carry the traffic in the future. The paviors were cleaned by the many and re-laid by our own 'paviors expert', Paul.

THE WHARF HOUSE project has moved into a phase of mainly professional works with Plumbers coming in to complete the plumbing and Carpenters working on the stairway and associated cupboard fronts. Our volunteer works have concentrated on preparing for the professionals, and the works following, to complete the bathrooms and stairwell. We have also been grinding down some proud welds on the balcony and rubbing down and completing the second coat of paint.

The mechanical team has been working on repairing the concrete mixer (which gave up the ghost due to its previous heavy workload!) and have got the new engine for Mr Maysey working perfectly. This is ready for fitting so that we can hopefully have a trip boat for the kids at next seasons Over Open Days. Assessments have also been started on the reed boats to ascertain what is necessary to complete the refurbishment to give us a working reed cutter. ♦ BH



News from... THE WHARF HOUSE

RECORDS BROKEN!

2009 started very well for ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE with turnover in January over 40% up on the same period last year. The hard work and dedication of our small team was rewarded with a trend that many long-established businesses would envy in the current difficult trading conditions.

♥ ST VALENTINE'S ♥

February 14th has also been another record breaking time – by a considerable margin. This year Cupid aimed his bow well and truly at ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE! The special Valentine's Day menu proved to be such a hit with couples that it became a three day event in the restaurant – the Saturday night could have been fully-booked several times over. Two of our diners travelled from Taunton; *our reputation really is spreading* ♥



♥ WEDDING RECEPTIONS

Now that the A40 roadworks are thankfully a memory (except from the very large scar in last years trading figures) our popularity for wedding receptions is being regained with a number of bookings already confirmed for later in the year.



TOP TABLE REVIEWS

Our reputation on the internet also continues to grow - not least on the reputable 'Top Table' web site. Thank you to one recent visitor to the area who braved the freezing weather and then wrote:-

'Very good setting, pictures on here (the website) simply do not do The Wharf House Restaurant justice! Located close to the canal, this secluded restaurant is well worth a visit – superb food, I had the chicken stuffed with brie and mushrooms and the goats cheese tart to start with, the only thing making me want to leave is the journey back in -5 conditions! Would certainly make a stop here again if I'm ever in the area again! Great work and compliments to the chef!

Robert Le Boutillier

CANAL VISITORS

Of course ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE is much more than just the Restaurant and Tea Rooms – it is our unique opportunity to 'spread the word' about the H&G Canal and our work to restore and reconstruct the 34 miles; for example every bill at ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE is accompanied by our information and Membership leaflet and a 'back issue' of **The Wharfinger**. And our Visitor Centre is equally popular with both walkers and diners.

Please come soon and help us continue to break records throughout 2009!

... AND UPSTAIRS ...

The long-awaited fitting of the oak hand-rail, banisters and fitted cupboards within the stairwell is well underway.

Our pictures show the work so far which, when completed, will totally transform the stairwell.

THE WHARF HOUSE

WATERSIDE RESTAURANT



A fine blend of setting and dining ...

www.thewharfhouse.co.uk

01452 33 2 900

OVER • GLOUCESTER

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



HEREFORDSHIRE'S LEADING BREWERY

Brewing beer in the traditional way



The pint to refresh Canal Volunteers!

Wye Valley Brewery
Herefordshire
www.wyevalleybrewery.co.uk

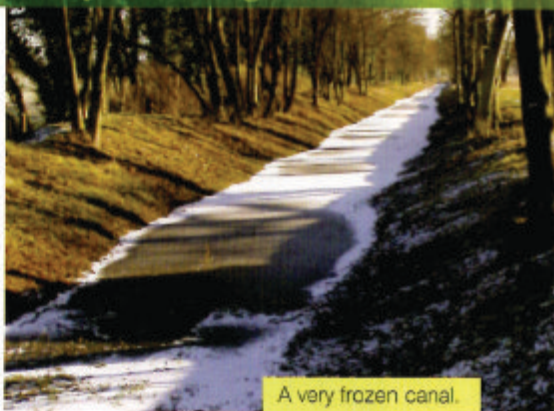
Work at **Yarkhill** *by Chris High*

A passer-by suggested we would have to stop work soon as there would be fewer volunteers willing to brave the wet, windy and cold winter weather – *they obviously were not familiar with H&G CT volunteers!* My last article reported the return of some of our volunteers from their summer escapades; now Eileen (from nursing her husband) and Stella (from her travels) have also returned.

Winter to us is a time of opportunity, it is the time when site maintenance is much reduced and therefore when restoration work can move forward. Coppicing and tree felling followed by the necessary clearing of brush, logging up and much-enjoyed bonfires are now in full swing. Recently Paul deployed his tractor to remove felled tree trunks from across the wild side ditch, saving a lot of time and energy. The homeward trip also sees a good load of logs on their way to storage at the site hut.

We invested in the use of Ken Trehern, along with his tractor and flail to cut back the stubborn snowberries on the canal banks towards the lock end. Sometimes events miraculously fall in place. Flaied Saturday. Rained somewhere Sunday and Monday. Canal in water Tuesday. *Oh!, and identified a further leak Friday!*

Trees that had fallen into Mr. Mess's



A very frozen canal.

field across our access route were stripped of brush, logged up and stacked in the rain. Three trees have been planted on the towpath ditch bank; vegetation removed from part of the canal bed, canal banks trimmed and rubbish disposed of.

The team visited Aylestone Park and built the bonfire for The Party on the Park. Then, to celebrate the 3rd birthday of current work parties at Yarkhill, we visited Over and met Paul Henshaw at Llanthony for a guided tour – *many thanks Paul.*

Yarkhill featured in a talk I recently gave to **Leominster Historical Society** which led me to compare 'before and after' photo's. I have included a couple of examples from the last three years to chronicle our progress (*photos on right*).



*Don't forget,
to get involved,
please ring me
(Chris High) on
01568 615 575*

◀▶ CH

Paul bringing logs
homeward from the
fallen trees.



July 06



Felling



Just after felling



March 2006



January 2009

Serenity



comes from
being insured with
Towergate Mardon

- Discounts available for Inland Waterways Association members
- Speak to our UK based marine insurance specialists in person
- Boat Contents insurance available for residential craft.

Call **0800 515 629**
or visit
towergatemardon.co.uk

Extended office hours 9am-8pm Mon-Fri,
9am-12pm Sat (Mar-Sept)

towergate mardon

formerly Mardon Marine

Towergate Mardon is a trading name of the Towergate Underwriting Group Limited. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

2160/WWW

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.

MARCH 17TH

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

We are very pleased to have a speaker from one of our regular advertisers.

APRIL 21ST

Fore & Aft: The Purton Ships Graveyard *Paul Barnett*

The story of dozens of vessels deliberately beached and holed on the banks of the River Severn.



MAY 19TH

Member's Evening

Bring your own canal-related pictures for a member's slideshow.

JUNE 16TH

Speaker to be confirmed

JULY 21ST

Annual General Meeting

NOTE 7.30 pm start

The evening will include a slide show of the more recent work and events of the H&G Canal Trust.

JANUARY'S MEETING

Our dark winter evenings were given some light relief when our very own speaker, Dick Skeet, spoke at our January meeting. A good turnout enjoyed the superb photos and witty repartee making his subject "*How Green is Mr Brindley's Stinking Ditch?*" a great deal of fun.

So how *Green is Mr Brindley's Stinking Ditch?* – the question was looking at the environmental issues around the waterways and generally they came out very favourably indeed, we knew they would, but it is good to have some facts to prove it!

Thank you Dick – a very enjoyable talk.

♦♦ MJ

Congratulations!

Our congratulations to *James Hervey-Bathurst*, of Eastnor Castle, (one of our Vice-Presidents) on being awarded a CBE, for services to Heritage, in the Queens New Year Honours List.



This is our provisional list of the shows and events that we hope to attend this year – raising funds and promoting our work both locally and further afield.

Apr 19	Gloucester Boat Jumble and Waterways Festival
May 23-25	Crick Boat Show
May 30-31	Tall Ships at Gloucester Docks
June 27-28	Braunston Boat Show
June 27	Lydney Boat Gathering
July 11	Sutton Fete
Aug 2	Herefordshire Country Show
Aug 29-31	National Waterways Festival and Boat Show, Ratcliffe-on-Soar
Sep 5	Alfrick Show
Sept 12	Newent Onion Fair
Sep 3	Leominster Vintage Show
Oct 17	Oxenhall Apple Day
Nov 14	Our very own Craft Fair, Ledbury



*Your
HELP
please!*

Why not have a good day out with the H&G CT? We cannot promise that you will see the world with us but you may visit an area that is new to you – and we always do our utmost to ensure that you have some time to look around (and your admission to the event will be free!).

We urgently need additional volunteers to help us at these interesting events. Our well established small team will welcome you and you will have a choice of tasks from which to choose. Please contact Janet Moulton (*see inside back cover for Contact details*) to discuss where and when **you** can get involved. **Thank you.**

RESTORATION at Oxenhall *by Brian Fox*



This time of year our programme of work for the day is necessarily decided as we arrive on a Tuesday morning. The weather is the main influence, and the number of frosty mornings has been exceptional, so the final work on the aqueduct has (not surprisingly) suffered.

Whilst we did not quite achieve completion of the top walls by the end of 2008 (as stated on the date stone) by the time you read this that should have been rectified! The west face is completed

and the scaffolding removed; that is what we show off to visitors for the time being. The plea in the last edition of **The Wharfinger** for blue bricks to complete the top course on the other side did not go unnoticed. I had an e-mail from a member in Rutland, who used to live in Dymock, and he remembered that there were similar bricks edging the old railway platforms there. They are indeed still there, in a restored state as part of a public park, but I don't think it would be appropriate to ask if we could pinch a few

Before and ...

after – the completed west face of the aqueduct over Ell Brook.



Photos: Brian Fox, John Chappell and Cliff Penny



John has built a retaining wall/seat in the bank around the newly positioned milestone.



Our trusty tractor was absolutely essential to pull out the boughs from the water.

for our job! Our friends on the Cotswold Canals restoration got in touch to invite us to go and look around their yard and see what they might have - *thank you*. If all else fails there are hundreds along the wharf wall at Over . . . !

Bernard hasn't minded the cold weather as it meant he could get on with the programme of maintenance along the towpath testing his newly acquired skills on the chainsaw. Most of the hedge below Lock Cottage has now been laid over, although some of the old hawthorns just snapped off at the base instead of bending. A few cuttings will be required to fill in any gaps and we have planted one or two indigenous trees to give some variety. The biggest challenge faced so far has been the pollarding of a large willow, just below Lock Cottage, on the edge of the canal. One large branch snapped off last summer and fell across the towpath and, after inspection, it was considered urgent to remove two others before they fell. They created quite a splash as they toppled into the canal. Our trusty tractor was absolutely essential to pull the boughs from the water so that they could be cut into manageable lengths.

Talking of tractors, the plea in the last edition for painters was answered by David and Elizabeth who last joined us some years ago when they painted the bailey bridge, caravan, and Mister Maysey before it went to Over. It is great to see them again and we would welcome others who have been on long term absence but are missing us at Oxenhall! It was good to see Martyn again after his op, although

not in a fit enough state to work yet. (*In the meantime Martyn has turned his skills to writing for **The Wharfinger** - see Training the Ell Brook on page 24 - Ed.*)

John has had a chance to demonstrate his brick-laying skills by building a retaining wall/seat in the bank at the back of the newly positioned milestone. A chance to rest and contemplate as you explore the restored canal? John is also an accomplished photographer and our 'nature' man who writes his own piece for **The Wharfinger**. A few well chosen plants along the top should finish the job off nicely.

Lucien, who joined us some years ago, when he moved from voluntary work on the Wey and Arun Canal in Surrey to Ross on Wye with wife Doris, has decided to give restoration at Oxenhall a rest. He was actively involved from fairly early on in the lock restoration and then the aqueduct. He is happy to continue with his duties of archivist, keeping a photographic record of canal works and a scrap book of all relevant newspaper cuttings. *Thanks for everything Lucien.*

One disadvantage of having a secluded rural site is that it can be seen as a tempting target for thieves. Unfortunately there was a break-in last November when someone came prepared with bolt cutters to break the lock on the gate and then gain entry into the tool shed. Our generator was stolen but fortunately a couple of other valuable items were left. Security has been reviewed and no tools of any value are now left in the store.



Photos: John Chappell

TRAINING THE ELL BROOK

by Martyn Treasure

*What do you do if you are one of our regular restoration volunteers and find yourself with site frustratingly 'off limits' while you recover from major heart surgery? Rather than being idle, Martyn Treasure decided he would write a piece for **The Wharfinger**! We hope that you are back to full fitness soon, Martyn.*

In his article on The Ell Brook (edition 97 of **The Wharfinger**, page 30) John Chappell described how the Brook can rise rapidly to a great depth during times of flood – here Martyn explains how our Oxenhall team have taken steps to deal with one of the potentially serious consequences of flooding at this location – and how they found both an economical and sustainable solution ...

The Ell Brook flooded badly following the severe storms of July 2007. The surcharge on the upstream side of the aqueduct resulted in the water flowing through at a very high velocity. Whilst the recently restored structure had sufficient strength to withstand the loads imposed, without any damage, at the downstream end of the aqueduct a potentially serious situation developed. As the water pressure suddenly lessened it created a vortex which caused substantial erosion to the almost vertical bank on one side, immediately beside the abutment,

exposing the soil beneath. We considered that a similar storm event in the future could cause severe damage by washing out the remaining ground beneath the abutment foundation and that remedial measures should be taken. Fortunately the other bank had a gentle slope and the storm water was able to flow over it without creating a vortex.

We considered several repair solutions; loose rock fill, masonry wall, stone filled gabions and Reno mattresses. All would require considerable engineering input and possibly the use of heavy lifting equipment which would have been expensive and difficult to position. Eventually we settled on experimenting with a willow spile wall. This had the advantages of using locally sourced material and no construction costs! The wall consists of upright posts driven into the edge of the stream bed and willow prunings woven between them, similar to a hurdle.



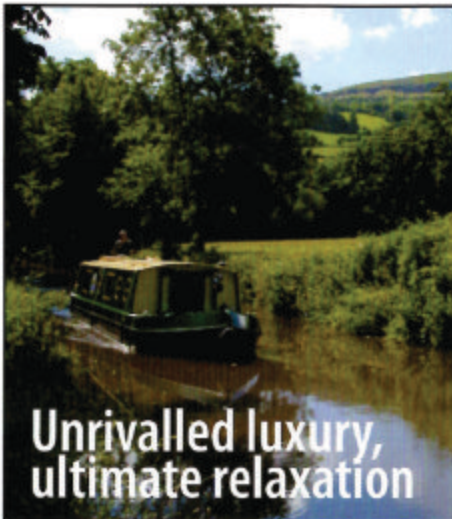
A live willow pile wall keeps the bank stable adjacent to Ell Brook Aqueduct.

By luck, in March 2008, a couple of willow trees just along the canal were in need of pollarding and would provide suitable material. Ideally the uprights (spiles) should be about 100mm diameter and placed at 1m centres with a 20 degree slope away but our largest prunings were only about half that size so we spaced them more closely. A couple of planks placed on rocks kept the builders clear of the water while they drove the uprights in using a post rammer, and jolly hard work it was too with frequent rests to recover our breath! The uprights were not straight and the slope did not really work. Achieving the angle was made even more difficult when we wove the horizontals in between as the natural spring of the saplings tended to pull the uprights vertical. Eventually we achieved a wall but it was not as neat and tidy as we hoped. We then cut back the vertical soil slope to an angle to use the material to fill in the void behind the wall. Later in the summer more fill was placed in the hole during the exploits of a group of volunteers from **Mid Counties Co-operative** (see edition 97 of **The Wharfinger**, page 29.).

Willow roots very quickly and within a month green shoots had appeared all over

the wall. By the end of the summer the entire structure had grown into a thicket of willow shoots which should grow together to provide a secure defence in future flood events.

♦ MT



**Unrivalled luxury,
ultimate relaxation**

Unwind however you choose, and for as long as you like, in the splendour of the Brecon Beacons on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.

To know more: 01873 858277

www.beaconparkboats.com

More than just a holiday...



ABC LEISURE GROUP

Boat Hire

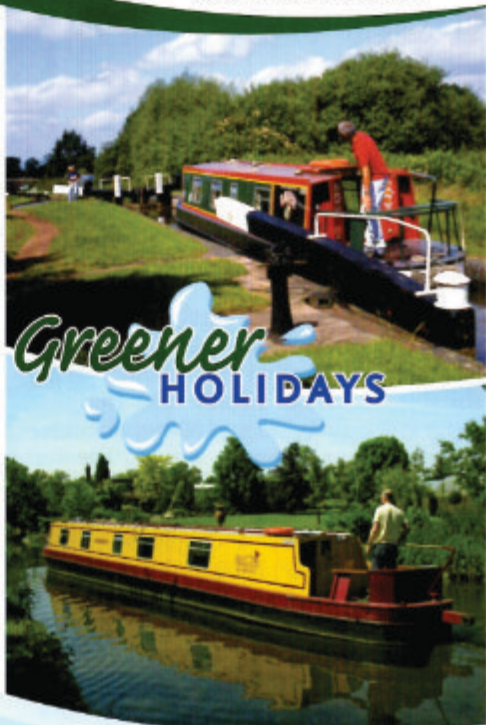
- Weekends & mid week short breaks, weeks or more with a wide choice of start days
- 11 Start bases providing access to nearly 2000 miles of canals and rivers
- Beginners welcome
- Over 200 boats with 2 to 12 berths in one free brochure
- Tourist board inspected boats
- For your safety and enjoyment BMF approved handovers
- Online availability & booking



www.ukboathire.com

Visit the website or call us for your free brochure

0845 126 4098



Other Services Available

- Marina Services** - repairs & servicing including LPG at 8 locations
- Boat Sales** - new & used with full internet listing
- Mooring** - including dry docking or cranga & blacking service
- Chandlery** - stock held at marinas with internet mail order service
- Inboard & Outboard Engines** - supplied, fitted & repaired
- High Quality Bespoke Boats** - built to any stage, shell, sailaway or fully fitted



...narrow boats...

...wide horizons



women



men



women



men



we're all volunteers!

"Why do they do it?"

In the previous edition of **The Wharfinger** we carried reports from passengers on the guided tour of the H&G Canal (page 32). A question kept on recurring throughout Sheila and John Campbell's contribution – "**why do they do it?**". Two of our long-standing volunteers and regular contributors have responded – it is not just a man's world (as one writer might have you believe) ...

Why do we men do it?

It is indeed a mixture of many things, as the 'Tour' writer suggested, appreciating the work of those who first built the canal and wishing to preserve their legacy is one. The bonds of friendship established over a period sitting around during breaks and chatting is another. A desire to keep active as one grows older (and a bit of fresh air never did anyone any harm). *Perhaps the chance to have some time away from the wife for a day – but to go home afterwards with something different to talk about!* Or could it simply be **men** doing what men do *and women don't always understand* – reliving their youth and mucking about getting dirty and wet in the process?

◆ BF

Why do we ladies do it?

For me it combines my love of the waterways with my interest in nature and the countryside. After a week in an air-conditioned office, with no windows nearby, I need a way of getting some exercise away from my desk – helping construct the wharf wall at Over was my introduction to the H&G CT! Canal restoration suits me, I have met lots of interesting people, made new friends and I have learnt lots of new skills; and passed on some knowledge too. We have many volunteers, not just the men *and women* who come weekly to help with restoration and maintenance of the canal but all those who help with the many important tasks both 'in front' and 'behind the scenes'. Some of our volunteers may appreciate a chance for a few hours away from a partner; they will go back tired, but with stories to tell about their day. *It is not simply something that men do!* As for getting wet or muddy – male or female, *you don't really notice the weather when you are enjoying what you are doing!*

◆ MJ

A NATURAL EXPLANATION?

John Chappell has, yet again, been delving deeper into what grows right alongside us at our Oxenhall site. Our natural surroundings at just this one location continue to be a fascinating area to explore - and if it all becomes too complex and you get a headache well, as always, read on .

Arriving at the Oxenhall site one Tuesday in early April we were all struck by the strange appearance of a tree near our car park whose branches are illustrated far right. It was clearly a willow (*Salix*) but not one we were familiar with. Willows are, with few exceptions, dioecious (ie. male and female flowers borne on separate trees). Although we all know 'pussy willows', with their softly-hairy silver buds becoming fluffy golden-yellow globes in early spring, few of us realized that these are usually best on male trees. The female of the species is less common and has smaller flowers.

However the tree we had spotted on arrival was indeed a female and what had caught our eye was the seed capsule resulting from the female flowers having received pollen from the male. Once fertilized the fruit contains numerous tiny (0.1 mm) seeds which are embedded in a white down. The fluffy down assists wind dispersal once the seeds are ripe and the 'pods' have split. After a week or two Mother Nature was doing her thing and the seeds were blowing around the site. (see main photograph)

Walk along the tow path at Oxenhall and you will see many willows around the edges of the site. Some have 6-10 ft tall trunks with large, straight branches sprouting from a crown and some are multi stemmed at ground level. These are trees that were once pollarded; in this instance the thick rods were

probably used for farm fencing. Today the old pollarded willows on short trunks have become broad open crowned trees providing ideal nesting sites for birds (including willow warblers, wrens, wagtails and nearly all members of the tit family). In time the crown also collects leaves and other organic debris which supports a mixed population of insects. Compare these trees with the willows actually growing out of the canal banks and you will see that the latter are much taller with conventional tapering trunks. Willows like these would not have been planted in such a situation but are self sown and have not been pollarded.

Willow is a highly commercial tree with basket making and cricket bats among the many uses, fortunately (unlike Over) none of the willows at Oxenhall are of these species or I would be filling a complete issue of **The Wharfinger**!

Identifying different species of willows is notoriously difficult. Consideration has to be given to both young and mature leaves, the overall (and natural) shape of the tree, not to mention the shape and colour of the catkins. One of the willows at Oxenhall that we have positively identified is on the bank of the Ell brook close to the aqueduct. It is *Salix fragilis*, known as the 'Crack Willow'. The crack willow is well named because the trunk grows so fast that it can split open under its own weight - with a very loud crack - which has happened to this one; fortunately no-one was around at the time! Its favoured habitat is damp, flood-prone river valleys, which encourages this tendency to collapse and any branches that fall will immediately make roots. When this species is pollarded it makes the most contorted of all pollards; the crowns are often so full of holes and debris that other tree species can seed and grow within them. Crack willows are



Willow (*Salix*)



Photos: John Chappell

often planted to stabilise stream banks and, as Martyn Treasure explains elsewhere in this issue, we have done this at Oxenhall to protect the aqueduct walls from flash floods to which the Ell Brook is prone. Willows growing by streams should be pollarded regularly to allow light into the water.

The bark of the willow tree has been mentioned in ancient texts as a remedy for aches and fevers, Hippocrates wrote about its medicinal properties in the 5th century BC. Today's Aspirin is a synthesized form of the original willow bark extract. *So if identifying other willows at Oxenhall gives us a headache we have the solution close to hand!*

◆ JC

OVER WILLOW FOR SALE!

The wet summer has been good for some things. The Osier bed at Over has grown well and a number of colourful varieties are now available:-

Fresh cut rods suitable for 'living willow' structures and sculptures.

These are ideal to plant in the dormant season until about early April.

3 varieties about 5ft to 7ft in length:

'Britzensis' Orangey-red bark;
'Chinese' Bright green bark;
'Leentjes' Mid green bark

All at **20p** per rod.

Fresh cut thinner rods suitable for basketry.

5 varieties about 3ft to 4ft in length.

The above three varieties plus:-
'Green Dicks' and 'Daphnoides'

All at **5p** per rod.

All proceeds to H&G CT funds.

Please contact **Mike Bowden**
(on site at Over on most Wednesdays)
or phone **01452 790 459**.

Thomas Rothley of the City of Bristol, Esquire.

Nigel Jefferies is one of our founder Members who serves on the CofM of the H&G CT and is our Membership Secretary – he also is a keen historian. Our feature on 'Gift Ideas' in the last edition included copies of a 1793 £100 first issue share certificate – which prompted Nigel to undertake some research...

As was reported in **The Wharfinger** – page 39 of Edition 96 – the H&G CT successfully obtained at auction (for a total of £494.00 including buyers premium and VAT) the original share certificate number 585 that was purchased by "Thomas Rothley of the City of Bristol, Esquire".

Since originally I am from Bristol, I thought it would be interesting to discover something about this fellow Bristolian, who, in 1793 was wealthy enough to purchase a one hundred pound share certificate in the Herefordshire and

Gloucestershire Canal Navigation. I own an original share certificate number 116, purchased by Samuel Carless, one of the most respected citizens of Hereford.

Here is a summary of what I found out about Thomas Rothley:-

1778

On the 23rd November, Thomas married Elizabeth Heylyn.

1785

In The Bristol Directory for this year, Thomas is described as a Cheque Clerk for the Customs, of Lower College Green, Bristol.

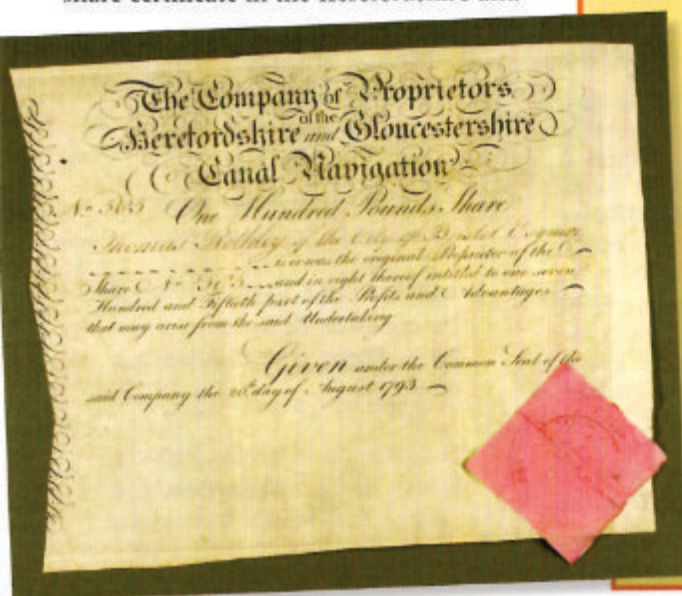
1787

In this year he is described as 'Esquire' and Receiver of the Prizage (sic) of the Holms & Small Lights with Greenwich & Bristol Hospitals. So it would appear, Thomas had been promoted. His address is still Lower College Green, Bristol.

1793

In Matthew's New Bristol Directory for 1793-4, (printed by William Matthews, at 10, Broadmead) Thomas is again described as 'Esquire'.

On this occasion he is listed as Receiver of the Prizage of the Holms & Small Lights, but his address is now The Customs House, Queen's Square, Bristol, Gloucestershire.



I have discovered from the 'Dictionary of English Law', by Earl Jowitt that prisage was an ancient hereditary revenue of the Crown consisting of the right to take a certain quantity from the wine imported into England. In Edward I's reign (1272—1307) it was converted into a pecuniary duty called butlerage. All prisage and butlerage on wines were abolished as regards England, except for the Duchy of Lancaster, by the statute 1809, 49 Geo III and as regards the Duchy by the statute of 1832, 2 & 3 Will IV. For centuries wines have been imported into Bristol, particularly from France, and in 1796 Harveys began importing Sherry from Spain and Portugal - some of which is sold as 'Bristol Cream'.

So it would appear that Thomas Rothley was a customs official, who rose from a clerk to be responsible for the collection of duty, living at The Customs House in the prestigious area of Queen's Square, Bristol.



country craft

Narrowboat holidays on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Gentle cruising through the spectacular Brecon Beacons National Park. Modern fleet of 2/6 berth narrowboats, competitively priced. Pets welcome, short breaks available.



Tel: 01874 730 850

Web: www.countrycraftnarrowboats.co.uk

THE OAK INN

STAPLOW • HR8 1NP • TELEPHONE: 01531 640954

OPEN FOR LUNCH AND DINNER EVERY DAY IN OUR COSY BAR AREAS OR RESTAURANT Booking Recommended

Good selection of real ales • Real log fires • Flagstone floors • Old beams & hops

A very warm welcome awaits you at our newly refurbished inn

Large car park & pretty beer garden at the rear • Dogs welcome

Parties catered for • Good Beer Guide 2009



'A lifejacket buys you vital time – but only if you're wearing it.'

On average, RNLI crew members rescue 22 people a day. So they know what can make the difference to being rescued alive. The fact is, wearing a lifejacket will more than double your chances of survival in the water.*

Wearing a lifejacket can buy you vital survival time, but only if you wear it. Why not switch your way of thinking? Our advice is to put a lifejacket on the moment you board your boat. And should you want to remove it, think carefully about your decision.

For advice on choosing a lifejacket and how to wear it correctly, call us on 0800 328 0600 (UK) or 1800 789 589 (RoI) or visit our website rnl.org.uk/wearone

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



Useless unless worn

A charity registered in England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland

FRIENDS
of the
NATIONAL
WATERWAYS
MUSEUM



Giant Boat Jumble and Waterways Festival

National Waterways
Museum Gloucester Docks
Sunday 19 April 2009
9.30am – 3pm

Admission is £3.50 – accompanied children are free and entry to the event also includes entry to the National Waterways Museum – a bargain day out for all the family!

The event is organised by volunteers from The Friends of the National Waterways Museum and we are very grateful to The Friends for their support.

On April our Members Ray and Barbara Moses will once again be organising and 'manning' our fundraising stand at the annual Giant Boat Jumble and Waterways Festival held at Gloucester Docks. Whilst we are very grateful to Ray and Barbara they, in turn, greatly appreciate your help as the success of their annual voluntary efforts depends entirely on having appropriate items to sell...

Once again we are organising a stand at the **Giant Boat Jumble and Waterways Festival** in April. As usual we require items to sell please, either donated or to be sold on commission. The items must have a boating, sailing, fishing or outdoors connection, *however tenuous*, but please, *no waterways magazines as we still have plenty left from previous years.*

We can collect items from the March Social Evening at **The Royal Oak**. If this is not convenient, please phone 01989 780 325 or e-mail r_w_moses@yahoo.co.uk to make alternative arrangements. *The more items we get, the more money we can make for the H&G Canal Trust.*

◀ RM

Your
HELP
please!

Please do have a look to see if you have anything that can be sold at this event; alternatively (or as well!) if you would like to help on the day please do get in touch with Ray or Barbara – *you will be made most welcome.*

This could be the last 'Jumble' where Ray and Barbara are able to organise our stand and attendance for us – they would welcome offers to assist 'behind the scenes' and on the day. They would be happy to work with such a volunteer to guide them through the next event. Please do get in touch with them (*the contact details are earlier in this article*) to discuss.

Thank you.



The Inland
Waterways
Association

Gloucestershire & Herefordshire IWA Branch

Thursday, 5th March 2009
Gloucester Yacht Club, 7.30pm
Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 9th April 2009
Gloucester Yacht Club, 7.30pm
Purton Hulks by Paul Barnett

Thursday, 28th-30th May 2009
Gloucester Tall Ships Festival
Gloucester Docks

Thursday, 26th-28th June 2009
Lydney Boat Rally

For further details of any of the above:
Martin Turner 01291 650605

Shocking Ruffianism in Gloucestershire!

by John and Daphne Chappell

Our regular contributor **John Chappell** came across a press clipping on the internet from the **Manchester Times**, dated July 1860, headed 'Shocking Ruffianism in Gloucestershire' which related to an incident on the H&G Canal. Fascinated by what he read in this, and a subsequent item from **Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper**, he decided to delve deeper into the matter. John's Wife **Daphne** also became interested having read the newspaper reports and together they have investigated the matter in great depth. 1861 Census records, various texts, historical maps, witness statements at Newent Petty Sessions and records of trials at Gloucester Assizes, shipping news and public notices in the press of the time were just some of their sources – Gloucester Prison historical records even confirmed that one of the boatmen involved had only one leg!

Here is part one of their fascinating tale - to be concluded in the next edition . . .

It was June 30th 1860 when narrow-boat 'Number 7' belonging to carriers **Danks, Venn & Sanders** made her way out of Gloucester Docks bound for Ledbury in Herefordshire. Part of her cargo consisted of two barrels, one of port, one of sherry, each containing 57 gallons, both consigned to a Mr Treherne, grocer and wine merchant. Two men and a boy were on board, the Master James Harper, his son William and the mate William Osborne.

The wine barrels had been shipped from Bristol on June 27th on the Danks & Co's. boat 'Ellen Venn' having been filled, sealed and 'tinned' (this involved nailing a tin plate over the bung to prevent tampering), arriving at Gloucester Docks on June 29th where they were checked by Edwin

Norris, Gloucester agent for Danks & Co. Norris delivered the barrels to James Harper on board the 'Number 7' at about 5 o'clock on the evening of the following day.

Harper had worked for Danks & Co. for three months; he was 48 years of age, a tall man with a long, thin, weather-beaten face.



SEVERN CARRIERS

BULL WHARF, REDCLIFF STREET, BRISTOL

DANKS, VENN, AND SANDERS Severn Trows leave daily.

Canal Carriers connecting with – Worcester and Birmingham Canal Company; J Sutton and Co.; Pickford and Co.; Crowley and Co.; and by their boats from Gloucester to Hereford.

The Trows pass the Berkeley Canal. They receive Goods for Gloster, Tewkesbury, Worcester, Stourport, Herefordshire, North Wales, and all parts of the northern and eastern coast.

His appearance, including the large scar across his right eyebrow, suggested a rough and ready life. His son William was 14. The mate, William Osborne, was an old hand and had worked boats for Danks and Co. since he was ten years old. He was 28, a short, stocky man with an eagle and anchor tattooed on his left arm, the epitome of the watermen that carried goods on the canal. *This was to be an eventful trip.*

The Hereford & Gloucester Canal joined the western channel of the River Severn at Over just outside Gloucester City. The difficulties of getting from Gloucester Docks (on the eastern channel) to Over Lock in the unpowered craft of 1860 cannot be overstated. On tidal rivers such as the Severn, boatmen

took advantage of both ebb and flood of the tides to move their boats.

High tide was at 7.20pm on the evening of June 30th. It was essential that Harper's boat left Gloucester Docks as the tide ran upstream in order to take it to the upper parting where it was secured until the tide ebbed. The boat was then able to drift down the western channel where, with assistance from a boat belonging to the Hereford & Gloucester Canal Co. – moored nearby especially for the purpose – it entered the lock. This was successfully done before dusk and once through the lock the boat laid up in the Over Basin ready for an early start the following morning.

Early next day, after hitching the horse to pull the boat, they set off. Horses that pulled canal boats have largely been forgotten; it was said that a strong horse could pull fifty times the weight in a boat than it could in a cart and good progress could be made through calm water with no currents. Consequently the animals were well cared for, being stabled well, rested and given the best food; they were, after all, vital to commercial transport on the canal system.

Harper's boat made its way through Rudford Lock, Double Locks, Coneybury Lock and Road Lock but, before reaching Malswick, temptation got the better of the men. *The barrel of port was opened, the quality tested and after several samplings, approved!* When the 'Number 7' arrived at the bridge over the Upcaddon road it caught up with another canal boat 'The Lion'. ➔



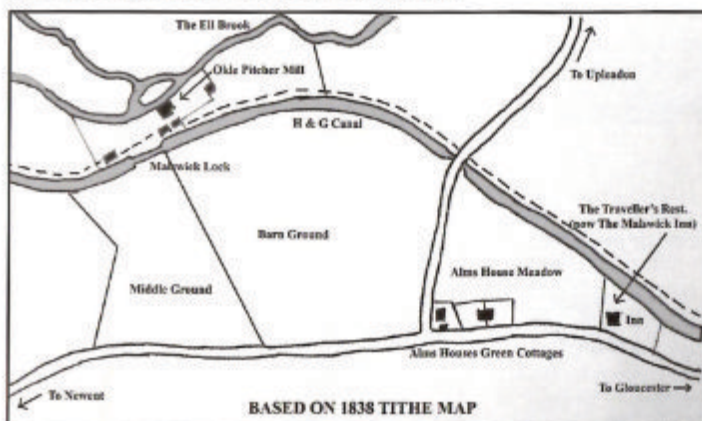
For those not familiar with the River Severn the channel divides close to Maisemore – at the upper parting – forming an east and west channel. Just downstream of Gloucester Lock (the entry to the Docks) the channels combine again at the lower parting.

At the time of this story (1860) the tides ran up the River unchecked. Subsequently a number of weirs and associated locks were built (including, in 1871, those at Maisemore and Llanthony) enabling boats from Gloucester to gain access to the navigations of the Midlands, and beyond, without hindrance from the tides. This also improved access to the H&G Canal.

The owner of 'The Lion', John Butler, earned his living mainly from the Newent coal trade and lived at one of the Alms Houses, Green Cottages, on the corner of the lane to Upleadon. Next door lived his recently married son Charles, also a boatman, who worked with his father. Living in a third cottage was John's son-in-law James Edwards and his wife Jane. In such a tight knit community it didn't

take long for the word to spread that wine was flowing on the 'Number 7'!

John Butler persuaded Harper to sell him some wine and went off to his house to get some bottles and jars which were filled and left in the cottages. Butler returned to his boat and both boats proceeded to Oxenhall where events were to take a turn for the worse . . . !



To be concluded in the next edition.

The authors would like to thank Hugh Conway-Jones for his advice and help with tide times.

◆ JC/DC

1838 – The area around Malswick, and the road to Upleadon, where "temptation got the better of the men".

E. B. HAYWARD & Co.

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

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

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

It has been our pleasure in supporting the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust for over 15 years, and we will continue to work together in the present, to revive the past, and secure a better future.

© H&GCT

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



SHEETMETAL WORKS
ASHLEWORTH
GLOUCESTER
GL19 4JJ

We're here

Customer Services: 0845 600 1616

(calls charged at local rate)

here

Technical Helpline: 0845 722 7853

(calls charged at local rate)

and here.

www.castlecement.co.uk



CASTLE CEMENT

HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group

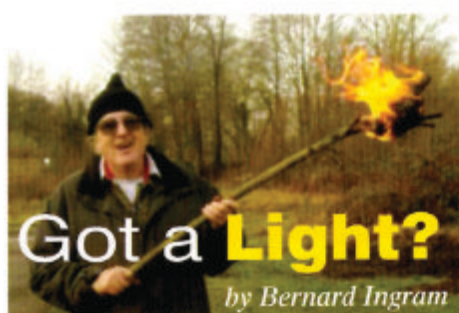


Photo: John Chappell

We even had a small pile of kindling wood and were all ready for our bonfire. "Got a light?" was met with blank stares and sheepish grins. Our only "smoker" was at the doctors and the site hut was ¼ mile away!

There was nothing for it but a tramp back to find the tin containing the box of matches prudently stored in the site hut. The bonfire was GO. Or it would have been if the long unused tin of matches had not succumbed to the all pervading damp!

Oxenhall volunteers, however, are truly resourceful. Back at the site hut even a damp match can be persuaded to flare with the help of a car cigarette lighter! But how does that light the bonfire a ¼ mile away? Well the resulting flame lit paper, which in turn lit an oil-soaked rag wrapped round the end of a stick, which was then taken on an 'Olympian walk' back to the waiting kindling – it was not long before the bonfire was warming our bones and was truly a sight to behold!

◆ BI



TRADITIONAL ROPE AND FENDER MAKERS SUPPLIERS OF ROPE & TWINE

- No VAT • Makers of Traditional rope fenders • Rope for decking •
- Suppliers of rope and twines • Mooring lines • Tow ropes •
- Decorative cotton rope • Bannister ropes and fittings •
- Garden features • Cotton rope sitting hammock @ £59 + £7 p+p

IF IT IS MADE OF ROPE WE CAN MAKE IT

www.getknotted.co.uk

alan@getknotted.co.uk

Tel: Alan 01926 410588 (24 hr answering) Fax: 01789 778953

Warwick Top Lock, Lower Cape, Warwick CV 34 5DP

The Wharfinger

The next edition of **The Wharfinger** will be published in June and will be number 100. Apart from all the usual features we will be commencing a new series based on the actual diaries of **Stephen Ballard** – who was responsible for successfully completing the H&G Canal to Hereford.

Stephen's diaries, which are safely held at the Herefordshire County Records Office, were written in a form of shorthand – *but not one that a modern day secretary would understand!* However, the 'code' was cracked and the Editor was lent the (lengthy) transcripts; our 100th edition seemed to be a fitting time to commence the story.

Caroline Jones has inspected the originals and risen to the challenge of producing a series of articles, based on the transcripts, especially for **The Wharfinger**. *Don't miss this fascinating insight into how the trials and tribulations of canal construction were successfully overcome – as well as how every day life was in the area nearly 200 years ago.*

100
EDITION

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

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:

13TH April, 2009

Saul Junction Marina

Now Open



Wide Variety of
Cruising – Minutes
from M5 (J.13)

Unique and
attractive location
beside Gloucester &
Sharpness Canal

Good Facilities –
Competitive Rates

To reserve a mooring
or make enquiries:

Tel- Land & Water Estates
01452 740 043

Email-
saul-marina@btconnect.com

Web-
www.land-water.co.uk

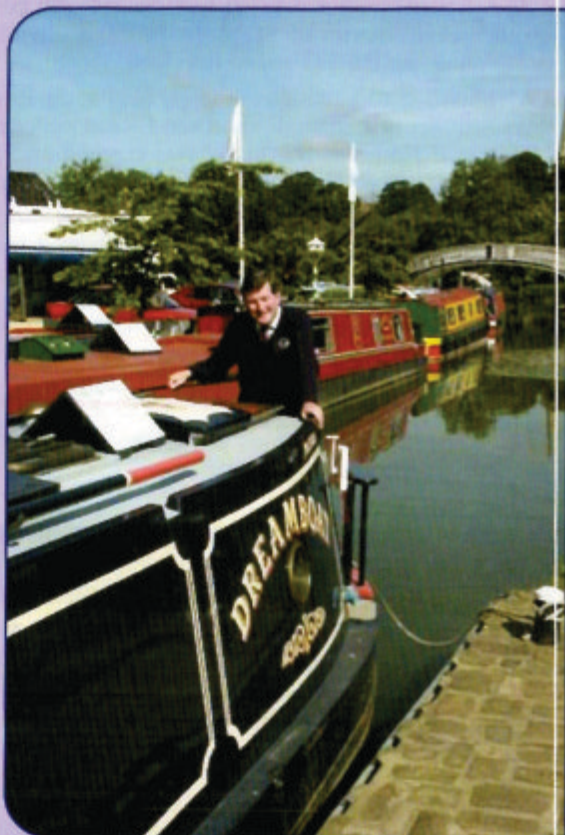
Buying or selling your DREAMBOAT?

*Then make Braunston Brokerage
– at the heart of England's
waterways – your first port of call!*

*Established in 1988, we are
a major player in the selling
of narrowboats – new and
secondhand – with a
reputation for professionalism
that is second to none.*

*Our marina offers the fullest
range of support services.
Uniquely, we have two dry
docks on-site for surveys,
hull-blackening, repaints, sign-
writing and below waterline
repairs. Also engineering and
refit facilities.*

*Sell your Dreamboat
where it will be seen!*



For full information – including our
competitive brokerage package –
contact Tim Coghlan at:

Braunston Marina Limited, Braunston,
Nr Daventry, Northants NN11 7JH
Telephone 01788 891373
Fax 01788 891436

Website: www.braunstonmarina.co.uk
Email: sales@braunstonmarina.co.uk

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!

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

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
liz@lizconnors.orangehome.co.uk

Cliff Penny
"Coppice", Burley Gate,
Hereford, HR1 3QS
Tel: (01432) 820 866
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

Martin Danks
Tel: (01432) 344 488
martindanks@tiscali.co.uk

Chris High
Tel: (01568) 615 575
chris.high@lineone.net

Paul Henshaw
Tel: (01684) 292 997
paulhenshawuk@yahoo.co.uk

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

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

Ted Beagles
Tel: (01452) 522 648

Peter Moore
Tel: (01531) 820 671

Lucien Perring
Tel: (01989) 768 441

Robin Smithett
Tel: (01981) 540 334
robin@smithett.co.uk

Peter Lawrence
Tel: (01684) 564 075

Heather Worth
MAIL ORDER SALES,
12 Hewitt Ave., Kings Acre,
HEREFORD, HR4 0QP
Tel: (01432) 270 552 (evenings only)
(07889) 853 017 (other times)
Heather@worthh.fsnet.co.uk

UK Subscription Rates

	Annual	Life
Individual	£7.50	£150
Joint/Family	£10.00	£200
Senior Citizen	£5.00	£80
Joint Senior Citizen	£7.00	£110
Corporate	£20.00	£400

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

All payments to: 6, Castle Street, Hereford, HR1 2NL

Advertising in

The Wharfinger

Show the support of your business by advertising in **The Wharfinger**. Rates start at £17, there is a series discount and we will gladly design your advertisement free of charge.

Colin Dymott has the details.

Tel. 01981 540488
colin.kd@virgin.net

Unless specifically stated opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust. As a Registered Charity, with defined objectives, we cannot endorse the content of any specific advertisement, product or services. The Trust accepts no liability for any matter, or advertising, contained in this magazine. Reproduction of extracts from the magazine is welcomed provided that full acknowledgement is given.

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

Whilst we try to ensure dates are correct please verify them with a relevant Organiser.

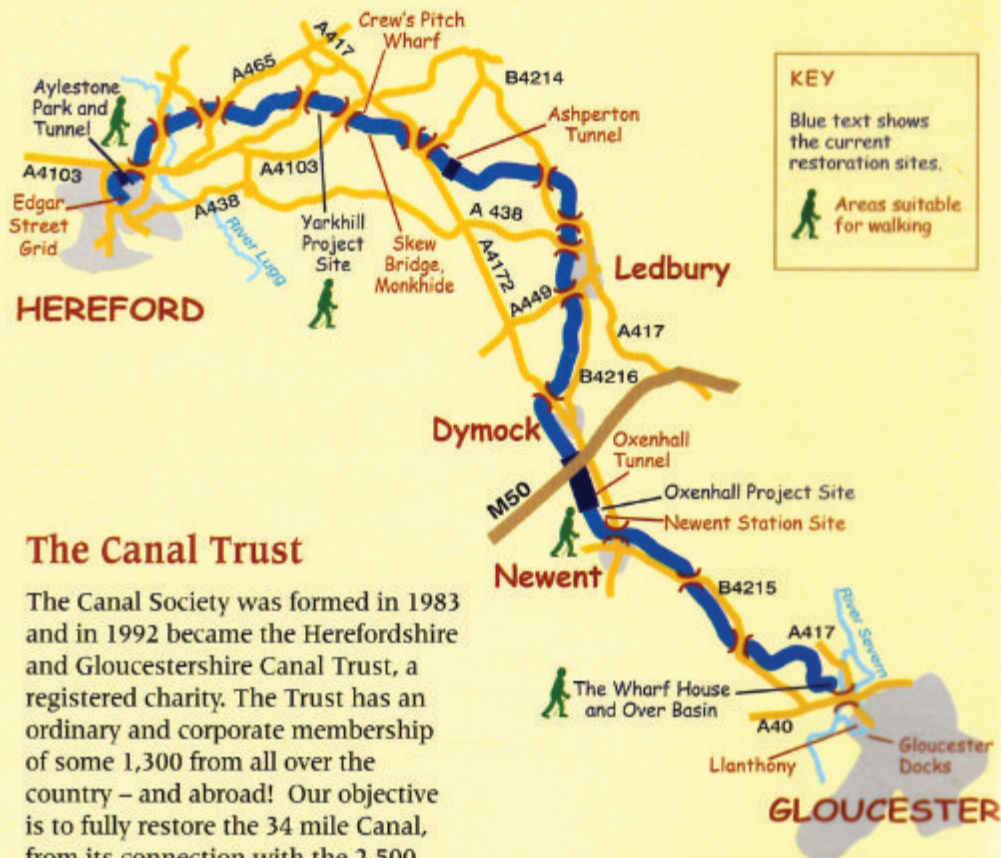
© 2009 Published by the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust.

The Wharf House Company Ltd [No. 4627931] and H & G Canal (Sales) Ltd. [No. 2710215] are part of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust Ltd. group of companies. The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust is a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee [No. 2704407] and is a registered charity [No. 1010721]. Registered Office:- The Wharf House, Horseshoe Drive, Over, Gloucester, GL2 8DB.

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.