

The

# Wharfinger

Winter 2010-11

Magazine of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust



EDITION  
**106**

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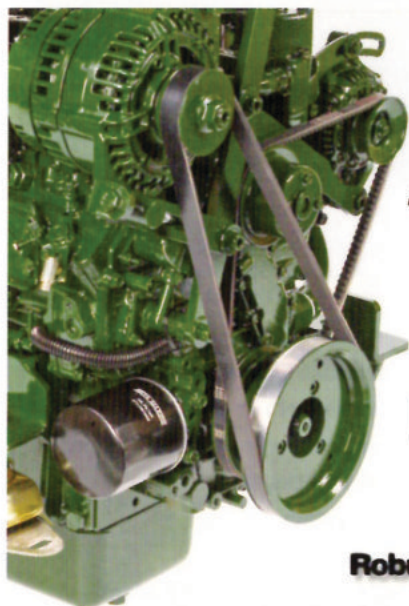
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## Chairman's Column from Janet Moults



*By the time that you receive this issue, the run up to Christmas will be in full swing. 2010 was a good year for the H&G CT. A new slipway in Hereford, the opening of the bedrooms at <sup>THE</sup> WHARF HOUSE and, (as you will read on page 17) a Campaign to Protect Rural England award for Over Basin – plus rosettes and stars galore for <sup>THE</sup> WHARF HOUSE! All this in a very difficult economic climate.*

Each of our restoration sites held successful Open Days showing slow but sure progress and ongoing maintenance achievements. Other volunteers continue to be active both visibly and (equally importantly) 'behind the scenes' – where their work could too easily be taken for granted. Finances have been effectively controlled, membership numbers grown, minutes painstakingly recorded, development and town planning matters successfully negotiated, the web site developed even further – and **The Wharfinger** continues to attract both interesting contributors as well as continued compliments!

The Trading Company travelled the country – to annual events like Crick and Braunston, to new events at Foxton and Alfrick and, of course, to the 'National' back at Beale Park. Purse strings are tighter so sales are hard to come by, but interest in the H&G grows. Thanks for donations to the Trading Company of Royal Worcester plates from Audrey, woodwork, from John, and canal books from Michael to raise funds for the work of the Trust. Other generous donations have been received towards postage of **The Wharfinger**, van hire and the many other aspects of our work. *Thank you.*

Sustainability is very important to the H&G CT and we are always looking for new methods of saving energy and reducing our carbon footprint. As you will have seen in Ed.105 we are now generating solar power at <sup>THE</sup> WHARF HOUSE! so we look forward to a long, hot summer – although, perhaps fortunately (given our climate), it also works on the duller days too!

Long, hot summers (but without water shortages) – are welcomed by another group of our volunteers – the site leaders. Each site requires someone to take on the organising of the work programme, raising funds, being aware of all health and safety aspects and finding and motivating volunteers. Please go along and see the work they are doing – week in, week out, and support their Open Days next year. As new sites come on stream – new enthusiastic site leaders will be needed – so please keep that challenge in mind.

*We wish all our readers a happy, healthy Christmas and a prosperous 2011.*

♦♦ Janet Moults, Chairman





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**Editorial** by Cliff Penny

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY WRG!

*Our friends the WRGies are celebrating their 40th birthday this year – **happy birthday (and thanks) WRG!***

Hopefully only a few of our readers will be saying “who/what”? WRGies are the volunteers who form the **Waterway Recovery Group** – the national volunteering arm of the **Inland Waterways Association**. There are many WRG groups around the country who help on inland waterways both in their own locality and (frequently) much further afield. WRGies pay (currently £56 to £80) for a weeks Canal Camp to cover ‘board and lodgings’ – typically sleeping on a village hall floor and organising all their own catering.

Anyone who has walked, fished, cycled, paddled a canoe (or even steered a boat!) along almost any part of the inland waterways system should be saying “thank you” to WRG. At some time over the past 40 years you can almost certainly guarantee that a WRGie (or two, or likely, more!) will have worked to help restore/reconstruct/clean up or otherwise make possible what we can take for granted today as the fantastic asset of the inland waterways.

Coming closer to home WRG have been actively involved with the restoration of the H&G Canal from the outset, assisting our own volunteers in the early days at Monkhide and they regularly worked alongside our Oxenhall team during part of the restoration of the masonry of House Lock. *To a greater or lesser degree WRG volunteers have been active on each and every one of our restoration sites.*

The greatest WRG involvement on the H&G Canal (so far!) being – of course – at

Over Canal Basin. In 2000, WRGies from groups all around the country, worked with our own volunteers to ensure that the exceedingly tight 9 month deadline to get the Over Canal Basin reconstructed and in water was achieved – with ten days to spare! Over £500,000 of work (at contract prices) was undertaken on a budget of just £60,000. *The initials WRG are justly and proudly displayed for posterity in contrasting brickwork alongside the opening ceremony plaque.*

It is accepted that restoration of the H&G Canal has a positive effect on the local economy and brings benefits to the communities through which it passes. WRGies have already played a small part in this. Over the years village halls (in both Gloucestershire and Herefordshire) have received numerous canal camp accommodation bookings and this has assisted in obtaining grants and improving the halls to the long-term benefit of the local community. Some village Pubs have also seen a short-term windfall boost to trade; the community owned Beauchamp Arms at Dymock reputedly running out of beer on more than one occasion – *until the landlord realised the ‘special dietary requirements’ of many WRGies!*

The ongoing achievements of our own restoration volunteers should not be forgotten; week in week out they are busy at many locations along the H&G Canal with both the (never-ending) demands of maintenance and management of the canal corridor and with restoration itself. *Ten years of voluntary work at Over has just been the subject of an award from CPRE (see page 17).*

◆ CRP

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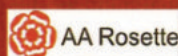


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# THE WHARF HOUSE

## *gains a Rosette and Four Stars!*

THE WHARF HOUSE is proud to have been honoured with the AA's esteemed **Red Rosette** for culinary excellence; it is the only restaurant in Gloucester to receive this award. The award was made after the restaurant and rooms were recently assessed for quality and consistent standards of hospitality, service, food and comfort – receiving **four stars** for the newly opened bedrooms.

In a press release David Penny, our volunteer Commercial Director of THE WHARF HOUSE, expressed his delight stating "I am very proud of how far we have come over the last 5 years and receiving this acknowledgement proves the team who have worked so hard have an exciting future".

Staff at THE WHARF HOUSE are passionate about retaining and building on this reputation and are looking forward to this year's Christmas menus being just as well received.

### Christmas Menus

This year the festive menu combines the best of fine dining and a selection of local wines (as well as others from further afield) without the frivolous frills of the festive season – a refreshing change for the discerning diner! As is tradition at THE WHARF HOUSE, turkey has once again been banned from the menu.

We are proud to offer an alternative seasonal menu with warmth and flavours that you will want to sit back and enjoy, with such delights as venison rolled in walnut with a rich redcurrant sauce with a hint of dark chocolate. The varied menu



Left: The AA Rosette plate awarded to the restaurant.  
Above: The Four Star plaque at the Visitor Centre entrance.

also provides unusual options for vegetarians who are never forgotten at THE WHARF HOUSE. All taking place in a beautiful setting enough to brighten the grey days of winter!

For the first time this year you can enjoy your meal then shut out the cold night air and settle in at THE WHARF HOUSE and take advantage of the AA awarded 4\* rooms with the knowledge that you will be supporting our voluntary work on the H&G Canal.

The Christmas season began at THE WHARF HOUSE at the beginning of November; but for those who could not make it before the Christmas break, the special festive menus will continue until Monday, January 31st 2011. We hope to welcome some new faces, as well as greeting the growing number of loyal 'regulars' over the Christmas and New Year period – why not join us to celebrate!

### Christmas opening times

As in previous years, THE WHARF HOUSE, will close after lunch on Christmas Eve (Friday 24th December) and re-open on Tuesday 4th January 2011.





*Much preparation took place for the Yarkhill Annual Open Day. Tractor side bar cutting of the towpath bank edges was followed by strimming and much raking. This produced eight and a half loads of rubbish for moving to the lock dam fire site – a major exercise.*

Subsequent mowing with the ride-on mower maintained access and appearance. Behind the scenes considerable media promotion of the Open Day was put in place including an article in **Herefordshire Life** and a live spot on **Radio Hereford and Worcester**; ably performed by Brian Fox.

The challenges of the culvert are explained.



Another Open Day party arrives at the Canal.

The Open Day arrived and was a success on all fronts – we were blessed with good weather, good attendance and the help from some nineteen different volunteers from across the H&G CT. *Many thanks to you all.* The canal walks kept our guides busy and many of the walkers took advantage to visit the Monkhide stretch and Skew Bridge for which we had gained special permission from Major Barnes, Mr & Mrs Fancourt and Mr & Mrs Thomas – *thank you.*

A viewing platform was erected at Barrs Lock with additional materials being loaned to us by **Border Scaffold Services**. *My thanks for their assistance.* This enable the guides to point out the features in the partial excavated lock of mortared stone, culvert entrance and brick lined gully. A large and very heavy coping stone, retrieved from the within the lock, was on display. *Our visitors were amazed when told it was only a half size sample!*





Left: Open Day parties pass on each side of the canal.  
Below left: Visitors gather around to listen to the secrets of Barr's Lock.  
Below: The size of just half a coping stone!



Part of the original lock.

More recent work has included the more routine site maintenance, burning the rubbish accumulated over the summer and the filling of orders for firewood to supplement H&G CT income.

During the winter period work at Yarkhill continues as normal, so why not come and join us? *Go on – give it a try!* For details contact Chris High 01568 615575.



One of more than eight loads of rubbish.

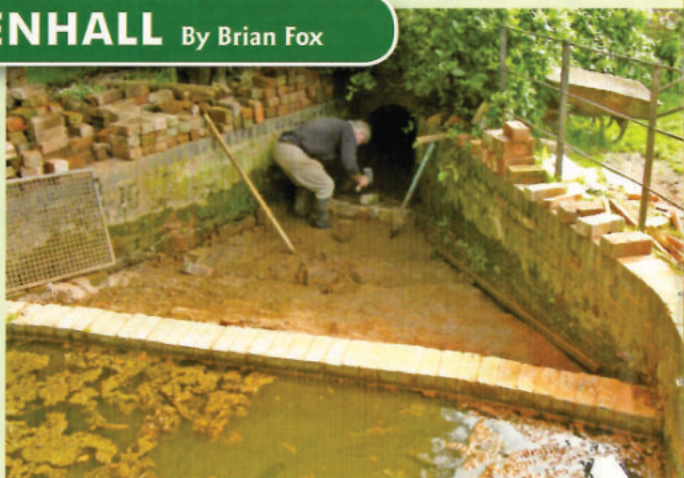


Some of the accumulated rubbish that was burnt.



## Restoration at OXENHALL By Brian Fox

*Our priorities for working on Tuesdays have now changed with the onset of autumn and winter. We are still playing catch-up on the general maintenance of trees and hedges along both sides of the canal so that has now become our priority and we have been discussing our plans for the next six months over coffee.*



Repair work under the arch of the aqueduct has now been halted for the moment and all the scaffolding, planks, acrow props etc have been retrieved from the bed of the Ell Brook where they have been in use for the last few months. The weather has been kind this summer and the water levels in the brook have been fairly constant, at a low level, so we have been able to work most weeks. It has only been possible to do the patch repairs in small sections at a time and there are still more areas to repair. We coped with the problem of water seeping through and all the work completed so far is looking good. The remaining work will be at the top of the arch, where it is dry, and that is another challenge – to keep everything in place while the mortar hardens!

Our main task over the last few weeks has been the rebuilding of the by-weir next to Oxenhall Lock Cottage. The actual weir wall was rebuilt by us about 12 years ago after it had been buried for years under the garage which went with the cottage. Whilst that is in good order unfortunately the bricks below, over which the water runs before disappearing into the culvert, were never touched. Over the years they have become broken and subsided leaving gaps for weeds to take hold. The water level in the adjacent pound was lowered last year to enable us to build the towpath retaining gabion wall, and to replace the stop planks, and it was decided to keep the level down a few inches to stop water flowing over the weir until we had repaired it. A start was made earlier this year on the

repairs and the bricks were removed one by one and stacked up ready for reuse. The bricks at the top had been re-pointed at some stage and were set in a bed of concrete so it proved impossible to get them all out in one piece. Towards the bottom, by the culvert, the bed of concrete ran out and the bricks had been sitting directly on the soil (with no mortar in between) so they came out easily. A quick



*Above and left: Rebuilding the by-weir next to Oxenhall Lock.*





Photo: John Chappell

Volunteer Paul Hart sends his camera into the by-weir culvert to check the brickwork.

calculation revealed that there will be a requirement of over 1,000 bricks to relay and many of the bricks taken out were too broken or just plain rubbish and not suitable to use again. *Will we have enough suitable ones left to complete the rebuild? When constantly submerged in water not any old brick will do!*

What our efforts have revealed is that the construction of the whole by-weir seems to have been made up as the builder went along. The general shape is asymmetrical and, as we found when it was rebuilt 12 years ago, the brickwork in the surround walls was not level. The slope of the weir changes about half way down about where the concrete finishes; it is as if the builder realised he was heading in the wrong direction! The bricks themselves are not uniform at all and many could be rejects from the many local brickworks. Some almost crumble in your

hand when picked up and certainly shatter if an attempt is made to shape them.

While working in the area and no water is flowing through the brick culvert under the cottage the opportunity has been taken to inspect it to see how our re-pointing of 12 years ago is holding up. The culvert is generally circular, and about 2ft in diameter, so whilst it is possible to crawl through it was deemed a safer option to use a camera. One of our volunteers at Yarkhill, Paul Hatt, developed a video camera mounted on wheels which is propelled through the passage taking pictures as it goes. *(We have always said that our volunteers are resourceful! – Ed.)* The initial report is that the construction remains sound.

Our annual Open Day has been and gone once again but was very quiet this time. We suspect that this may have been partly due to the number of activities at Over which kept people entertained throughout the day.

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# LLANTHONY LOCK

By Paul Henshaw

*The Open Day at Llanthony, as part of the Gloucestershire Triple Open Day at the end of September, was a great success with around 70 people visiting the site. We received a lot of enthusiastic feedback on what has been achieved since the H&G CT acquired the Llanthony site in 2008 and on our plans for the future. The most common question was “when will the lock be completed?”*



Paul attaching the tension wires on the new fence line.

Throughout the late summer and early autumn our volunteers have been engaged in the normal maintenance activities keeping the vegetation down and cutting logs for sale. During that time we have also:-

- Completed the fencing along the ‘North West Passage’. Double gates (built by volunteers) have been erected and the chain link has been tied in to the tension wires.
- Started work to provide a permanent power and water supply at the site hut. It has entailed hand digging a trench from the cottages where we will connect into the mains electricity supply.
- Started the programme to replace 9 windows at the cottages (this work is scheduled for completion before the winter sets in).



Wilf on his knees (again!) infilling the trench for the cabling.

## What is this?



Competition question –

**What is this? It was found in the outhouse.**

**First prize:** A day volunteering at Llanthony!

**Second prize:** Yes, you have guessed it, two days.....!

*If you would like to join our team at Llanthony, or if you are in this general area, please call Paul Henshaw on 01684 292997.*



One of the new cottage windows.

Photos: Alan McBride



# THE AYLESTONE PARK BOAT GATHERING

**By Martin Danks**

*To celebrate the completion of the new slipway as the first phase of our restoration of this section of the canal in the City of Hereford, we are planning a small boat gathering be held on **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2011**. Up to a dozen boats will be brought to the canal and we expect to offer short boat trips and other waterborne activities.*

The event is intended to raise awareness of our work on the Canal both within the City, and beyond, and will include details of the further work that is required to fully restore this section of the Canal through Aylestone Park and regarding our proposals for the main overflow from the Hereford City pound at this location.

This festival will cater for all with children's activities, craft stalls and demonstrations. We will invite a variety of exhibitors and a range of

refreshments will be on sale including ice cream to match the expected weather ... Be prepared for Indian and Morris dancing, vintage cars and attendance by the Hereford Austin 7 Club; maybe the car that runs on hydrogen will be there too!

The planning team are from the H&G CT, the Aylestone Park Association and the WRG – including much local help. We are beavering away with all the background preparations necessary. Remember the bonfire “Party On The Park” in October 2008? That was a warm up!

So while we clear the waterway, follow the event planning guides, source the funding, get permissions, licences and insurance, put the date in your diaries. And watch out for our publicity machine engaging first gear despite the lack of synchromesh! *Further details will be in the next edition.*

◆ MD



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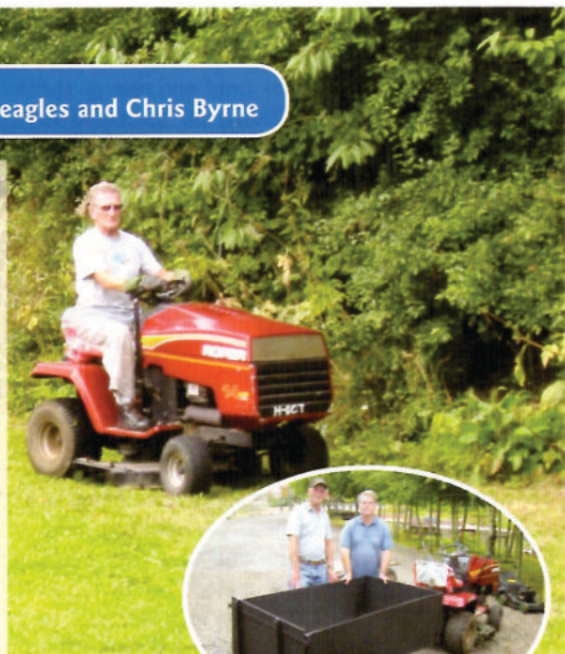


Summer and autumn has seen us all busy with the by now regular annual activities of mowing the grass and cutting back the undergrowth. After the major repairs in spring the ride-on mower has survived yet another year and has even taken on an additional role! After fitting a tow hitch we are now able to use it as an occasional mini tractor to tow a small trailer. The trailer chassis was donated by Llanthony volunteer Graham Hale (thank you), and we were able to rebuild it to working order at no cost, using materials available on site.

In August we re-laid most of the block paving at the south side of THE WHARF HOUSE as it had become very uneven due to ground settlement. As this is the main approach path to the building for visitors, the job needed to be done in as short a time as possible. We managed to complete it in just two days



Photos: Ted Beagles



Top: Malcolm mowing grass.

Inset: Mike and Dave with the trailer.

Above: Malcolm loading trailer watched by Tony.

Left: Llanthony team, Paul, Alan, Simon and Dan lifting blocks.

Below: Paul wackering paving blocks.

thanks to help from our Llanthony volunteer colleagues who came over and spent a day taking up and cleaning bricks (in the rain!).

As reported in the last edition, we now have a new engine for our trip boat Mr Maysey. This arrived with little time for us to get it installed (complete with remote controls) in time for the Open Day in September. However, with a bit of 'overtime'



work by Dave Hurran (and the rest of the boat team working hard), we managed to get it all constructed and installed – complete with a lick of paint to spruce her up – with a week to spare for successful ‘sea trials’ and final testing.

◆ TB

## Around The Wharf House

After the success of Over Basin’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Open Day, work has been concentrated on the flood plain beneath the WHARF HOUSE terrace, and around the lock. More undergrowth has been cleared so we could safely gain access to remove a dead tree on the river bank and also thin out a large tree (which has started leaning into the river) on the end of the lock entrance to prevent it from moving further and damaging the bank.

During the autumn a section of the flood plain bank beneath the terrace was being eroded by the Severn bores and was slipping into the River Severn. Urgent work was needed to retain parts of this bank and try to strengthen it to reduce further erosion. This was carried out by several of our volunteers over a couple of weeks. Large branches of willow from nearby trees are being layered along the bank to create a wall and we have infilled behind to hopefully reduce the rate of erosion whilst a long-term solution is researched.



We have also been working on one of our heritage boats ‘Alder’ at Over Basin, cleaning off the old paint work and applying red oxide, ready for the final paint work to be completed when weather conditions permit. Routine care and maintenance of Alder has included regular trips around the Basin and along the short stretch of canal; as a result the weed in the canal has been significantly reduced over the summer.

*A number of new volunteers have joined our Saturday team and we thank them for being a great help in completing the above jobs.*



Top: Ted and Dave constructing the binnacle on Mr Maysey.

Above: The undergrowth around the lock has been cleared.

Left: New volunteers, Judith and Andrew Brooke, join the Saturday team painting tug boat, Alder.



## The Wharf House fit-out

A new office desk has been constructed to create more room and more desk space in THE WHARF HOUSE office. Amendments have also been made to the computer system creating our own internal network so all information can be accessed from around the building at several workstations.

The constant usage of the bedrooms means that accidental damage is to be expected now and again and we have completed several minor repairs and ongoing improvements. Work has been ongoing on the outside beer cellar, and on one of the room's wardrobes.

Our last room to be opened will be Aylestone, on the ground floor, for our less able guests. We have been working to turn the bathroom into a wet room (an



A plaque has been placed at the entrance to the Visitor Centre, commemorating all the work and time that volunteers have given to complete the fit-out and landscaping of The Wharf House.

Thank you to all concerned.

amendment to the original plans) along with a whirlpool bath, ceiling rain showers, and access equipment. Other work is also ongoing to finishing this bedroom. ♦ CB

## Over Canal Basin and THE WHARF HOUSE win CPRE Award

*The Campaign to Protect Rural England, Gloucestershire (the County Branch of the national campaign body), have presented the H&G CT with an award for the restoration of Over Canal Basin and the construction of THE WHARF HOUSE.*

Following on closely the AA awards for THE WHARF HOUSE (reported on page 7) this is the third award for Over in as many weeks!

The CPRE Gloucestershire "campaigns to protect and enhance Gloucestershire's countryside – recognising and encouraging those changes that are needed to maintain an attractive and economically viable countryside". The award is given to projects which are outstanding in their contribution to the environment or to the local community. The CPRE citation reads:—"For the successful recreation of the Canal Basin and The Wharf House at Over in an exemplary manner of partnership and sustainability." The judges stated that they were greatly impressed by the thought and quality of design apparent in the project.



The CPRE plaque will be displayed in the Visitor Centre as a tribute to the dedication of all the volunteers who worked so hard at Over.

This award came a few weeks after our 10th Anniversary celebrations of the restoration of Over Canal Basin – which, in 1999/2000, was the biggest all volunteer construction site in the whole country and was opened in a televised ceremony by Prunella Scales and Timothy West.

Our sincere thanks to the huge number of volunteers and supportive businesses that have, over the years, played a part in this success and to those who continue with all of our work at Over.

♦ CRP



# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

## CELEBRATIONS AT OVER



Photos: Domani Creese and Chris Byrne





live music • rides in Mister Maysey • model boats • classic cars • plants •



Thank you to everyone who came to support our Anniversary Celebrations at Over and Llanthony. Whether as a stall holder, a volunteer or member of the public, it all contributed to make the tenth anniversary of Over Basin restoration a great success – a magnificent team effort once again.

Thank you ♦♦ MJ



craft demonstrations • local produce • coconut shy • mini bus rides ...



# Social Evenings at The Royal Oak



The Royal Oak, Much Marcle



Please support our monthly meetings, make a note on the calendar and tell your friends and neighbours; we have an excellent venue and interesting speakers on a wide range of topics. Why not share transport and make an evening of it – ***everyone is welcome!***

The third Tuesday of every month  
(except December)  
**7.30 for 8pm start.**

**January 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Robin Smithett –  
**The Droitwich Canals**  
A restoration nearing completion.*

**February 15<sup>th</sup>**

*Chris Witts –  
**The Mighty Severn Bore**  
A phenomenon in our area!*

**March 15<sup>th</sup>**

*Pamela Hurle –  
**Stephen Ballard**  
A talk on our own engineer.*

## OUR OCTOBER MEETING

### RIVER SEVERN PART TWO

with Brian Draper

This was a 'lightning tour' of the Lower Severn Valley wittily and engagingly delivered by a professional, obviously possessed of a deep knowledge of his subject. Brian chose to dwell more upon the cultural and historical riparian aspects of our imaginary journey - rather than the engineering and technological Severn Navigation features that some of us might have expected.

His approach provided a fascinating insight to the numerous historic (and sometimes curious!) churches, buildings and other features adjacent to the river. Many of these sites were very familiar to Iris and myself; as keen field geologists, ramblers and canoeists this has long been a favourite area - especially the Wyre Forest and Bewdley town itself.

As a follow up to Brian's appetiser, why not explore this district in greater detail for yourselves? In the recently published 'Geopark Way' guidebook the walker will find a wealth of interest on very much the same lines as provided by this fascinating talk. For details, click [www.EarthHeritageTrust.org](http://www.EarthHeritageTrust.org) and follow the links.

◆ Gerry Calderbank

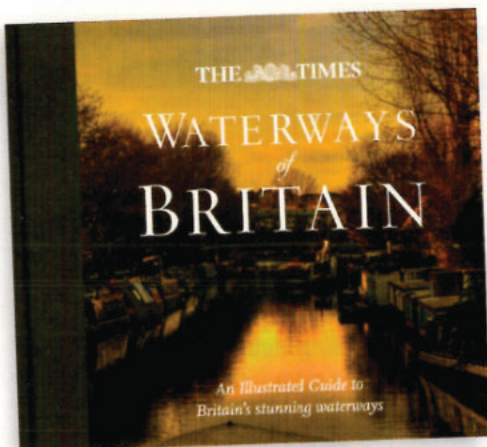


# THE TIMES WATERWAYS of BRITAIN

A newly published hardback book, *The Times Waterways of Britain*, features the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal, and the work of the H&G Canal Trust.

Written by Jonathan Mosse (who is also the researcher for the respected Nicholson's Waterways Guides) the 300 page book is lavishly illustrated throughout with stunning photographs, maps and illustrations. In his Foreword the author sets out his aim of introducing readers to many of the waterway wonders to be found along Britain's vast and varied canal and river system.

A unique feature of the book is a series of 'mileposts' that are included from time to time within the main text. The first 'milepost' is an account of James Brindley, who, as Britain's first true canal engineer, played such an important part in the Industrial Revolution. The final (25th) 'milepost' is titled "*Hereford & Gloucester Canal Restoration – The Future*". This comprises the final double page spread of the book and



describes the H&G Canal and the achievements of the H&G CT with photographs of the restored Oxenhall Lock, Over Canal Basin and the Wharf House. The author explains our promotion of the canal corridor as a linear asset for all to use and enjoy and its benefit as a significant economic resource to the community. He especially highlights our approach to developing sustainable income sources and, having taken readers the length and breadth of Britain's inland waterways, concludes by using the H&G Canal to illustrate "*what is still to come.*"

*The Times Waterways of Britain*, hardback 236mm x 264mm, 304 pages, published by Harper Collins, £30.



## MILEPOST 25

The Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal is a unique waterway, not only because of its location in the heart of the Cotswolds, but also because of its history. It was the first canal to be built in the Cotswolds, and it was the first canal to be built in the Cotswolds. It was the first canal to be built in the Cotswolds, and it was the first canal to be built in the Cotswolds.



THE OXENHALL LOCK

## WATERWAYS OF THE FUTURE

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## RESTORATION OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL

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## HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL RESTORATION

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"Hereford & Gloucester Canal Restoration – The Future" – the final double page spread of the book.





## OUR HERITAGE BOATS

By Caroline Jones

*Caroline Jones, who is our volunteer responsible for the HG&C CT's 'heritage fleet', reports on progress with restoration and maintenance of the boats over the past year, how Renton has already been put into use and – breaking news – gives details of our newly acquired baby . . .*

### ◆◆ Alder ◆◆

The Saturday team at Over have made a very good start by completing the red oxide undercoats to the superstructure and will be progressing to top coats when the weather permits. The colour scheme will be black and yellow, as per the Trust's colours, styled like the British Waterways blue and yellow that the boats were painted in the past. Now that Alder has a full deck, and has been fitted with a bilge pump, we will be getting a canvas cover made for the deck boards to keep the hold completely dry through the winter months. We also need to source a good traditional rope fender for the bows.

### ◆◆ Renton ◆◆

Renton has had a number of outings through the summer working for the Waterways Museum volunteers on scrub bashing at Hempstead and facilitating the pumping out of the Museum's concrete barge that is kept at Purton. The deck and floor boards need replacing and **Severnside Scaffolding**, who are based near Llanthony Lock and helped out with work at the Lock recently, have very kindly said they will see what they can do in the way of used scaffolding boards. Before we can do this we need to clear out and paint the hold on Renton; to this end we will be dry docking the boat in the Spring so that we can dry it out and carry out the work under cover. Over the winter regular pumping will have



Top: BEFORE – Alder was put into the Basin at Over as soon as we had refurbished the hull.

Above: AFTER – Alder with recent red oxide undercoat.

Below: Renton at The Waterways Museum in Gloucester Docks.





to be done to keep rainwater down in the hold and the volunteers at the Museum are happy to do this, as required, with their small electric submersible pump.

More recently Renton was our floating ambassador at the IWA Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Branch boat gathering, that was held in Gloucester Docks in October, moored on North Quay as a backdrop for our small display and sales stand. It was found that the Lucas ignition switch had disintegrated internally, probably due to age (installed in the 1950's). These switches are readily available, and not expensive, but before ordering a new switch we asked a friend who works for a Forest of Dean plant hire company if he could help and the company very kindly found us a new switch – *we don't spend money if we can avoid it!* The switch has been fitted by Neil just in time for a local boat surveyor, Des Fforde, to come and look Renton over for its Boat Safety Certificate which expires in December.

## ◆◆◆ Bosley ◆◆◆

The H&G CT has just signed a new lease on another former workboat from the British Waterways fleet. The 'new' tug is called Bosley and is a more modern push tug, currently at Northwich in Cheshire, it is a mere 22 foot long and is based on the Bantam tugs built by EC Jones in Brentford in the 1960's. Bosley has a modern Deutz air cooled engine and hydraulic controls along with a large bow winch; there is no accommodation as such, just an engine room and a wheelhouse. Initially Bosley will go to Over and sit on the bank for a short while, as Alder did, so that we can make sure the hull is in good condition and get it painted, the running gear and engine can be fully checked and serviced. Bosley will then go into Over Basin, alongside Alder. Being only 22 foot long it will be able to turn anywhere on the canal so should prove very useful.

*We are very grateful to British Waterways for these boats and hope that their support continues as their status changes over the next few years.* ◆◆ CJ

## 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**.



Caroline inspects our new acquisition, Bosley, at Northwich in Cheshire





Part of the H&G display at the IWA National Waterways Festival at Beale Park.

*In Ed. 105 I wrote of the spatial awareness required to transport the H&G CT stand to shows! This was definitely needed to get to a new event at **Foxton Locks** in Leicestershire. We were in a large marquee filled with crafts people as only a few canal trusts and societies had taken up the challenge of this new event. The marquee was very welcome as it poured with rain non-stop on the Saturday, but brightened up on the Sunday. **The crowds turned out in force – so this may become an annual event.***

Much more space was available at the IWA National Waterways Festival at Beale Park as we hired a small marquee. Sadly there was also much space on the superb show site as the crowds were not as forthcoming as at previous shows at this location. This was possibly due to the publicity given by the media to the mud at Reading Festival just a few miles up the Thames; however the IWA/



There is an art to getting the entire display into the boot of a small car!



WRG teams had done a magnificent job keeping the ground almost mud free. **Knot Crazy** demonstrated their knot making in our marquee (which reminded Ray that he could knot and Becca got hooked)! Luckily she has found a chandlery in central London so can pass the time while waiting for trains to come and help us on the stand.

Next year the 'National' returns to Burton-on-Trent, but moves from the normal August Bank Holiday weekend to the end of July, which will make it more difficult for our regular helpers to attend. *So we shall be looking for more help from members, please.*

◆ JM



## Rugs restore boats...

Photo: Mike Holmes



*An old-fashioned hobby will be helping towards restoring the H&G CT's heritage boats. Member Mike Holmes, of Ledbury, designs and makes latch hooked rugs and cushions. Mike launched a new rug kit at the IWA National Waterways Festival at Beale Park on August Bank Holiday that was inspired by our two H&G CT ex BW working narrowboats 'Alder' and 'Renton'.*

**By Mike Holmes**

For each kit that is sold a donation of 10% will be made to the H&G CT specifically to assist in the ongoing restoration of the boats. Mike also displayed samples of the colourful rug at the H&G CT Winter Bazaar at Ledbury in November and will be doing so at other craft events during the autumn.

The finished size of the rug is 33" x 18" and it is available in 100% wool or acrylic yarn; each kit comes complete with canvas, chart, latch hook and instructions.

**Rug kit in 100% acrylic yarn: £80.00**  
(+ postage: £5.50)

**Rug kit in 100% wool yarn: £100.00**  
(+ postage: £5.50)

Ordering details are at  
[www.ledburysbaglady.com](http://www.ledburysbaglady.com)  
or telephone 01531 634047.

◆ MH

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*The range of radio-controlled models from the Gloucester and District Model Boat Club using the H&G CT's Over Canal Basin at Gloucester is seemingly ever-expanding. Not satisfied with yachts, powered boats of all types (including submarines) and amphibious vehicles the wildlife is now being complemented by very realistic looking radio controlled ducks and offspring! No doubt spurred on by the setting narrowboats are now also in production ...*

Gloucester & District Model Boat Club's membership has risen to over the hundred mark for the first time in about five years. Club sailing has been superb although special care has had to be taken not to frighten off the duck family at Over. Parents and five ducklings are doing well. Keeness is such on some sunny Sundays afternoons we have had over twenty boats on the water.

The specialised subject of late has been narrowboats. There are four in current build. There are a number of manufacturers, cottage industries producing narrowboat hulls and even quite extensive kits. The common scale is about 1/12<sup>th</sup> which gives a hull length of fifty eight inches. This gives plenty of room to build the interiors, to drawings or your own design. There are dummy Bolinder engines, stoves and other knick knacks available. *There will be more about these narrowboats, and some photographs, in a future edition.*

Plenty of muscle by members saw the weed have a good haircut before the Triple Open Day. It is most important to keep the basin free of floating weed. A small piece of weed, say two inches long, soon produces a drag on the motor – a longer piece of weed wrapped

One motorised decoy duck (with receiver and rudder control) has trailing behind five plastic ducklings and the drake! They also appeared at Newent Onion Fayre.

around the propeller if not spotted will soon drag the battery power down! The two worst scenarios are burning out the motor or speed controller. For a yacht a length of weed around the fin or rudder dramatically slows the craft

The Open Day kept us busy sailing and answering questions. Sailing between the Fire Brigade and Mr Maysey turned into good sport! We all appreciated one another's requirements and between us had a good day.

Sailing will be enjoyed throughout the winter including, on Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup>, our Christmas Hamper Day – a day of boating skills. *Why not visit us at Over and then pop in to THE WHARF HOUSE for warming sustenance?*

♦♦ TT



Photos: Ted Beagles and Chris Byrne

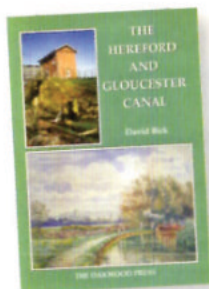


Gift ideas from

## THE WHARF HOUSE

### Gift Vouchers

Why not surprise your loved ones this year with a gift voucher for use at **THE WHARF HOUSE**, offering the chance to sample sumptuous local food, created with flair and imagination. Vouchers can be purchased in denominations from £5 – £20.



### Books and many other Quality Gifts

Every Member and supporter should have a copy of David Bick's book *'The Hereford and Gloucester Canal'* – it makes an ideal Christmas present – as *do our wide range of other books (not all of them are about canals!)*.

### Native ID

Luxury hand soap and hand cream dispensers as used in **THE WHARF HOUSE** £7.95 each, the two for £14.

### Villeroy and Boch

Villeroy and Boch tableware makes the perfect gift for that special person in your life – sleek lines and savvy shapes make the ideal accompaniment to any stylish table, whether it's palm plates, party platters or cappuccino cups with a unique twist. At **THE WHARF HOUSE**, we have prices even lower than in Gloucester Quays, with special deals to make Christmas that much brighter!



### Food and Drink

Christmas at **THE WHARF HOUSE** comes with the opportunity to take sumptuous food and drink home with you, as a special treat for yourself or your nearest and dearest. We have a wide range of delicious Trackleman's chutneys and marinades. And don't forget Mr Elgie's fruit juices, and wines from Strawberry Hill Vineyard, both come from just down the road! They all make the perfect Christmas present or accompaniment to your festive feast.

*Why not come and see us soon – do your Christmas shopping in the Visitor Centre then join us for a meal – a far more relaxed way of working through your gift list!*





## Grand Holiday Draw 2010 – winners!

The Grand Holiday Draw 2010 raised over £2,000; our sincere thanks to everyone who bought and sold tickets. As always our particular thanks to those who donated the prizes – **Black Prince Holidays**, **UK Boat Hire** and **The Wharf House**. As the cost of printing the tickets was once again sponsored by **Bulmers** every single pound raised has gone straight into H&G Canal Trust restoration funds – thank you everyone!



The winning tickets were drawn on 30<sup>th</sup> August at the National Waterways Festival and Boat Show at Beale Park, Reading.

1<sup>st</sup>: Ticket no. 03029.

One week narrowboat holiday for four *donated by Black Prince Holidays*.

Pam Day, Esher.

2<sup>nd</sup>: ticket no. 00103.

One day's boat hire *donated by UK Boat Hire*.

John Startin, Ross-on-Wye.

3<sup>rd</sup>: ticket no. 09965.

Two Nights Dinner, B&B for two at *The Wharf House*.

J Williams, Severn Stoke, Worcester

We hope that the winners all enjoy their prizes (see Member John Startin's account of his day out, right); our repeated thanks to everyone who helped, in any way, to make the draw another success.

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# A Splendid Day Out

by John Startin



Photos: John Startin

Above: One of the many attractive stone bridges on the 'Mon & Brecon.'

Left: Grandsons, Danny and Joe enjoyed steering.



*I was fortunate enough to win second prize in our Grand Holiday Draw this year. So on a pleasant sunny Saturday morning I reported to the UK Boat Hire base, at Goytre Wharf, on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.*



## Gloucestershire & Herefordshire IWA Branch

Gloucester Yacht Club, 7.30pm

Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Llanthony Lock by Paul Henshaw

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011

*Subjects yet to be confirmed*

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011

**Branch AGM**

*For further details of any of the above:*

**Martin Turner 01291 650605**

My son, his wife and my two grandsons and I boarded narrowboat "Red Rooster", a very trim 'day boat', and set off towards Pontypool. We chugged serenely through beautiful countryside, passed under numerous bridges, lunched at a pleasant pub, saw herons and kingfishers and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!

The staff were friendly and helpful, we soon got to grips with handling the boat, and our day out gave us a glimpse of the splendid Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – I commend such a trip to our Members.

◆ JS



*Unlike many of those described in previous articles, the subject this time is growing at all of our restoration sites and will be readily recognized by almost everyone. However, don't be tempted to skip a page or two just because the subject is the humble hawthorn – instead prepare to relieve yet more ailments, get your apron on and even prepare for some propagation too – whilst John's excellent photographs should surely help us to have a greater appreciation of this common wild plant ...*

The hawthorn bush and tree is so familiar to us that its usefulness and beauty is often overlooked. The plant has three seasons of interest, flowers in the spring, fruit (or haws) later in the summer and in the autumn, the colour of its dying foliage. The strong, thorny, boughs have been used for centuries and it is probably true to say that no other tree or shrub is so good for the purpose of hedging.

As well as making strong, stock-proof hedge hawthorns also provide food and shelter for many species of birds and animals. The flowers are an important nectar source for feeding insects and the fruits are particularly important for thrushes and waxwings in the winter. The haws are indeed edible but are rarely used in this country whereas abroad they are used to make jams and jellies being considered a great delicacy.

The leaves and young buds are edible too

when young, in fact they are tender enough to make a useful addition to a salad. Delicious, if nibbled, this gives rise to the old country name 'bread and cheese tree'

Our native hawthorn, botanically *Crataegus monogyna*, belongs to the rose family, very obvious when you look at the flowers which are like tiny, single roses. Clustered in bunches flowers are usually white, occasionally red; both make a useful addition to the wild garden.

To grow from seed and increase stock to





thicken a hedge mix the haws with soil and leave in a heap to overwinter, turning occasionally. The seed often takes a year to germinate but the resulting seedlings can then be planted out in a seed bed. Put young plants into their final positions within a year or two as they resent disturbance. Cuttings are not usually successful.

One remarkable variety, *Crataegus mongyna* var. 'Praecox' produces a second crop of flowers and foliage in the winter. Known as the 'Glastonbury Thorn' legend has it that Joseph of Arimathea came to Glastonbury to found Christianity and having little success drove his staff into the ground hoping for a miracle. The staff immediately burst into leaf and flowers although it was Christmas Day.

The saying 'Cast not a clout til' May be out' (a clout being an article of clothing), originally applied to the flowering time of the tree, not the month. Flowers these days usually appear in early May; a bit too early for me to cast off winter woollies!

Like many of our wild plants hawthorn has important medicinal properties. Traditionally the berries were used to treat angina, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure and cardiac arrhythmia and still today the leaves and flowers are used. There is good evidence that preparations can treat mild-to-moderate heart failure and nervous conditions like insomnia, and diarrhea. With all these natural remedies around us at Oxenhall we should live forever!

*If you would like a delicious, health giving treat with your roast meat this Christmas here's a simple recipe for ...*



### Hawthorn Jelly

- Remove the stalks from 1.5 lbs of haws - a good way is to simply roll a clump of berries (stalks and all) between your hands, the haws should just roll off, a lot easier pulling each one individually.
- Wash and drain.
- Put the haws into a heavy saucepan, and cover with 1.5 cups of water.
- Bring to the boil and simmer for 1 hour. Mash the berries with a potato masher every 20 minutes.
- Strain the mixture overnight using muslin or a jelly bag. To keep the jelly clear do not squeeze whilst draining, just let the juice drip.
- For every pint of juice mix in a 1lb of sugar and the juice of 1 lemon and bring the mixture to the boil in a heavy saucepan stirring continuously until the sugar has dissolved. Boil rapidly for 10 mins until the jelly has reached setting point. (Using jam sugar, which has added pectin, helps)
- Skim off any scum from the top of the liquid, pour into, warm sterilised jars and seal.

As well as roast meat the jelly is delicious with both ordinary and cream cheese!

◀ JC



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# The Diaries of Stephen Ballard

Researched and written by Caroline Jones

## PART SEVEN

Stephen Ballard  
(1804-1890)

*This is the penultimate article in our series summarising Caroline's research*

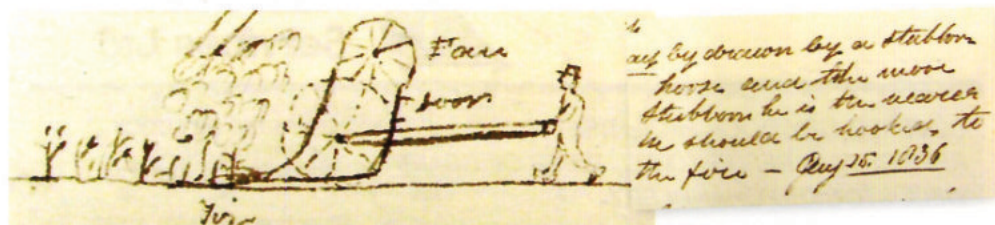
*into the life and times of Stephen Ballard. Whilst much to date has been based on the Ballard Collection, held at Herefordshire Record Office, Caroline is also delving elsewhere to follow Stephen and his very full and fascinating life away from the H&G Canal ...*

The H&G CT would like to thank our Member Rosemary Ballard (the wife of the late Stephen Ballard III) for her willing agreement to our publication of this series of articles and the staff of the Herefordshire Record Office for their assistance and co-operation.

As has been seen up to now, the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal took up a large part of Stephen Ballard's life during the construction of the second phase of the canal from Ledbury to Hereford. The work certainly kept him busy and was on occasion very taxing and wearing whilst obviously bringing great pleasure and satisfaction. Having come to the end of Stephen's diaries and notebooks, as held at Herefordshire Record Office, we now have

less information to work with. Nevertheless what information we have (and research elsewhere) tells us something of Stephens' other achievements apart from the H&G Canal.

Early in his life he took an interest in horticulture, indeed this was his first job when, at the age of 18, he found work at a Hammersmith nursery and then as a gardener at Hewell Grange near Bromsgrove. While working in horticulture Stephen researched and wrote a treatise ('a formal piece of writing that considers and examines a particular subject' - Cambridge Dictionaries) on trees. His work was snappily entitled "*A Treatise on the Nature of Trees and the Pruning of Timber Trees - Showing the Impossibility of Increasing the Quantity or Improving the Quality of Timber by Pruning*"; a 67 page document arguing the case basically for leaving trees to grow naturally. It was originally published in 1833 and has today been digitised and is available online to read at Google Books. Still on the gardening side of his life, in 1836 Stephen invented 'a scorching machine' for the clearing of wheat stubble in crop fields. This seems to have consisted of a coal fire in a box, mounted on what looks like a plough, with a powered fan spreading the heat across the ground. He made three versions of the scorcher but they never amounted to a



Stephen Ballard's sketch design of 'a scorcher' from his diary dated August 25th 1836. - Herefordshire Record Office





Phillip Ballard's painting of a H&G narrowboat. – *The Waterways Museum at Gloucester.*

commercial success for him. The sketch (from one of his diaries) has the note “*May be drawn by a stubborn horse and the more stubborn he is the nearer he should be hooked to the fire*”. Quite clearly Stephen had a sense of humour!

Having given up on gardening and become something of a builder and civil engineer, Stephen progressed to canals where, as we know, he surveyed and built the northern section of the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal. All the time he was with the canal he took an interest in the nature around him and his diaries make frequent comments on the seasons and how plants are growing around him. For example, on August 5<sup>th</sup> 1832, he writes “*At the cockshut Malvern Link saw a Jargonel[le] Pear tree some of the fruit of which was double. Not two pears growing side by side but with one pear growing out of the eye of another*”. This was an interest he seems to have kept throughout his life.

As recorder in our earlier articles, the canal was to dominate Stephen's life for the next few years, followed by the various railway projects he undertook. In much of this work he was supported by his family (mainly his brother Phillip). Phillip joined him on the H&G Canal in 1837 and worked with him for many years preparing beautifully executed drawings of Stephens's surveys. Phillip could also paint and his local scenes included a painting, in 1838, of a boat assumed to be a Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal boat. This is the earliest known image of a decorated narrowboat. Following completion of the

H&G Canal Phillip became the Canal Manager whilst Stephen left to pursue his fens drainage work in Norfolk.

As an engineer and inventor (he had, after all, invented the scorcher earlier in his life) Stephen took a great interest in designing solutions to problems on the H&G Canal. A persistent winter problem was ice, not something we necessarily struggle with today but in the 1830s if you were trying to get a new canal business off the ground, the cessation of all money making activity due to a frozen canal was not at all desirable. As we know, his most well known canal-related invention was a completely new form of icebreaking boat (see Part 4 of this series, Ed 103 page 34, for his sketch of this ingenious device). Earlier editions of **The Wharfinger** have included more details including Stephen's award, in January 1838, of the prestigious Telford Medal by the Institution of Civil Engineers for his paper on ice breaking – and how details of the device even got into the French press! It would have been revolutionary at the time as it forced ice upwards to break it whereas the other means of breaking ice involved pushing it down into the water – eventually causing more of an obstruction. There was some commercial interest in his ice boat and he certainly prepared plans for the sale of a boat to the (now closed) Paisley & Glasgow Canal. Also canal related was the problem of bricks drying out too quickly and being unusable. To this end, in 1839, he and his brother designed a “*machine for soaking bricks*” – although what this brick soaking machine constituted we don't know! ➔





The building designed by Stephen Ballard at Withington Station (photograph taken by his brother Phillip). – *Herefordshire Record Office*.

Away from the canal another problem he solved with a new design was how to house the many workers he employed on his railway construction sites. To this end he designed a form of prefabricated wooden hut which was used to house workers while the railway was being built, and then in some cases went on to become a station building for the same railway! The picture (probably taken not long after the station opened in 1891) shows Withington Station with a Ballard designed station building.

As we have recorded earlier, Stephen was very active in his local area of the Malverns. Briefly, his contributions to the area included the formation of the Malvern Hills Preservation Association in 1876 (which led to the formation of the Malvern Hills Conservators in 1884) – an organisation still active today; in 1887 he constructed, on his own land, the Jubilee Drive above Malvern and he was the first person to successfully collect Malvern Spring water. His family also operated a number of successful businesses in the area including another brother (Robert) the Ledbury Brickworks – this made the

5 million bricks required for the Ledbury Railway viaduct (still standing and in use today); an ice factory; Grovesend Fruit Farm (a successful fruit growing and canning farm near Colwall); a vinegar brewery in Stone Drive, Colwall (opened in 1894) and the Colwall Gas Company, which opened in 1897.

All this inventiveness and commercial activity took its toll on Stephen and in the next, and final, article in this series we will look at his health and his family life at Colwall in Malvern.

◆ CJ



Jubilee Drive, Malvern. – *Herefordshire Record Office*.



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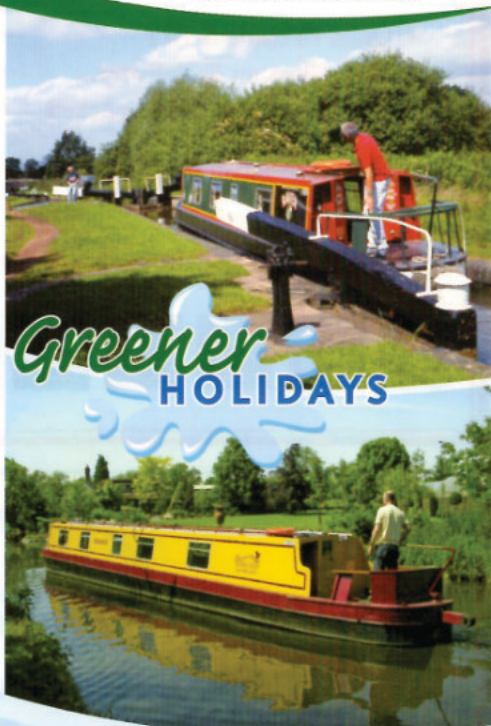
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# H&G Winter Diary 2010 – 2011

## December 2010

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> *Christmas Menus continue at The Wharf House*

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> *7.30 pm, IWA meeting at The Yacht Club, Gloucester Docks – all welcome, see page 29 for details.*

*Please note there is not a Social Evening at The Royal Oak in December*

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> *2pm – Last orders! The Wharf House closes for the Christmas break*

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>  *Merry Christmas to all our Wharfinger Readers!* 

## January 2011

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> *The Wharf House reopens – why not pop in for a coffee and a teacake to brighten the winter blues!*

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> *7.30 pm, IWA meeting at The Yacht Club, Gloucester Docks – all welcome, see page 29 for details.*

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> *7.30 pm, Social Evening at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle – all welcome, see page 20 for details.*

## February 2011

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> *7.30 pm, IWA meeting at The Yacht Club, Gloucester Docks – all welcome, see page 29 for details.*

Monday 14<sup>th</sup>  *St Valentine's at The Wharf House* 

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> *7.30 pm, Social Evening at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle – all welcome, see page 20 for details.*

## March 2011

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> *7.30 pm, IWA Branch AGM at The Yacht Club, Gloucester Docks – see page 29 for details..*

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> *7.30 pm, Social Evening at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle – all welcome, see page 20 for details.*



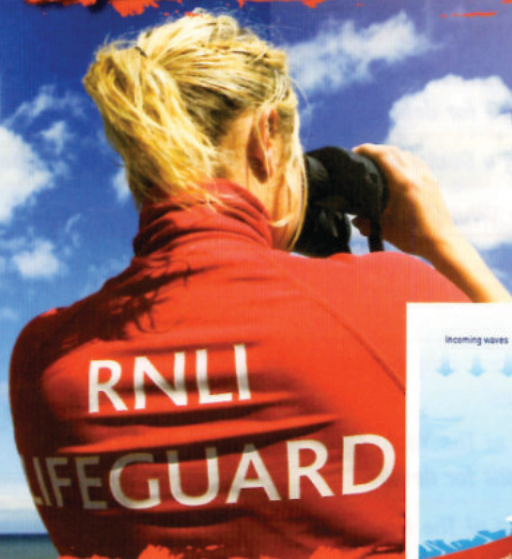
A winter's day at Over Basin, Barrie Haysman



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## Not quite THE LAST PAGE

### Thank You!

Following our appeal in 'Tales from the Tool Store', in the last edition, our thanks for the ratchet sets and other tools donated by Major Phillip Delme Mootham of Gloucester and Mr Don Powell of Dursley. They will be put to very good use by our mechanical team at Over.

Our **Oxenhall Team** thank Mr. Robin Fish of Colwall for the donation of a new diamond disc for our brick cutter and at **Aylestone Park** our thanks go to Andrew Pike for donating a mower, some tools and books.

We were inundated with photographs of the 10th Birthday Celebrations at Over Basin, *thank you*. We have used as many as possible in the space available.

### Change of e-mail address

Please note that our Membership Secretary, Nigel Jefferies, has a new e-mail address – [ncjefferies@talktalk.net](mailto:ncjefferies@talktalk.net).

## LOG STOCKS

With the winter upon us, we have been swamped with requests for logs. As a consequence, our present stocks have exhausted at the Gloucester end. However, our teams along the Canal will continue working on any dead or dangerous trees and hopefully there will be more logs available in a couple of months. *Sorry to those whose requests cannot be fulfilled at this time.*

**NOTE:** Log sales continue in the Yarkhill /Hereford area.

### Canal Book Collection

The donation of good quality books for re-sale has been a steady source of income for the Trading Company in recent years. Janet Moulton has just received a fantastic collection of 60 canal books in pristine condition; most with dust jackets. A list of titles and prices can be obtained from Janet.

Your  
**HELP**  
please!

**Renton** may be making a long trip next year (*more details in the next edition*) and there is a lot to do before the trip can be undertaken. As Renton will be a floating ambassador for the H&G CT the trip will only be possible once our restoration work is completed to a high standard.

Whilst some work should be possible over the winter we plan to dry dock the boat in the Spring so that we can dry it out and paint the hold and complete the exterior paintwork and signwriting.

In the meantime if anyone would like to help with the preparations for this trip, *especially anyone who can help whilst the boat is in dry dock next Spring*, then please get in touch with Caroline Jones **now** so that when the time comes we have a team to call upon to blitz the boat during the week that it is under cover in the dry dock. Caroline can be contacted on 01452 318224 (weekdays) or 01594 861286 (weekends) *Thank you*.

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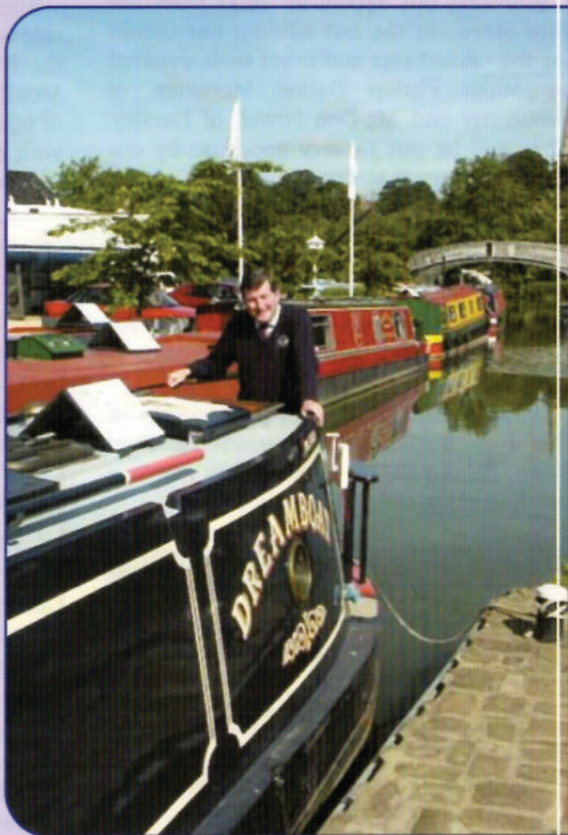
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## Want to help?

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.

## Contacts

Contact any of these names TODAY!

### Janet Moulton

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# The Wharfinger

## The Herefordshire & 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.



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