

The

Wharfinger

Spring 2011

Magazine of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust

107
EDITION

£1

free to members



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

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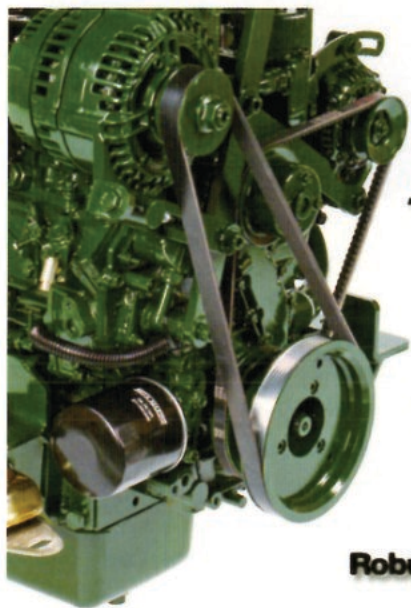
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Chairman's Column from Janet Moulton



By the time you read this I hope all thoughts of snow are behind us. No more worries about frozen pipes, sprained ankles and ice bound boats – well I have to be optimistic!

Winter weather may give a break to physical restoration work but your Council of Management have plenty to keep them occupied! Typical CoM meetings include a broad range of topics such as project planning, reviews of policies, landowner negotiations, liaison with external bodies (on a myriad of topics), restoration site reports, legal matters, financial reports and budgets, insurance matters, the Restoration Fund, health and safety issues, the web site, restoration of the historic boats (and work on Mr Maysey), ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE, Membership matters . . . the list is wide-ranging and, at times, seemingly endless. In addition, each member of the CoM has at least one formal role (some more than one) plus other things to fit in too – such as writing articles for **The Wharfinger**, finding speakers for the socials and planning events (both our own and attendance at shows around the country).

I am stepping down as Chairman of the **Trading Company** having been a member since shortly after moving to Hereford from Reading, and voluntary work with the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, in 1999. I took over when the former Chairman of the Trading Company (my husband Brian) died in 2002 – so I think it is definitely time to stand back and hand over the Trading Company to Margaret Holmes. We will have a profile of Margaret in the next issue – *must check if she wants to be a Chair or Chairperson!* I shall continue to attend as many events as possible – my daughter and I are definitely booked for Crick and Braunston.

As you will see (page 21) we are planning to attend as wide a variety of shows as possible to spread the word about the H&G so offers of help will be very welcome. Also, does anyone have a van that they could drive our displays, etc to the 'National' at Burton-on-Trent for Friday 29th July and collection on Sunday 31st? We would pay fuel expenses but it could be a great saving on hiring a van (all other events we manage with cars).

What else have we to look forward to in 2011? Closer to home we shall see boats back on the Canal in Hereford at the Aylestone Boat Gathering on May 22nd. More Open Days along the Canal than ever before, more guided walks, meals at ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE, interesting speakers at the Royal Oak, and much, much more, so *please come and join us whenever and wherever you can.*

♦ Janet Moulton, Chairman

ALWAYS SWIM AT A LIFEGUARDED BEACH



Lifeguards



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Blow-up toys and airbeds are designed for pools, not the sea where they can easily be swept out. If you must use them at the beach, then:

- keep nearby
- ensure children are closely supervised by an adult
- only use between the red and yellow flags
- follow the lifeguard's advice
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- *never* use when orange windsock is flying, as this indicates strong winds.

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Editorial by Cliff Penny

Resourceful ...

Our eighth and final article of Caroline Jones' excellent series about Stephen Ballard is on page 34. Her research has provided us with a fascinating insight into the life of Stephen – the H&G Canal Engineer from 1827 to 1845.

He was a remarkable man; the odds were well and truly stacked against him yet his perseverance and dedication saw the H&G Canal successfully completed from Ledbury to Hereford. *The financial, physical and political challenges were immense and the resources available to him exceedingly limited.*

Stephen was a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers; as a retired member of the Institution I have huge respect and admiration for him and his achievements – and those of other early members of the Institution. The fact that much of the inland waterways system, designed and built 200 years ago, is still functioning is a tribute to those remarkable men.

Unlike modern day Chartered Civil Engineers Stephen was not obliged to keep abreast of what his contemporaries were doing; however, from his diaries it is clear that he actively sought to do so. Within days of being appointed he was off all over the country (no car or train to speed him on his way!) seeing what other Engineers were up to. However, Stephen was not the type to just copy ideas; his brain was seemingly forever working to adapt and improve what he had seen on his travels to benefit the H&G Canal. *His lateral thinking led to cost savings and/or speedier construction (at a time when little mechanisation existed) and – equally*

importantly – the increasing confidence of those around him that he would achieve the overall objective. He was a respected, resourceful man.

The H&G CT has many of the challenges faced by Stephen. Whilst we may have far more construction capability this is more than offset by the huge increase in regulations and the current immense difficulties in funding both construction and future long-term maintenance. For many years we have followed Stephen's lead – aiming to be equally **resourceful**! It is no good **just** looking around us to see how others achieve their objectives, we are always working to adapt ideas (and thinking of new ones!) for the long-term good of the H&G Canal – and the areas through which it passes. Jonathan Mosse, in his book **The Times Waterways of Britain** (page 21 of the last edition) recognised this – highlighting our approach to restoration of the H&G as an example of how canal restoration projects will be successfully accomplished.

Our most recent 'lateral thinking' success has to be the installation of photovoltaic panels at ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE. 94 panels (the largest roof mounted array in Gloucestershire) cost £57,000. Thanks to a great deal of research (and a huge amount of form filling and liaison) by Paul Brown and David Penny three grants have now been obtained. Together with the government incentive of the 'Feed in Tariff' (and reduced electricity bill) there will now be a pay-back period of – not the normal 15–20 years – but of less than **2 years**. Now that is **resourceful** in all senses of the word!

◆ CRP



Formal Notice

2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH JULY, 2011
AT THE ROYAL OAK, MUCH MARCLE, AT 7.30PM.

This is the formal notice of the 2011 AGM in order to give Members the opportunity to make a note in their diary; this year the AGM will be held on Tuesday 19th 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.*

Dr Albert Heijn 1927-2011

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Dr Albert Heijn, the former head of Ahold (one of Europe's biggest supermarket retailers), who moved from Holland to Herefordshire to 'retire' nearly 30 years ago.



Photo: Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust

Albert & Monique Heijn being presented to HRH The Prince of Wales, Patron, Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust – Highgrove House, 2003.

Despite serious illness as a teenager (which confined him to a wheelchair), and a number of personal tragedies and challenges, Albert Heijn was determined to make a difference in everything that he did. Widely respected and admired for his achievements in steering the 'family firm of grocers' to the international success that is Ahold today he then turned his fertile mind to assist his adopted county. His remarkable approach to life is best summed up by the title of his biography, published in 1997: *"Albert Heijn: Memoirs of an Optimist"*. Together with his wife Monique, millions of pounds have been invested in Herefordshire on visionary development and regeneration projects. Tributes in the local press have aptly summed this up – "he was a good friend of Herefordshire".

Dr and Mrs Heijn became Life Members of The H&G Canal Trust; also, their former principal trading company in Herefordshire was our first Life Corporate Member. Our sincere condolences to Mrs Monique Heijn at this sad time.

◆ CRP

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

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PRIZE**

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ONE WEEK PRIOR TO 31/5/12 (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 2012 (Donated by Mrs A Wood)

**3RD
PRIZE**

ONE NIGHT BED & BREAKFAST for TWO
at THE WHARF HOUSE, Over, Gloucester. (Excluding Saturdays)

Promoter: Mrs E. Connors, 18 St. Ethelbert Close, Sutton St. Nicholas, Hereford, HR1 3BF

Prizes to be drawn at September Social Evening, The Royal Oak,
Much Marcle, on 20th September 2011. Registered under the Gambling Act 2005.

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TICKETS £1 each

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 once again is sponsored by **Bulmers** – thank you.

Please note that this year prizes to be drawn at September Social Evening, The Royal Oak, Much Marcle, on 20th September 2011. 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.

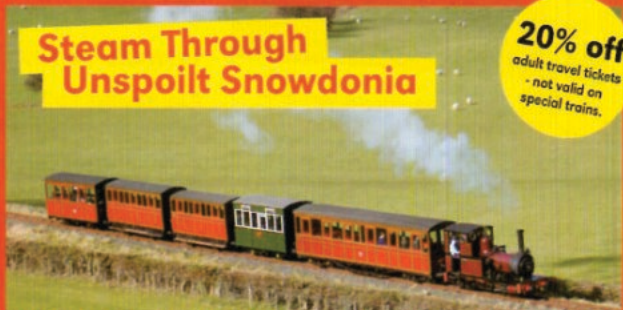
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Inaugural Canal Walk No 2

WITHINGTON WHARF

Sunday, 10th April, 2010

Lunch

Meet at 12 noon for lunch at 12.30 pm

at

Len Gee's Yew Tree Inn, Prior's Frome on the Mordiford Road, one mile south of Dormington on the A438 Hereford to Ledbury road.

A carvery lunch will be available at £10.95 with a choice of starters at £3.95, desserts at £4.95 and tea/coffee £1.95.



Guided Walk

Walk to commence at approximately 2.00 pm

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&
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CANAL WALK NO. 2 WITHINGTON WHARF

This circular walk follows part of the alignment of the canal and views Withington Wharf, where Stephen Ballard, who built the canal between Ledbury and Hereford, and aspired to be an architect, constructed several buildings, which remain in near original condition.



Gable of Wharfinger's cottage, Withington/Herefordshire

Locations: The village of Withington is on the A465 Hereford to Bromyard road, about three miles north-east of Hereford.

Parking: You may park your car at the Cross Keys Inn, where you can obtain refreshments late afternoon and at weekends from lunchtime. Please advise the landlord that you have left your car.

Distance: 4 miles

Time: 1½ hours (approx.)



The walk will start from the **Cross Keys Inn** at **Withington**, on the A465 Hereford to Bromyard road, about three miles north-east of Hereford. The landlord, Mr. Corbin has kindly agreed that walkers can park there.

The walk will take approximately two hours and is over some uneven ground and a number of stiles. Walking boots are advisable.

Queries?

Please telephone Nigel Jefferies on 01432 850661

Send a cheque (payable to **Len Gee's Restaurant**) to Nigel Jefferies, Two, Hollylea Close, Bartestree, Hereford, HR1 4DN



To arrive no later than **Sat. 26th March, 2011.**

Our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Holloway of Withington Post Office, Springfield Way and Andrew and Annabelle Pearson of Radway Bridge Nurseries, Garden Centre & Cafe, Worcester Road, Whitestone who sponsored the printing of the first thousand copies of this walk leaflet. Copies are available (priced 30p) from these locations.



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For further details please
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Sunday, 22nd May, 2011, 10am – 4pm
Aylestone Park, Hereford

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.

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. Organised by the **Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust, Aylestone Park Association** and the **Waterway Recovery Group** and local support.  **MD**

For further details please check our website nearer the event or contact Martin Danks on 01432 344 488.


News from the Gloucester



Our congratulations to well known former working boatman **Chris Witts**, respected expert, author and broadcaster on everything and anything to do with the River Severn, on his imminent appointment as the new **Chairman of The Friends of the Gloucester Waterways Museum**.

The Friends are hard at work organising their annual **Waterways Festival & Boat Jumble** which raises much needed funds for

work at the Museum. This year it will be held at the Museum on **Sunday 10th April from 10am to 3pm**. It's not just about boat jumble either (although there will be thousands of new and used bargains for boating, watersports and the outdoors)!

Admission is only £3.50 (accompanied children under 14 are free) and that includes not just the **Festival and Jumble** but also live music, free entry to the **Waterways Museum**, and traditional craft demonstrations. *New for 2011 will be steam powered duck racing!* And do come and see our progress on restoring Renton while you are there. *Something for everyone – a really excellent value day out!*  **CRP**

The Restoration Fund 2011



This year the money given by regular donations from people who support the H&G CT's Restoration Fund has gone to our two 'Heritage' boats, Alder (at Over) and Renton (in Gloucester Docks). Restoration Fund Members were invited to have a look at how their money was being spent. Restoration Fund Secretary Peter Lawrence reports on the day.



Restoration Fund Members view the progress on Alder at Over.

First, Caroline Jones, who has undertaken nearly all the negotiations with British Waterways to secure the boats for the H&G CT, explained the background and how they arrived in Gloucestershire. They are held initially on a 5 year nominal cost lease and, subject to satisfactory restoration and use, will then become H&G CT property. Both used to be British Waterways workboats, used extensively about the system, but they have experienced many changes in that time! They have been cut about, shortened, lengthened, abandoned and almost forgotten before Caroline identified them as having potential for the H&G CT. Our Council of Management agreed that we could give them a new lease of life and a proper home. They were brought to Gloucestershire, one on a lorry and one along the inland waterways – first along the Broad Grand Union Canal then squeezing

through many narrow locks to make it from BW's Marsworth Yard to Gloucester. [See **The Wharfinger** Edition 94, page 27 and Edition 100, page 10, for accounts of these journeys.]

When Restoration Fund Members arrived work to Alder was going on, afloat in the basin at Over. Caroline pointed out various features as the painting continued! Later, Renton did the honours, taking some of the Fund Members for a short voyage along the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal. This was no luxury cruise, both boats are meant for work, but it was satisfying for Restoration Fund Members to see how their donations are pushing forward a different part of the H&G CT's restoration activities. Soon the boats will sport the H&G CT's colours and be floating advertisements that we mean real business between Hereford and Gloucester.



Beth Jones aboard Renton on the trip with the Restoration Fund Members at Gloucester Docks.

Photos: Warren Marsh and Chris Byrne

This year's funding

Restoration at Aylestone Park

In 2011 the money from the Restoration Fund will go towards plant hire and materials for ongoing canal restoration at Aylestone Park, Hereford – a small but important part of our work to bring a fully restored canal back into the City. **Want to help?** Please see the adjoining page.

◆ PL



Join the Restoration Fund

Please support this year's Restoration Fund – this source of funding really is greatly appreciated by both the H&G CT and our volunteers! New subscribers are welcome to join at any time.

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 will be spent.
- Later in the year all of the Restoration Fund contributors will be invited 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.

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 for your support.



I wish to contribute to the

H&GCT Restoration Fund

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The 'Big Freeze' has produced some spectacular scenery on site of late, with the trees laden with ice and the Basin covered in ice several inches thick. We never did find out the exact thickness of the ice, as we were unable to prepare a satisfactory Risk Assessment for this job! However, our Model Boat colleagues estimate it to have been up to 5" thick in places. On the downside the very cold (followed by very wet) weather has greatly hampered our work output in recent weeks, reducing us to inside jobs like cleaning and tidying up the site huts.



Above: A very frozen Canal at Over Basin.

Below: Tug boat Alder and The Wharf House brave out the snow and ice.



Photos: Ted Beagles, Chris Byrne and Warren Marsh



Mister Maysey takes visitors on tours around the basin at Over on the Open day last September.



The bird boxes at Over are being redesigned by the local bird population to suit their individual requirements!

Whilst Mr Maysey sailed out in fine form for the Open Day in September, with the newly installed engine and remote control working perfectly, we have been aware that some serious refurbishment was due. We are now concentrating on improving the cabin and making it weather proof; at one time we thought we might have a hull leak as we were shipping a lot of water, but it turned out that rotten wood in window frames is allowing the rain to penetrate. This has also meant we have to replace the floor beams which did not like being submerged in water.

Right: Judith treats the inside of Alder's hull with a coat of red-oxide.



The rotting floor boards on Mister Maysey are all being ripped out and replaced as part of the cabin refurbishment.

Last year we noticed that our bird boxes were getting some attention from woodpeckers enlarging the holes. Metal plates around the holes put a stop to that, but has not solved matters as something is now attacking the boxes even more vigorously at the corners. Steel boxes might be the next option!

Once again we had our annual Christmas Lunch outing at the pub down the road, and were pleased to be joined by the team from Llanthony Lock for the celebrations. Many thanks to Tony Boonham for organising the day, and to local resident, Tony Peters, for his contribution to the event.

◀ TB

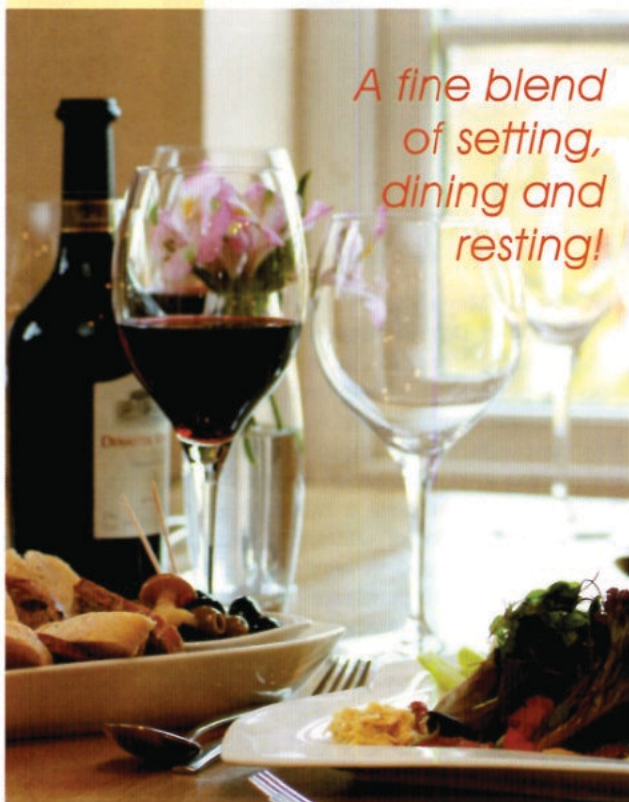


Work on the refurbishment of Mister Maysey starts by gutting the interior of the cabin.



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Restaurant

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

The Wharf House fit-out

Work has been progressing well with the refurbishment of the Manager's flat. The kitchen has been tiled, a stainless steel cooker splash back has been fitted behind the cooker and some of the electrics have been amended. Before Christmas, ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE heating system tanks were serviced and cleaned to make them run more efficiently. In the restaurant kitchen, a new over-the-sink washing hose has been fitted which is more efficient in cleaning the plates and pans, whilst using up to 20% less water than the previous hose – *all part of our never-ending campaign to reduce costs wherever we can!*

During the Christmas to New Year shutdown, the restaurant furniture had been all sanded down and re-oiled, whilst the paintwork around the building had been touched up. At the bottom of the staircase on the roadside door, the door release switch, break glass and fire alarm call point were moved in line and recessed into the wall to give a much better appearance of the whole installation.

Two of our bedrooms, Withington and Dymock, have received 'makeovers' to make them even more attractive and functional. Televisions, furniture and mirrors have been moved to improve the layout and feeling of



The leafy Wharf House terrace overlooking the River Sever.

Photo: Barrie Hoysman

space. This has also enabled a two-seater sofa to be introduced in Withington.

On the ground floor work is progressing well fitting out our Aylestone Room especially for our less able guests. Repositioning of internal walls has been completed and the bathroom flooring has been finished ready for the next stage of plumbing and installation of the bathroom suite.

◆ CB

Want to get involved at Over on site or in The Wharf House? –then please ring:–

Ted Beagles 01452 522 648

Maggie Jones 01452 618 010



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Restoration at OXENHALL By Brian Fox

In the many years since I started reporting the Oxenhall news we inevitably have lost the odd Tuesday due to inclement weather and the volunteers wives are happy enough to have them under their feet occasionally. But last December we only managed to work one Tuesday in the whole month and even that was a struggle. So no excuses to get out of the Christmas shopping. It did give us a chance to exchange Christmas cards but nobody dared to bring any mince pies after last year's fiasco when they were put in a biscuit tin in the bonfire for a minute or two to warm up and came out as charcoal!

Bonfires have been the order of the day for the whole reporting period as work on the spillweir by the Cottage was abandoned in mid November when the cold weather commenced. Some work has been done on pollarding the willows on the non towpath bank and we have recently moved into a new area down towards the old railway station which has never been looked at before. A jungle of brambles and fallen

willow trees greeted us on the first day but the strimmer opened the way in allowing Bernard to get to work with his chain saw.

One of the mysterious large holes that have appeared in the reed beds along the canal.



Water running over the stop planks at House Lock.

Photos: Brian Fox

Most of the willows have been down for years and are so rotten that they are just being cut into manageable lengths and stacked up allowing nature to take its course. The remainder are being logged and sold off to our regular customers.

One of our jobs this time of the year is to go along the towpath with a rake and smooth out all the mole hills which are appearing. Failure to do so means that they leave mounds which obstruct the mower later in the year. There have also been sightings of mysterious large holes in the reed beds along the canal which could be made by an otter but more likely by a mink. The local farmer has recently shot 2 mink and we have also seen one occasionally.

And finally I can report that new tenants have just moved into the Lock Cottage.

◆ BF

Would you like to join our team at Oxenhall ?
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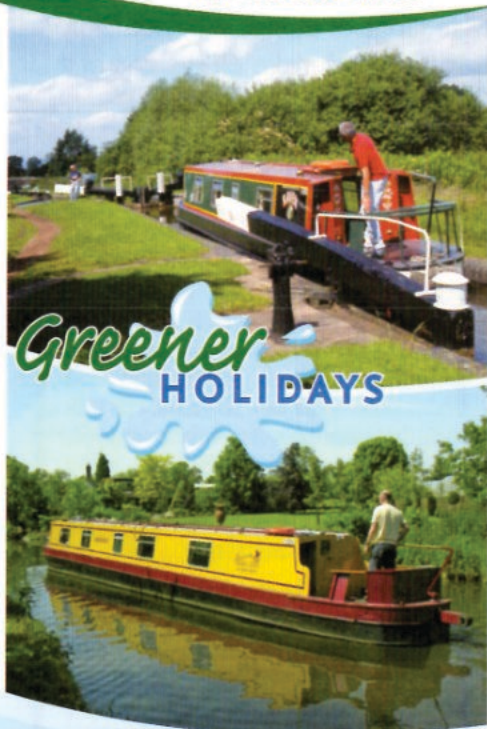
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OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

WE ARE NOT ALONE!

with Dick Skeet

With just a quick nod to ET, Dick brought us down-to-earth (or rather, water) with an overview of canal restoration projects in England and Wales during the last 30 years. His talk included examples of canals re-opened, others with restoration either on-going or well into the planning stage and, lastly, examples of proposed new work to link existing waterways.

Dick reminded us that restoration is a very slow process and trusts must be prepared for set-backs of many different kinds. A number of the restoration projects that he referred to had been ongoing for many years (some for over 50 years!) prior to successful completion. However, on the positive side financial support was forthcoming for schemes well thought out and prepared, particularly when formal partnerships have been established.

Dick pointed out that impossible is not a word that exists in the vocabulary of Canal Trusts, as evidenced by an IWA estimate that around 400 miles of inland waterways have been restored during the last 50 years. ♦ Pat Skelton

The third Tuesday of every month
(except December)
at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle
7.30 for 8pm start.

March 15th

Pamela Hurle –

Stephen Ballard

A talk on our own engineer.

April 19th

Liam D'Arcy Brown –

Grand Canal of China

May 17th

Simon Glover –

Butterflies – where to find them –
how to encourage them.

June 21st

Pauline Annis –

Stourport – the Canal and the
basins.

July 19th

AGM – (starts 7.30 prompt)

– includes illustrated reports from our
restoration sites.



Possible outings for the Trading Company in 2011

The Trading Company hopes to attend the following events.

Some are booked, others we are waiting for booking forms and confirmation of dates, but please put dates in your diaries and any offers of help will be gratefully received.

May 22nd	Aylestone Boat Gathering, Hereford
May 28 – 30	Crick Boat Show, Northamptonshire
May 28 – 30	Trailboat Rally, Neath
June 11 – 12	Garden Festival, Hellens, Much Marcle
Jun 25 – 26	Braunston Boat Gathering, Northamptonshire
Mid July	Sutton St Nicholas Fete
Jul 29 – 31	National Waterways Festival, Burton-on-Trent
Aug 5 – 7	Tall Ships, Gloucester
Aug 7	Herefordshire Country Fair, Whitfield Estate, Wormbridge
Sept 3	Alfrick Village Show
Nov 12	Winter Bazaar, Ledbury

Any other suggestions – especially for small local shows would be very welcome.

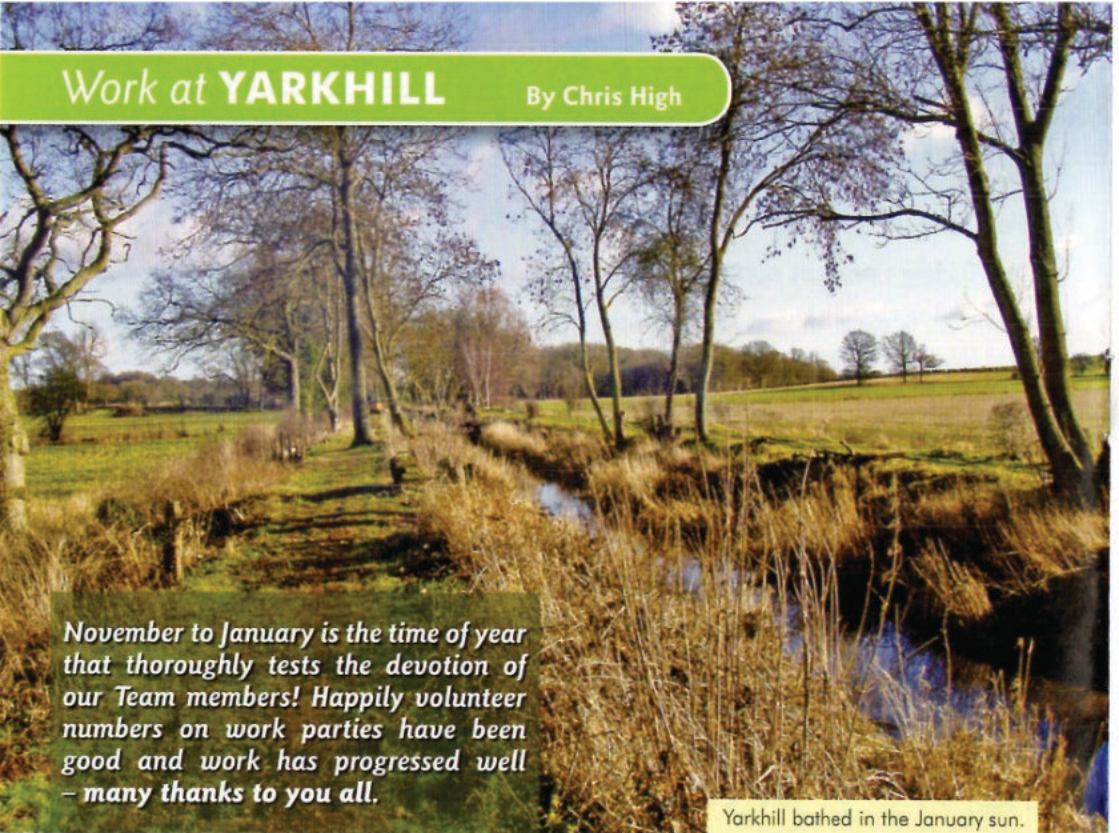
Why not have a good day out with the H&G CT? We cannot promise that you will see the world with us but you may visit an area that is new to you – and we always do our utmost to ensure that you have some time to look around (and your admission to the event will be free!).

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 Margaret Holmes (see inside back cover for Contact details) to discuss where and when **you** can get involved.

Thank you.

At the January Council of Management of the Canal Trust a vote of sincere thanks was expressed (and warmly endorsed by all present) to Janet Moulton who has stepped down after nine years as Chairman of the H&G CT's Trading Company. Janet will continue to be an active member of the Trading Company committee and also continues as Chairman of the H&G CT. Margaret Holmes takes over the helm of the Trading Company.





November to January is the time of year that thoroughly tests the devotion of our Team members! Happily volunteer numbers on work parties have been good and work has progressed well – many thanks to you all.

Yarkhill bathed in the January sun.

Ground preparation to the gaps in 500 yards of towpath hedge was carried out and so far some 275 hawthorn whips have been planted. Further down the towpath four apple trees have been planted having been nurtured from our own stock by Bernard. Brush clearance and fires have helped to keep up appearances. Considerable time was spent clearing wind blown branches and brush. A large oak tree sheared at its decayed roots ending up across the towpath ditch, the permitted footpath and into the farmers field.

Winter, the cold weather and wind does bring difficult decisions with it. Which side of the fire do you sit for tea break? Up wind – it is not very warm. Down wind you roast. Well you do with our fires. *Unfortunately with the smoke in your eyes it is difficult to see what you are eating!*

Despite what you may think there has not been much rain for several months. Proof of this is that the water level in the canal only topped the sandbag dam for the first time in mid January when normally this is achieved by early November.



Winter damage to the willows on the wildside.



Volunteers
celebrate
5 years of
restoration
at Yarkhill.

*5 year
Anniversary
Celebrations!*



December saw the Team celebrate 5 years of work at Yarkhill with 15 members doing the Staplow Canal Walk and having bar meals at the Oak Inn.

◆ CH

Below: Clearance work well under way.

Above: Yarkhill bathed in the January sun.

Below: The towpath is blocked by a fallen branch.



*Who is going to lend a hand for the next five years? Is it going to be you? Interested? – then please ring:-
Chris High 01568 615 575*

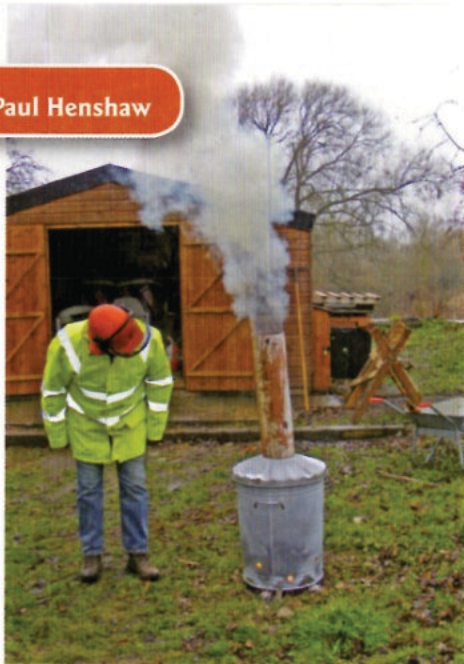
LLANTHONY LOCK

By Paul Henshaw

One benefit of the adverse weather conditions before Christmas was that log sales went through the roof. However despite the weather we have been able to make progress on a number of fronts.

Nine new cottage windows have been installed and volunteers are now carrying out internal works installing new cills and wall linings prior to painting.

A section of the Lock's North West wing wall has been cleared of scrub and brambles which will allow the old fencing to be replaced. Whilst clearing the area we located a tie plate made up from a length of railway line which was fixed to the wing wall. We believe it was part of a repair carried out to reinforce the brickwork.



Checking the thermal efficiency of the 'patio heater' (kindly donated by Alan McBride)!



Clearing the North West wing wall (before and after) showing the tie plate.

Photos: Alan McBride



One of the new cottage windows before, and a second window after, the window linings were installed.



The new tap box.



New volunteer Martyn Tilford testing materials for new bird nesting boxes.

A new tap box has been installed at the hut in preparation for the water supply being connected to the mains and work on the electrics is now complete. We can now enjoy the convenience of an electric kettle!

Volunteers have also been close-cutting the vegetation so that come the spring, the new growth of the knotweed can easily be spot treated. *So lots going on.*

We would like to offer a very warm welcome to new volunteer Martyn Tilford who has just joined our group.

◆ PH



The completed fencing and a fine winter scene of the new gates.



Would you like to join our team at Llanthony?

*Please call **Paul Henshaw** on **01684 292997***



The Inland Waterways Association

Gloucestershire & Herefordshire IWA Branch

Gloucester Yacht Club, 7.30pm

Thursday, 3rd March 2011

Sharpness Docks by Ray Wilson

(Gloucester Society for Industrial Archaeology)

It is often a surprise to people that there is still a working port in Gloucestershire. Our speaker, Ray Wilson is the Honorary Secretary of GSIA and has been visiting Sharpness Docks for almost 40 years. His illustrated talk looks at the development of both the Old and New Docks, the vessels that used them and the wide variety of cargoes that passed through. The social history of the docks and the prospects for the future are not forgotten.

Thursday, 7th April 2011

AGM and "State of the Nation"

address from Nick Worthington,
BW SW Region Manager.

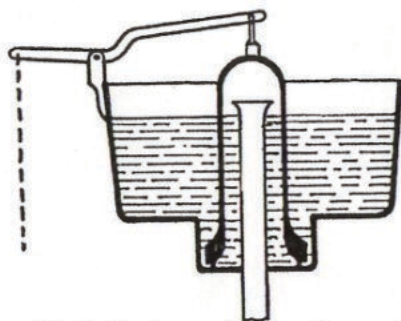
For further details of any of the above:

Martin Turner 01291 650605

What is this?



Thanks to those who correctly identified the mystery object on page 12 of the last edition – “found in the outhouse”. Yes it was the siphon bell from an old cast iron high-level lavatory cistern (which, with new internal components, is still



The ball-valve mechanism that would have regulated the level of water in the cistern has been omitted for clarity as have overflows and cistern lids.

working!). Particular thanks to Bristol Member Ken Jefferies who wrote to say that there were two such cisterns in his parents house and that such cast iron siphon bells were common in houses built in the 1930's. He also sent extracts from a contemporary plumbing and drainage handbook that included the diagram above right:-

By pulling the chain attached to the lever the bell is raised and the motion lifts the water into the flush pipe in a rush that starts a siphonic action. When water in the cistern is low enough air enters the bell and breaks the siphon. Complex arrangements were also developed with multiple internal levers and washer systems to give a more sophisticated operation.

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IT'S ALL ON RECORD! By Nigel Jefferies

27th March 2011 sees another government census. That, and a chance remark, set Nigel Jefferies once more delving into the past ...

The first census was held in 1801, when the population of England and Wales was nine million. When I gave a talk to Hereford Family History Society in 2008 one of their members advised me that, from 1851, peoples' vocations were also recorded. This

prompted me to visit Herefordshire Record Office and examine the 1851 and 1861 census returns of the parishes along the line of The H&G Canal in Herefordshire. I discovered the following entries:-

1851 CENSUS

John RACESTER – Wharfinger, of Withington Marsh. He was born in Wickenford, Worcester. Residing at the same address was his wife Mary-Anne, his son John, daughter also called Mary-Anne and a servant, Sarah Jones.

Benjamin LEWIS – Wharfinger, of 21, Withington Marsh. At the same address lived his wife Anne and his granddaughter Anne Thomas and grandson Benjamin Thomas. There is no record of a daughter or son-in-law living at the same address.

John PUMPHRY – Boat boy, of 22, Withington Marsh, aged 15.

Charles PUMPHREY – Boat boy, also of 22, Withington Marsh, aged 13.

Barnum PALMER – Wharfinger labourer, of 32, Withington Marsh, he appears to be aged 24.

Edvard PALMER – Wharfinger labourer, also of 32, Withington Marsh, aged 21.

Philip JORDAN – Boatman (Canal) of 21, Burcott Road, Hereford, aged 36. He was born in Lydbrook, Gloucestershire.

Philip JORDAN – Boatman of 21, Burcott Road, Hereford, aged 14. He was the son of Philip Jordan Senior.

John MORTON – Labourer on Canal of 23, Tunnel House Munsley, aged 45, born at Much Marcle, Herefordshire. Also of the same address, his wife Hanah (sic) aged 42, daughters Emma aged 4 and Eliza 1 and a lodger, Richard Duris, widower aged 67, an agricultural labourer.

Thomas PARSONS – Boatman of 31, Bye Street, Ledbury

James SYMONDS – Boatman of 34, Bye Street, Ledbury.

Richard MADDOX – Accountant for the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Company of 48, Bye Street, Ledbury, Canal Wharf, aged 47.

Francis HEATH – Boatbuilder & Publican of 77, Bye Street, Ledbury.

John TAYLOR – Boatman and lodger of 77, Bye Street, Ledbury, aged 37. He was born in Colwall, Herefordshire.

George JAMES – *Boatman and lodger of 77, Bye Street, Ledbury, aged 17. He was born in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.*

Henry PINK – *Boatman of 17, Bye Street, Ledbury, aged 33. He was born in Stroud, Gloucestershire.*

1861 CENSUS

John PREECE – *Labourer to Canal Company, of 64, Withington Marsh, described as a son and aged 23.*

Benjamin LEWIS – *Wharfinger(sic), of 75, The Wharf, aged 76.*

John NAPPER – *Clerk to Canal Company, of 91, Withington Lock aged 35.*

John NEW – *Captain, of 97, Withington Warfe(sic), aged 45.*

John NEW – *Cabin boy, of the above address, described as a son, aged 8.*

Benjamin BARNES – *Boat man, of the above address, aged 18.*

John MORTON – *Labourer on Canal of Tunnel House, Munsley, aged 55. Also of the same address, his wife Hannah, aged 52, son Mark aged 16 an agricultural labourer, daughters Leah aged 8 and Lucy aged 4, both daughters described as scholars. The son and daughters were born in Munsley.*

John TAYLOR – *Lock keeper on Canal of 15, 'A Cottage', Stretton Grandison. He was aged 59 and born in Staffordshire. His housekeeper was Ester Hope, aged 50 born in Bodenham, Herefordshire. (Despite the description "Lock keeper", there was no lock at Stretton Grandison.)*

Despite looking under Yarkhill Parish, I could find no record of staff at Crew's Pitch Wharf.

Social historians often point-out that before the Great War, the majority of people lived and died in the locality of their birth, but even in 1851, there is evidence of social mobility.

Did John Racester and family have sufficient income to employ a maid?

On page 137 of *Yesterday's Town; Hereford*, by David Whitehead, there is a photograph of the Jordan brothers and their daughters, near the Old Bridge in Hereford, where they hired-out rowing boats. It is possible they were descendants of the Philip Jordan of 21, Burcott Road?

◆◆ NJ



When comparing the names that appear in both the records I found some interesting issues arise. In 1861 **Benjamin Lewis**, still appears to be acting as the Wharfinger at Withington Marsh (aged 76!) and is now living on his own; presumably wife Anne died and the grandchildren moved on?

The story of **John Morton's** family is even more fascinating; the two young daughters that were included on the 1851 records do not appear to have survived to the next census – but less easy to explain is why 16 year old son Mark was not listed last time – when he would have been only 6?

At first glance I assumed boatman **John Taylor** had moved out of his lodgings in Ledbury and become a Lock Keeper living at Stretton Grandison (which, as Nigel points out, is not near a lock!). However, careful reading of the records confirms this to be a different John Taylor – the one listed in 1851 was aged 37, and born in Colwall, whereas the John Taylor listed in 1861 is recorded being 59 years old and born in Staffordshire!

Ed.



MODEL BOAT CLUB *at Over* By Ted Tedaldi

We are sailing again! The Gloucester & District Model Boat Club had their first sail of the New Year on Sunday January 9th. The canal, frozen for December, saw the Christmas Hamper competition cancelled and my anticipated article on the first (model) narrowboats moored on the canal was also thwarted by the weather. During this non sailing period many members have walked the canal banks surveying the frozen water, estimated to be 5" thickness in places – with the water crystal clear to about two feet.

A few new craft made maiden voyages on the 9th. This included one built by Matthew, who sailed his freelance sailing yacht; he is not the fittest of our members, but on his 'good days' he produces some exciting models. His three masted yacht is powered by the wind and sun. On this bright day the sun shone on the eleven solar panels that drive the rudder servo. The sails were set to give the best tack, and downwind runs, in the light winds. Matthew designs all his models and is a credit to all those with disabilities.

Bob is still building his traditional working narrowboat, it now has the dummy Bolinder engine fitted complete with a smoke module for the exhaust, coal stove for cooking and warmth, compartment for coal, and a working headlight!

Ted sailed his corvette in North Atlantic



Photos: Ted Tedaldi

colours looking authentic in the icy conditions upstream. His model is about fifteen years old and, as in real life, it is now looking well worn.

Barbara sailed her fishing boat before helping brew a warm cuppa! Steve purchased a Norwegian gun boat built from a kit to a poor standard. He is now refurbishing the kit and will soon have a very nice craft, complete with three drive shafts and a working bow gun turret!

In all eleven boats took to the water in what is hoped will be the start of another successful sailing year at Over Canal Basin.

♦ TT

That Norwegian gun boat with "a working bow turret" made me stop and think. Where is this all leading; further enhancements could see future reports listing the vessels that have been sunk – does that submarine have working torpedoes? This authentic model making could get out of hand!

Ed.

Above: Matthew with his freelance sailing yacht.

Below: Sailing at Over – Matthew's sailing yacht, Ted's corvette, Bob's narrowboat and Steve's gun boat.





Our traditional November event in Ledbury was once again a great success. The weather was kind and encouraged people to turn out – and it also minimised our hall heating bill!

Clearly the canal is becoming much better known in Ledbury, partly due, no doubt to the recent news that Herefordshire Council's strategic planning policy proposes a large number of homes to the north of the town with a requirement for the developers to 'facilitate' the restoration of the canal on its diversionary route around the town. (See edition 105, page 5). Whilst not everyone was enthusiastic about the expansion of the town, the opportunities that this presented for the canal seemed very welcome indeed. *More interest was shown in the canal this year, than ever before.*

A new attraction this year was the draw for a splendid Luxury Christmas Hamper, which brought in £162 towards the much enhanced profit of £579 for the event.

Once again, our thanks are due to all who supported the event in any way – by renting a table, buying, selling and providing the wonderful refreshments. We shall be back in Ledbury on Saturday November 12th this year, so please put the date in your diary!

◀ PS

Photos: Bob Purdie



Above: Some of the crafts and produce on sale.

Right: Derek runs the very successful Tombola stall.

The Wharfinger aims to present a mix of news, historical articles and some more light-hearted features too – all with links to the H&G Canal and the work of our H&G Canal Trust volunteers. Regular readers of this column, however, will almost certainly be expanding their knowledge too! This time most of us might think Ground Ivy was from the ivy plant family – but, oh no, it's not ...

Another plant to add to our cornucopia of medicinal plants at Oxenhall is *Glechoma hederacea*. The plant has many romantic sounding, local names such as Gill-over-the-ground, Haymaids, Hedgemaids, Lizzy-run-up-the-hedge, Robin-run-in-the-hedge, Catsfoot and Creeping Charlie – but is most commonly known as **Ground Ivy**!

Glechoma is a perennial, evergreen, creeper thriving in moist shaded areas and increases not only by seed but also by stolons (stems which grow roots at the soil surface to form new plants like a strawberry) and rhizomes (new underground stems from a thickened root like a potato). It is a very successful plant and can form dense mats in a lawn which survive mowing. This keeps the plant low so you may not recognize it from the photograph but, given something to grow against, it will send up 2-3" tall flowering stems.

The species name *hederacea* is from the botanic name for ivy and you might assume it is of that family. Not so, it is simply a reference to the shape of the plants leaves and in fact belongs to the mint family i.e. Lamiaceae. As you might imagine the plant emits a distinct smell when damaged, although not a truly minty smell leaves have a peppery taste and can be used as a salad green. The funnel-shaped, blue to pale violet flowers appear in spring and bear close inspection. Growing in the leaf axils they



Photo: John Chappell

are bilaterally symmetrical with a large lower lip.

Traditionally used medicinally to treat inflammation of the eyes, tinnitus (quite how I cannot imagine) and bronchitis, the oil derived from the leaves has also been used for centuries as a general tonic for coughs and colds and to relieve congestion. Given it is a mint, one can imagine that! Before the introduction of hops the Saxons used ground ivy in brewing beer using it to clarify and flavour the brew thus giving it another age old name, Alehoof.

Despite its various uses over thousands of years the safety of *Glechoma hederacea* has not been proven scientifically and cases of poisoning in cattle and horses are said to be documented. As with many other 'medicinal' plants care and caution should be used and I think we should stick to simply admiring it for what it is a pretty, creeping, ground-covering, wildling.

◆ JC

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The Diaries of Stephen Ballard

Researched and written by Caroline Jones

PART EIGHT

Stephen Ballard
(1804-1890)

Over the past seven editions we have looked in some detail at the achievements of Stephen Ballard, the civil engineer who successfully completed our canal. To conclude this series of articles we will have a quick look at his health and the subsequent life he led at Colwall near Malvern.

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.

Throughout his diaries Stephen mentions headaches and these seem to have plagued him throughout his working life. Stephen didn't appear to have been a great drinker of alcohol so his headaches cannot be attributed to that cause, it is most likely that the cause of his continuing headaches was blood pressure and stress caused by his very strong work ethic and desire to get on with the job in hand! Other than headaches his health was good but his work was tiring and he was often "fatigued".

After marrying and settling at Colwall he became quite inward looking and spent much of his time when not at work on the



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"... a serious chap"

"...Perhaps no employer was ever regarded with more real respect and affection by his workmen."

"a handsome residence, occupied by Stephen Ballard, esquire. .
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Railway Contractor"

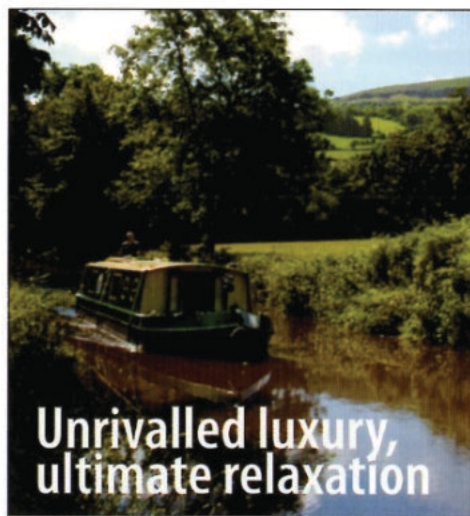
railways, working on his estate. As if to balance this side of his character Stephen married Maria Bird, the daughter of a Yaxley landowner whose land he cut across with the Fens railway in 1854 and they settled at The Winnings Farm in 1858. Maria was more outgoing being more interested in her family and outside charitable interests such as a soup kitchen she set up at her back door and the Workmans Hall and Temperance Hotel Stephen built for her. Stephen supported Maria in her charitable endeavours and wrote to the Daily News in February 1886 telling of their soup kitchen, which constituted a "large stock pot... constantly in use on the kitchen range" using scraps from his kitchens and ingredients such as rice and split-peas to make a good stew. He noted

that over 5,800 basins a year of this stew were then given out at his back door to the hungry poor, including "workmen travelling between Wales and the mining and manufacturing district of Staffordshire".

Stephen and Maria had nine children at Colwall. The youngest, Fanny, was born in 1858 and the eldest, Earnest, in 1870; all were baptised at Colwall Parish Church. Descendants of the Ballard family still live in Colwall today.

The Winnings estate was bought by Stephen in 1856 and he designed the main residence "The Winnings" and a number of other houses on the estate which is situated at Colwall above the entrance to Colwall railway tunnel which Stephen had built in 1860. The 1876 Littlebury Directory and Gazetteer of Herefordshire describes the house as a "handsome residence, occupied by Stephen Ballard, Esquire. M.Inst.C.E. Civil Engineer and Railway Contractor". Stephens's experimental nature even came into play at the house which was built with a hot air heating system using a saddleback boiler and copper heat exchangers; these are believed to be still in situ but not used today. The system made the house very hot but Stephen persevered and eventually resolved it. Outside the land around the house was landscaped and planted with many ornamental trees; the landscaped park still exists today but is not open to the public. Another feature in the park was the family mausoleum where Stephen and his family were buried.

To conclude I can do no better than repeat a few of the lines from Stephen Ballard's obituary as published in the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Issue 1891, Volume 4:-



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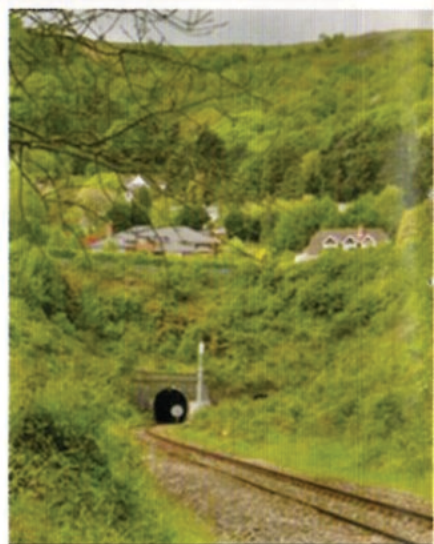
“ . . . Perhaps no employer was ever regarded with more real respect and affection by his workmen. They felt that their master was a friend in whom they could place implicit trust. Numbers of the old employees would from time to time call at Mr. Ballard’s house, The Winnings, some in less prosperous circumstances than aforetime, but many who had attained positions of ease and comfort by their industry and sobriety. They never called without receiving a hearty greeting, and thoughtful help when help was needed . . . He purchased and settled on the appropriately named Winnings estate about forty years ago, erecting his own and several other handsome residences upon it. His model farm buildings have been copied in many places. The village and neighbourhood of Colwall has undergone a variety of improvements through Mr. Ballard’s instrumentality. Ten years ago he built a Workmen’s Hall and Temperance Hotel, and he has carried on a successful vinegar manufactory. The “Jubilee Drive,” which is a fine road along the upper side of the Malvern Hill, a welcome alternative to the old highway at the base of it, will long be associated with his memory. He was not only the prime mover in this enterprise and the largest subscriber, but gave a considerable portion of the land, and superintended the whole of the work . . . At the model

farm-buildings he presided every autumn over one of the most enjoyable “harvest homes” that could be conceived. In consequence of his serious illness, last autumn passed by without the usual festivities . . . He died on the 14th of November, 1890, in the eighty-seventh year of his age. According to his expressed desire, he was interred in a steined {lined with stone} grave made on the top of a high mound formed with the soil from the boring of the Malvern railway tunnel. This tump is about 300 yards from The Winnings residence, and approached by a road known as “Ballard’s Drive,” leading to the Malvern Hills. A few yards from the grave is the third ventilating shaft of the railway tunnel. It is almost exactly in the centre of the estate, near to the field in which the flower shows have taken place, and in view of handsome plantations of trees, in the culture of which Mr. Ballard took such delight. . . Mr. Ballard was elected an Associate of the Institution on the 14th of March, 1837, and was transferred to the class of Member on the 17th of February, 1846.”

I hope you have enjoyed this series and agree with me that Stephen Ballard was a thoughtful, intelligent, hard working man and that the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal was lucky to have had him to overcome all the challenges to successfully bring the Canal into the heart of Hereford.

The photograph shows the entrance to the Colwall Railway Tunnels, the newer GWR tunnel still in use and Stephen Ballard older tunnel just visible to the right with the Winnings Estate above.

◆ CJ



H&G Spring/Summer Diary 2011

March 2011

- Thursday 3rd 7.30 pm, IWA Branch Meeting – see page 25 for details.
- Tuesday 15th 7.30 pm, H&G CT Social Evening at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle – all welcome, see page 20 for details.

April 2011

- Thursday 7th 7.30 pm, IWA Branch AGM – see page 25 for details.
- Sunday 10th Withington Wharf Inaugural Walk – see page 8 for details.
Gloucester Waterways Museum – Waterways Festival & Boat Jumble – all welcome, see page 11 for details
- Tuesday 19th 7.30 pm, H&G CT Social Evening at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle – all welcome, see page 20 for details

May 2011

- Sat-Sun 7-8th Over Open Days and Beer Festival – see page 9 for details.
- Tuesday 17th 7.30 pm, H&G CT Social Evening at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle – all welcome, see page 20 for details
- Sunday 22nd Aylestone Boat Gathering, Hereford – see page 11 for details.
- Fri-Sun 28-30th Crick Boat Show, Northamptonshire
Trailboat Rally, Neath

June 2011

- Sat-Sun 11-12th Garden Festival, Hellens, Much Marcle
- Tuesday 21st 7.30 pm, H&G CT Social Evening at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle – all welcome, see page 20 for details
- Sat-Sun 25-26th Braunston Boat Gathering, Northamptonshire

July 2011

- Mid July Sutton St Nicholas Fete
- Tuesday 19th 7.30 pm prompt, H&G CT Annual General Meeting at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle – all welcome, see page 20 for details
- Fri-Sun 29-31st IWA National Waterways Festival, Burton-on-Trent

August 2011

- Fri-Sun 5-7th Tall Ships, Gloucester Docks
- Sunday 7th Herefordshire Country Fair, Whitfield Estate, Wormbridge
- Tuesday 16th 7.30 pm, H&G CT Informal Social Evening at The Royal Oak, Much Marcle – all welcome.

Please note: H&G CT attendance at some events is subject to confirmation.

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Not quite THE LAST PAGE



Calling all H&G photographers!

In the past we have had some really great images from members and supporters of the Canal for **The Wharfinger**, so I hope this latest request will get you thinking?

Christmas cards

During the winter's snow and ice is it possible that you have ventured out along the towpath of the H&G Canal? Did you have your camera with you to record the beautiful side of such a cold spell? Photos of frost or snow, flora and fauna connected to the Canal could look great in the series of Christmas cards that we are hoping to produce for next Christmas.



and donations on line

We have now set up a charity status on eBay via Missionfish, for anyone wishing to donate 10–100% of their eBay sales to the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust. You can also select Gift Aid, where the taxman will add 28% to your donation. eBay will also credit back your basic insertion and final value fees (equal to the percentage that you donate to us).

It is also possible to make a one off donation via this method. The short URL link for our page is: –

<http://tinyurl.com/65y8qfb>

This will take you direct to the e-bay donations page for the H&G Canal Trust – or you can search for us via the 'Sell For Charity' link on eBay.

◆ CB

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COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

MONDAY 18TH APRIL 2011

Calendar

We are also looking for a dozen quality images of the Canal and related subjects to be featured in a Canal Trust Calendar. Photos that show a particular season or month would be good.

So there is a double benefit from sending in your photographs. Firstly, you could be helping the Trust to raise funds, and secondly, if your images are chosen, you will see your photograph produced many times on a calendar or Christmas card and receive either a complimentary calendar or pack of cards.

So next time you are walking or working on the Canal please remember your camera!

◆ MJ

Working on Renton

Renton will be the first of our heritage narrowboats to travel on the inland waterways system as a floating ambassador for the H&G CT; however, this will only be possible once our restoration work and the signwriting is completed to a high standard.

We plan to dry dock the boat soon - if you would like to help with this work on Renton then please get in touch with Caroline Jones **as soon as possible** so that we have a team to call upon to blitz the boat during the week that it is under cover in the dry dock. *If you are only available at weekends/evenings your help will still be appreciated either in the dry dock or at other times.* Caroline can be contacted on 01452 318224 (weekdays) or 01594 861286 (weekends) *Thank you.*

◆ CJ

Thank you

A number of excellent photographs were taken by members and residents of Over in the snow – we have used as many in this edition as space would permit. All will be considered later in the year when we make the selection for the Christmas cards/Calendar (see above).

◆ CRP

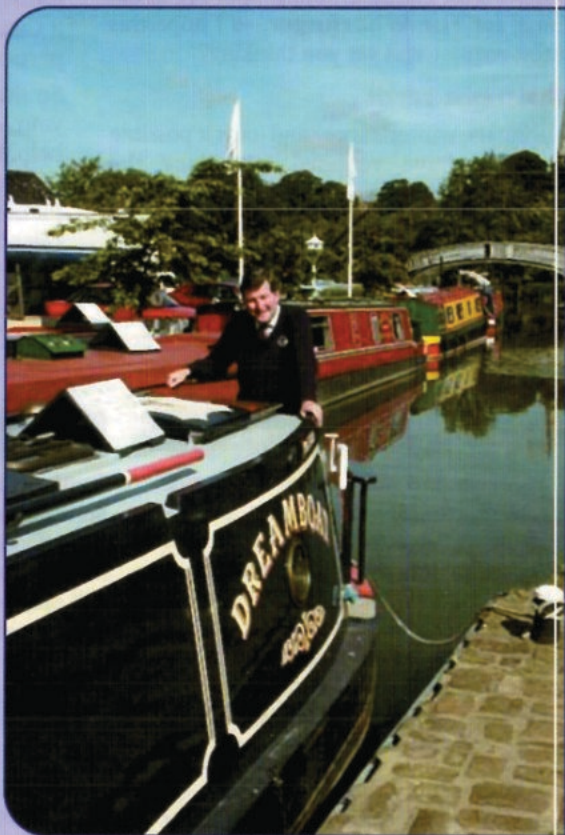
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Want to help?

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!

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The Wharfinger


The Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal

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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.

 = restoration sites suitable for public access.

