

The Wharfinger

Summer 2014

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Restoration Sites

Aylestone

Project Leader: Wilf Jones

Weir Site Leader: Brian Fox

Withington Project

Chairman: Wilf Jones

Kymin East

Wilf Jones

Yarkhill

Leader: Chris High

Deputy: Paul Hatt

Oxenhall

Leaders: Brian Fox, Geoff Hopper

Lengthsman: Peter Moore

Moat Farm

Project Chairman: Wilf Jones

Site Leader: Martyn Tilford

Vineyard Hill

Project Chairman: Wilf Jones

Site Leader: Ted Beagles

Over

Site Leaders: Ted Beagles (Wed) Maggie Jones (Sat)

Over Committee: Ted Beagles, Chris Byrne, Maggie Jones, David Penny, Belinda Sprigg

Llanthony

Leader: Paul Henshaw

Publicity and Communication

Press Liaison: The Wharf House/Carolyn Pascall

The Wharfinger

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Design/Production: Maggie Jones, Maple Graphics

Proof Reader: John Hammond

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Postmasters: Janet Moulit, Barbara Moses

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Legal & PD Assistant: Stephanie Pike

Engineering: Thomas Ashworth,

Delivery co-ordinator: Wilf Jones

Quantity Surveyor: Tony Kelley

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Ted Beagles



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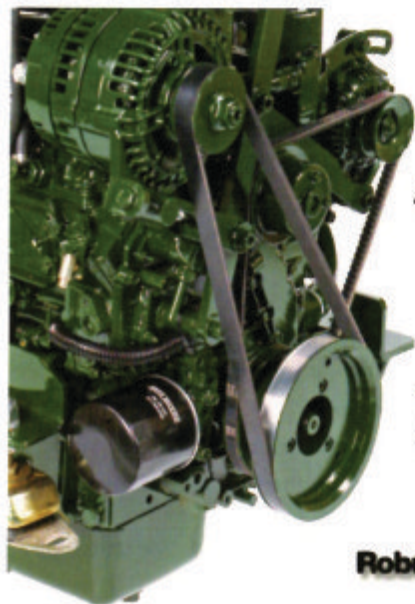
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National Recognition



For the third year running the H&G CT has been identified by the respected inland waterways magazine, Waterways World, as one of the leading restoration projects in the country. The Waterways World Annual 2014 contains details of over 60 active restoration schemes and highlights five as leading the way nationally, of which the H&G CT is one. In the 2012 Annual we were one of the top ten "Canals of the Future", last year The H&G CT was one of only six that were brought to the fore and this year just five were judged to be "currently ahead of the field whether in actual progress or sheer ambition".



In April a major national conference "Bridges 2014" was held in Birmingham attended by civil and structural engineers, contractors and other specialists from the UK and abroad. Guest speaker after lunch was David Penny, who the organisers invited to speak following a suggestion by Gloucestershire County Council. David's presentation on how the H&G CT were approaching the restoration of the H&G

Canal, developing partnerships that facilitated not only the restoration of the Canal but also the provision of assets and other income streams to fund the long-term maintenance and management of the Canal, was very well received. Several potentially very useful contacts were also made.



The Canal and River Trust (CRT) held a well attended National Restoration Workshop in May bringing together canal societies and trusts, local authorities and the Inland Waterway Association. One of the objectives of the day was to "share best practice". CRT invited David Penny to be one of the speakers addressing the delegates and he explained our approach to restoration and the development of long-term income streams. His well received presentation included a video which CRT had filmed a few weeks before at ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE and Over Canal Basin.



Thank You

Without doubt the H&G CT's latest high rating in the Waterways World Annual, and the increasingly high profile nationally, are a result of much hard work by our Legal & Project Development Team, backed by the CoM and by the continuing work of all our volunteers both 'on the ground' and 'behind the scenes'. A most sincere 'thank you' to each and every one.

Finally my sincere thanks (as always) to Maggie Jones for the considerable time that she puts into each edition of The Wharfinger, ensuring that our design and production remains at a consistently high level. Many thanks also to John Hammond for acting as Deputy Editor for much of the material in this edition allowing me to go away and leave the laptop at home for the first time in many years!

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“A CoMplementary Relationship”

By John Hammond



From time to time members of CoM are asked about the relationship between THE WHARF HOUSE and the Canal Trust, and the contribution TWH makes to the H&G CT. The end of the 2013-14 financial year on 28 February provides an opportunity to offer an update.

In round figures, TWH made an operating surplus in 2013-14 of £65,000. This was its best year so far in spite of the bad winter, with widespread reporting that “Gloucester is flooded” causing much lost business – although TWH has never been flooded or cut off. The £65,000 was spent on:

Legal & Project Development Team £31,000
including staff employment, legal database, mapping software, office equipment, office costs, fees and expenses, energy, insurance

Over, Vineyard Hill and Leadon Valley sites and boats £10,500
including maintenance and development costs, insurance

Loan repayments £23,500

TWH is a wholly-owned asset of the H&G CT, both as the building and as a flourishing business. The fit-out of the building and development of the sites was in part funded through loans which are being repaid from TWH operating surplus.

RBS, the bank for TWH and H&G CT, recognises the asset value of TWH and the strength of its business and is content to use this as security and guarantor to the bank for substantial loans to the Trust – a considerable reversal of the position not that many years ago! These loans are to support other capital expenditure such as the purchase of Travellers Rest and our part of the costs of developing the Dymock site with Trust ownership of one of the houses. The objective, as with TWH, is that these projects are funded with the aid of loans, provide income which exceeds the loan costs thereby allowing the loans to be paid off over a period, increase in value due to the presence of the Canal, and yield a continuing income to

support further restoration and maintenance activity.

So much for the financial picture. TWH is seen by outside bodies as the headquarters of the Trust and as the place where meetings and discussions of major significance for the Trust take place and where the L&PDT – the Trust’s centre of development – is based. Where better to meet a developer to discuss the next planning gain in association with a section of Canal restoration than in a venue which a previous developer provided under just such a planning gain...? The hospitality offered by TWH and the atmosphere of a secure, prestigious and professionally-run establishment play no small part in such successful negotiations.

None of this could happen without the success of TWH itself, not just financially but also in being the public face of the Trust and a clear example of what working together with both development partners and the public sector can achieve. In the meantime we do not lose track of the here and now, and TWH presses on with some much more basic aspects of PR, from the annual Canal Festival to the establishment of the new H&G CT Facebook page and other PR initiatives, including of course the H&G CT Visitor Centre.

So THE WHARF HOUSE is not just a very successful, award winning Restaurant with Rooms but the functions hidden within it are also the very heart of taking the Trust forward to a strong and independent future, with increased assets and income and the ability to plan and drive forward the restoration and maintenance of the Canal for generations to come. It represents what is now held up as a national example of how a Charity can make itself self-sufficient and resilient for the long term.

◆ JH

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Legal & Project Development Team

at THE WHARF HOUSE

By David Penny



Stephanie Pike

The L&PDT continues to go from strength to strength. We are pleased that our Legal & Project Development Assistant, Steph, has now completed her very successful internship which was 50%

funded by the University of the West of England, and she now joins us full time to help take key projects forward over the summer.

She will then continue part time over the winter while at University. The workload and opportunities for the H&G CT continue to increase with extensive land negotiations and project development in hand which promise an exciting future over the next couple of years and beyond.

Objective

The objective of the L&PDT is to continue to grow a strong asset base for the Trust which generates an increasing return to ensure we are a sound and strong independent Charity which can plan future projects with confidence and certainty. THE WHARF HOUSE is the first and most significant of these assets and its profits not only pay for all development and maintenance at Over Basin and Vineyard Hill and of the Heritage Boats fleet, but also for the costs of the L&PDT. TWH also provides accommodation for the L&PDT, pending construction of the Mill Barn, and it is the ideal venue for high profile meetings with development partners and potential sponsors. (See also page 5.)

Fundraising

The L&PDT has increasingly taken on the central fundraising role as well as securing

continued long term income from our assets. In this way the L&PDT secured financial contributions paid directly to the Trust in the year in excess of £35,000 and in addition TWH received direct financial support towards L&PDT from the University of the West of England and Peel Group. The L&PDT has two dedicated paid staff with support from TWH staff, and is led in a full time voluntary capacity with further part time voluntary support from structural engineers, a quantity surveyor, an architect and other professionals.

The purpose both of the development projects which are designed to bring in a continuing income and of the fundraising and promotion activities is to support restoration projects. Seriously large scale funding contributions can only be sought and obtained once we have both the land in hand and restoration schemes designed and ready to proceed. The more immediate demand is the substantial fundraising to allow acquisition of the land we need for the next sections of Canal identified for restoration. This makes the Land Fund absolutely fundamental to the future of the Trust and donations and bequests to this, and the offers of loans, really will make a crucial difference to our progress.

National Recognition

National recognition of the approach of the Trust, exemplified in the operation of the L&PDT, is growing all the time. Our determination to secure reliable and continuing sources of income to fund restoration and then maintenance of the Canal indefinitely is celebrated as H&G CT leading the way. Too often, other bodies carry out restoration projects and then struggle to look after what they have created. Waterways World ranks us in the Top Five Canal Restorations nationally, and we have given presentations on how to restore financially sustainable waterways to bodies including the Institute of Civil Engineers and at national conferences including Bridges 2014 and the National Waterways Conference. ♦ DRP

Travellers Rest

OPEN for business!

By David Penny

The volunteer effort that went in for about a month to completely transform the building was outstanding and considerably more than we ever hoped for – a huge thank you to all who helped in any way.

All the feedback has been that the considerable changes to the entrance and the complete redecoration have been extremely well received and made it more welcoming.

It was great to see the premises actually reopen with tenants Jeff & Judith at the helm on Friday 28th March and great appreciation was shown for Judith's design ideas in recreating the bar, the internal decorations, and the refurbished and new furniture all pulling the whole place together into a very welcoming establishment.

For the latest news of The Travellers Rest you will of course need to join 'Count me in' and also for news of what's on and special offers you should 'Like' the Travellers Rest Facebook page.

Excellent Work!

... two customers were so impressed with the volunteers' work on the new access ramp that they contacted the L&PDT to ask who had done the work as they could not find a contractor to provide the same quality ... could they employ them please? But they said, 'We are in London, but if they feel like a little working holiday we would pay well and put them up....!' Well I suppose that is ultimate compliment and testament to the quality of the work our volunteers produce; thank you team.



Whilst the fence was painted outside, the ceilings and walls were painted inside.



A new access ramp was constructed up to the front door.



Volunteers inspect the new access ramp once the shuttering was removed.



The grass verges are strimmed and the plant pots repainted.



The Travellers Rest is a bright, modern comfortable pub and open for business once more! Thank you to all who helped to make this possible!



Overflow Weir at

Aylestone Park

By David Penny, photos by Colin Dymott

As can be seen in the photos we now have all the concrete finished on the impressive new overflow weir (capacity 6.5 cubic metres per second) to serve the City Centre and Canal which will in due course discharge via new reed beds. These will scrub the water and lead to a net increase in the quality of water discharged from the City of Hereford to the Wye catchment.



Concrete work and sleeper deck complete.

Work is now in hand with volunteers to landscape the area around the weir, complete brickwork, install weir control plates, erect a hand rail and create the towpath during the summer and autumn. New planting will also be needed as well as general maintenance and weed clearing of the Canal on the site. If you are able to help, please contact project leader Wilf Jones on 01452 413 888, or Brian Fox on 01432 358 628.

♦♦ **DRP**

Would you like to join a team
at **Aylestone Park?**

Please contact Project Leader:
Wilf Jones on **01452 413 888**
or Site Leader:
Brian Fox on **01432 358 628**



The overflow channel on the right will be dug out later.



The canal side awaiting a brickwork facing.



Large crane assisting in placing the concrete sleeper deck.

H&G CT LAND FUND

The Land Fund will provide the means to negotiate the crucial new sites along the line of the Canal where there is no new development present or where we cannot acquire the line of the Canal by other opportunities. It is a vital fund to help us eventually restore the full length from Gloucester to Hereford.

For more details please pick up a leaflet at one of our stands or contact us via our website: www:h-g-canal.org.uk.



Working *together* in the present, to revive the past, and secure a better future.

Colin Dymott

Restoration Team

Moat Farm

By Martyn Tilford



As always a variety of tasks have been undertaken over the last three months, with the skills and versatility of the Moat Farm team used to the full.

Towpath restoration

The task of recreating a continuous towpath throughout the site took a leap forward with the excavation of a further length. Once again our resident digger was employed to prepare a level 80-metre section around the bend towards the centre of the site. At 3 metres wide this greatly improves our access at this location. In keeping with our sensitive approach to vegetation management and, as we are not expecting any horse-drawn narrowboats any time soon, several large field maple, oak and ash trees have been retained on the towpath bank. Other removed tree stumps and roots have been saved to form a nearby stumpery.

Offside maintenance

We have been working our way along the offside bank carrying out limited scrub bashing and tree work. A few leaning or decaying hawthorn trees were removed and several reshaped to improve their appearance



Wilf in the digger preparing a new length of towpath.



Alan continues the process adjacent to our site hut. The white peg is the 300m mark, about midway through the site.

and wellbeing. As the cut was full of water when this was done it was decided to fell the unwanted trees into the canal and rope-haul them out onto the towpath for cutting up. Paul and Ted looked after the felling and 'all hands' were then required for the hauling out. Our reward for this thinning out was a springtime display of several banks of cowslips which none of us recall seeing last year.



Offside bank work with Paul felling an unsafe hawthorn and Ted ready with rope to haul the tree from the cut.



The first showing of the planted native daffodils. The white metal stake is to prevent accidental damage.

Planting regime

Most of the trees planted in late 2012 are doing well. The line of alders in the meadow is thriving in the damp conditions that prevail there, and the wild cherries provided a welcome floral display in the Spring. Back in November we were fortunate to be provided with some local native daffodil bulbs recovered from field ploughing near Dymock. These were planted around the site, marked with white pegs to prevent accidental disturbance, and many flowered in April. Not exactly the Chelsea Flower Show but it is hoped that over the years they will multiply and add a local flavour to the site.



One of the planted wild cherries just coming into flower. A small bank of cowslips is just visible adjacent to the towpath.

South-end earthworks



Under a lovely blue sky, another load for reuse building up the towpath.

Fuelled by the success of our last 'dumper week' in November it was decided to arrange a repeat. What are the chances of another completely dry week, this time in April? Well the forecast for the middle of the month looked promising and our team of six digger and dumper operators was blessed with a week of almost unbroken sunshine and, once again,

not a drop of rain. Working in pairs for seven days Wilf, Ted, Paul, Steve, Alan and myself were able to keep the machines fully employed developing the south end of the site. →



Ted on digger duty battles with the pitching stones whilst Steve approaches with the dumper.



A section through the top of the railway embankment. Clay loam core with a blanket of pitching stones topped with ash and track ballast.



Loosening the pitching stones with quite a bit of patience and a toothed bucket on the excavator. The canal will pass through the railway bridge which can be seen in the background.

The objective was twofold. Firstly to excavate 75 metres of the old track bed in order to lower the railway embankment to the towpath level. This would allow the desired width of canal to be cut whilst retaining a 3 metre wide towpath. Some 250 cubic metres of spoil was removed and relocated during this process reducing the embankment height by up to a metre. The embankment was originally constructed using a clay loam material topped with a blanket of small rocks known as pitching stones. This provided a firm sub-base on which the ash and track ballast was laid. Digging through the pitching stones was tough going. Much of the ash and track ballast has been reused for towpath and access-way topping. Secondly, after setting out the line of the towpath and offside bank, excavation and profiling of the canal proper was commenced. More about this next time.

◆ MT



Dumper approaches for another refill.

PLEASE NOTE: Public access to the Moat Farm site is unavailable at present but the Trust is working on proposals to develop this.



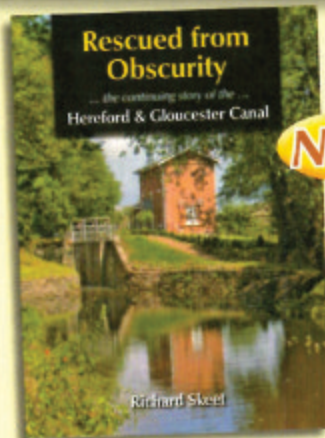
After consulting a complex set of drawings, Wilf and Paul set out the line of the canal.

Would you like to be involved?

*You will be made most welcome, please contact either **Martyn Tilford** on 01452 790 358 or **Wilf Jones** on 01452 413 888*

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In the second half of the book Dick Skeet describes how the Hereford and Gloucester Canal Society and later the Hereford and Gloucester Canal Trust has set about the enormous task of restoring the 34 miles of this historic canal, reconnecting two ancient Cathedral Cities.

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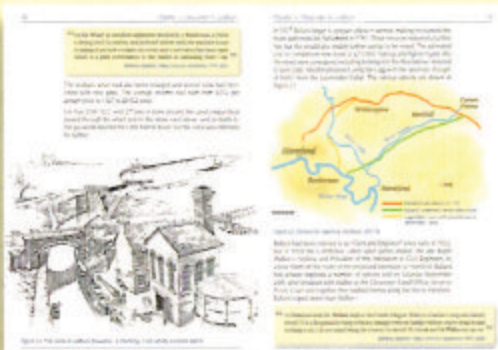
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The book will also be available from **The Wharf House** in due course.

Thank you



New Site Dymock

By David Penny

A very long drawn out process on the legal and planning side is finally moving towards fruition. All the pre-commencement conditions were at last discharged by the Council in March allowing the housing development to start in due course.

The Canal and other aspects have been going through a near constant value engineering process to ensure all aspects of the site can be developed cost effectively. This has required considerably more support than originally envisaged from our engineers **Tony Gee & Partners** and was made more challenging than normal as our engineer, **Thomas Ashworth**, has been working on a major road scheme at **Pulpit Rock** on the shore of Loch Lomond in Scotland and was also flown down to the **Dawlish Rail rebuild** to help on that! So our great thanks to the team, and particularly **Director Austin**



A dead tree is felled along the Chapel boundary.

Weltman, for the continuing support from the **Stonehouse** office.

Our thanks for their support and co-operation also go to the members of the **Western Way Chapel** who have kindly given consent for us to extend the Canal embankment across their boundary so that both our sites will be level rather than a huge gully being created between us. This agreement will considerably improve the look and ease of maintenance of the completed site and enables the Canal to go virtually up to the boundary gaining us another 10m or so in water.

Canal Trust volunteers made a start on site in April by saving the daffodils that would otherwise be buried under the new Canal embankment and replanting them in an area which will not be disturbed. We will then replant these on the finished Canal embankment in the future. While on site they also cleared the Chapel boundary and installed a land drain on that boundary in preparation.

We hope to be on site in June installing over an acre of geogrid on top of the existing surface to reinforce the ground prior to our long term partners **EMG/Keyway** commencing the construction of the embankment itself.

As always the only way you will hear the latest news is to sign up to our free '**Count me in**' email updates.



Volunteers installing a land drain along the Chapel boundary.

Ted Reaples

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HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST

Social Evenings

at the Royal Oak



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

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!**

17 June

Tony Conder

Going up the country –

*last year Tony talked about Gloucester Docks
– this time we travel inland up the Severn.*

15 July

Annual General Meeting – 7.30pm

See page 19 for further details.

19 August

Informal Meeting

16 September

Roger Beck

*Roger was unable to give this talk last year,
but returns to explore the
Herefordshire Nature Trust's reserves.*

GRAND HOLIDAY DRAW 2014

Once again this year we have some great prizes!

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



Our thanks to all those who have already purchased tickets and returned the money, to the many who have made donations in lieu and, especially, to our prize donors **Black Prince Holidays, Anglo-Welsh and The Wharf House**. As the draw is not until our Social Evening at The Royal Oak on the 16th September there is still lots of time to help us make 2014 yet another record-breaking year! Janet Moulton (01432 264 366) will be delighted to send you tickets.

Thank you.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *of the* HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST

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

to be held on **TUESDAY, 17TH JULY, 2014**
at the **THE ROYAL OAK, MUCH MARCLE,**
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ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 28TH FEBRUARY 2014

Members and friends will be made very welcome.

AGENDA

1. Welcome/formal opening of the meeting.
2. Apologies.
3. Approval of previous AGM minutes.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. To receive and approve the Report of Council, the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the Trust (and associated Companies) for the year ended 28 February 2014, Report of the Honorary Auditor thereon, and Reports of the Honorary Treasurer and the Membership Secretary.
6. To Appoint the Auditors of the Trust (and associated Companies).
7. To Re-appoint those Council Members retiring by rotation who offer themselves for re-election:-
Wilf Jones, Cliff Penny, David Penny
8. Close of Formal Business.

After the meeting there will be an opportunity to talk to Restoration Site Leaders and other members of the team and to view the latest display panels charting our progress.

We aim to allow people ample time for general questions after the close of formal business. **Prior notice of questions should ensure a comprehensive response and would be greatly appreciated.**

Annual Report for the year ending 28th February 2014

This is the twenty second **Annual Report** of the **Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust Limited** [a non-profit distributing company formed in April 1992, No.2704407], which is a Registered Charity [1010721]. It replaced the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society which was launched in 1983. It is also the report of **THE WHARF HOUSE Company Ltd.** [4627931], the wholly owned subsidiary all profits from which will be used for the promotion and restoration of the Canal. The Canal Trust is indebted to its *Council of Management*; during the period under review [year ended 28th February 2014] those listed below have been members.

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT OF THE CANAL TRUST (12 MONTHS TO 28-2-14)

Ralph Barber (*resigned 3/11/13*); Liz Connors; Brian Fox (*resigned 16/7/13*); Will Frecknall (*resigned 16/7/13*); John Hammond (*elected 16/7/13*); Nigel Jefferies; Caroline Jones; Maggie Jones; Wilfred Jones; Janet Moul; Carolyn Pascall (*elected 16/7/13*); Cliff Penny; David Penny.

THE WHARF HOUSE COMPANY (12 MONTHS TO 28-2-14)

Liz Connors; John Hammond; Janet Moul;
David Penny

Italics indicates not a director

The 12 months ended 28th February 2014 brought us a number of exciting challenges which after careful consideration Council of Management decided were absolutely the right thing for us to do to ensure the Trust continues to move forward. They are exciting opportunities as not only will they enable us to restore the line of the Canal but will provide an income for the future which is very much in line with our stated objective of ensuring we have resources for maintenance of each restored section of the Canal.

Our first opportunity involves restoring the line of the Canal in Dymock and as part of the project becoming the proud owner of a Canalside house which we can rent out to provide revenue for maintenance and support. Although we have been in discussions at Dymock for some time, as happens, it came to fruition at the same time as another exciting project, a pub for sale on the line of the Canal, an opportunity we really didn't want

to miss but still needed to be thought through and planned. We called on our procedures for approval where we need urgent discussions that involve all Council of Management. After much discussion about how we finance both projects, we took the decision that it was the right sort of project for our Opportunity Fund, and that we should also investigate a bank loan. The Travellers Rest will also generate income for us, whilst at the same time providing excellent publicity about the Canal. Our bank agreed with us and we are delighted to be able to say both projects commenced last year and will be in progress during this. H&G CT also made a loan to TWH which was the part of our organisation which made the purchase of the pub, allowing us to recover the VAT element of the purchase price. The loan is to facilitate cash flow while we are waiting for the VAT repayment from HMRC. This will work in a similar way to the loan made last year, again for cash flow reasons following expenditure by TWH at Vineyard Hill, which has now been repaid.

Thank you to all members who increased their subscriptions in line with last year's increase. There are still a small number of standing orders that need amending and those members will be contacted in the next few months. We are happy to report that income from membership this year exceeded our forecast and that our membership has increased by 13 to 1,332. We are also delighted to report that we continue to receive donations from members, including two anonymous donations of £10,000, and would like to thank everyone who has donated in this way for their generosity. In addition donations to the Land Fund this year totalled £2,610. We have also received donations from businesses and organisations: Churchdown Parish Council (£250), Lloyds Bank (£325), IWA (£375), Braunston Festival (£200). We also received from FoDDC on behalf of the SW RDA, Defra and the European Commission as part of the Rural Development Programme for England a grant of £19,595 to support the purchase of a tractor which will be used for maintenance at all of our sites. Our sites generated in excess of £3,500 through selling obsolete items and logs, as well as raising funds through Open Days and the Canal Festival at Over. We also sold redundant assets which brought income of £14,181 but no costs as

the agreement was completed by the Legal & Project Development Team. Expenditure was above the total budget agreed for this year, as we took the opportunity to work on the new projects mentioned above, without reducing our committed spend on our other projects.

Volunteer time worked for H&G CT was almost 3,228 days, an equivalent value of over £395,000. *[Figures for individual restoration sites are given with each report. The significant balance is derived from all of the other volunteer time involved in the many activities supporting and promoting the H&G CT, including THE WHARF HOUSE.]*

THE WHARF HOUSE continues to trade profitably having its best year to date despite the general difficult trading conditions in the economy. It continues to fund all planning, legal and project development costs. The expansion of our **Legal & Project Development Team** at THE WHARF HOUSE was facilitated by continued, much appreciated, sponsorship from **Peel Holdings/ Gloucester Quays**. The Restaurant's AA Rosette and 4 Star rating for accommodation was confirmed for another year.

The H&G Sales and Promotion team made the most of the improved 2013 weather. Crick Boat Show and Braunston Boat Rally were very successful both financially and more importantly raised the H&G profile nationally. Local events were equally well supported with the small team giving many hours in preparation and attendance at these events. The **Social evenings** have been very well supported with members travelling many miles to hear a variety of speakers. The **Wharfinger** continues to attract high praise for both content and production; we are very grateful for the continued support from **Print Plus** and our **regular advertisers**. The **Grand Holiday Draw** raised a magnificent £3,079 for the Trust.

Restoration Site Reports: During the year many of our volunteers worked on several sites. In **Gloucestershire** at our **Llanthony** site, work continued with the maintenance of the cottages. The appalling winter rains exposed a leaking roof gully, which had to be repaired before damage was caused to the interiors. The programme for clearing the riverbank was carried out whenever river levels allowed and some general tree work was undertaken involving the removal of storm damaged limbs and tree stumps. Vegetation management and site drainage was a feature

throughout the year. A project to restore the old lock swing-bridge as an exhibit was also started. *[110 Volunteer days = a value of £7,700].*

At our **Over** and **Vineyard Hill** site work continued on restoration of the heritage boats fleet. All are now painted in H&G colours. A major hull leak on our trip boat Mr Maysey was successfully repaired. Work also continued on site development and enhancement activities. An old GCC sign post was refurbished and erected, an electric car charging point was installed in the car park, the site entrance railings were improved, and block paving around THE WHARF HOUSE was repaired. The site garden areas were maintained with much fresh planting, including osier beds. The new Kubota mini-tractor and flail were used to mow the grass and to help with clearing and mulching around the saplings planted along Vineyard Hill last year. Large numbers of native daffodils were planted alongside the Vineyard Hill towpath and the new donated bench was erected at the winding hole. Volunteers assisted the Vineyard Trust in clearing scrub from the ancient monument site and made a major contribution to refurbishing Travellers Rest for re-opening. The small Saturday team was also kept busy, the main focus being the gardens around THE WHARF HOUSE, undergrowth clearance in the car park and sanding down and re-oiling the tables and chairs on the terrace. The Over Basin and Vineyard Hill section of Canal are used regularly by **Sailing4Disabled** and by **Gloucester & District Model Boat Club** who assist in weed clearance. *[863 Volunteer days = a value of £64,450].*

The second year has now been completed at **Moat Farm** and good progress made. Preparatory vegetation clearance of the Canal bed and towpath areas is complete and felled tree stumps have been removed. Sensitive vegetation management of the off-side has also been undertaken together with replacement tree planting throughout the site. Reprofiling of the canal bed and towpath has commenced. *[215 Volunteer days = a value of £23,150].*

The year at **Oxenhall** was spent in maintaining or improving what we have so far achieved. The spill weir which we repaired last year was found to be leaking so a decision was made to do a complete rebuild. A continuing programme was carried out on urgent tree maintenance; several have shed branches over the year, some even across the

towpath (but luckily no injuries), and work has been done to minimise the risks of recurrence. [256 Volunteer days = a value of £15,600].

In **Herefordshire** the **Yarkhill** team's work continued with regular site visits but considerable personal calls on members' time saw a significant drop in attendance. In addition to our core work at Yarkhill, work was carried out at Burcott Road, Hereford and assistance given at Kymin. [284 Volunteer days = a value of £19,900].

At **Kymin East**, planning the excavation continues to be a challenge. A drainage ditch has been completed for approximately half of the length, but the centre area is very boggy and the excavators were sinking in the quagmire rather than digging! The ditch is to assist with draining of the water within the canal corridor as there are a number of land drains feeding into this area. The adverse winter weather delayed the preparation work, and the plan, weather permitting, is to remove the last remaining large tree stumps in early March. [28 Volunteer days = a value of £2,400].

At **Aylestone Park**, the Contract to build the very major concrete 6.5cumec overflow weir for the Canal and City of Hereford was completed by Gardiners earlier in the year and handed to the volunteers to complete the brick facing to the Canal, fencing and landscaping works which will be completed over the summer.

At **Burcott Road** further maintenance took place to improve the site and an unrestored section of the Canal was temporarily let to Tudors builders' merchants while we await restoration in this area. [27 Volunteer days = a value of £1,350].

Sustainability: The H&G CT is committed to managing its activities in a sustainable manner wherever practical to do so. The photovoltaic cells at **THE WHARF HOUSE** continue to reduce our energy demands from the national grid and to generate (literally!) income for the Trust. Special key fobs ensure that there is no wasted energy within the guest accommodation when unoccupied and most lighting in the building is low energy – much having been converted to latest technology LED fittings. We continue to make good use of material reclaimed from the former hospital and all sites recycle materials wherever possible.

Legal & Project Development Team: The team has been exceedingly active during the year in

handling all Legal work for the Trust as well as negotiating, designing, and developing new sites – some of which are referred to above and some of which will come forward in the coming years as most sites take years to bring to fruition. The Trust has never had so many sections in negotiation or so many exciting projects in hand. We are pleased to have had support for an Intern from University of the West of England which has proved so successful that the post has become permanent. A major focus has moved to fundraising to support projects currently in development – one of these was the delivery of a new Kubota tractor and other equipment for the maintenance team which saw the majority of the £24,000 cost secured through grants.

The Council of Management thanks all of our volunteers for the splendid effort and hard work which has been undertaken on the various projects along the line of the Canal and all of those who have worked at THE WHARF HOUSE, on the boats, on our promotional display and sales stand and to those who have assisted the H&G CT in many other ways during the year.

Summary (abridged) Accounts will be available at the AGM or Members may obtain a full set by sending a large SAE to the Treasurer. The full accounts will also be available at the AGM.

A member may appoint a proxy to vote in his/her stead. A proxy must be someone entitled to vote at the meeting. Proxy forms are available from Liz Connors. The forms must be completed, signed and returned to her so that they are received **at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the AGM.**

Note regarding Agenda item 7; one third of the Members of the Council of Management are required to stand down each year. All those standing down (listed at 7 on page 19) are offering themselves for re-election unless otherwise stated. New volunteers to serve on the CoM are welcome; as reported in the last edition of **The Wharfinger** formal Nominations (on forms obtainable from the Treasurer) have to be received not less than 7 days nor more than 28 days prior to the AGM. The maximum size of the CoM is 18 and, unless new nominations bring the total in excess of this number, the above stated Members will be returned unopposed. The CoM is also empowered to Co-opt Members during the year (subject to the maximum size not being exceeded).

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete below and return this form to:

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST
6 CASTLE STREET, HEREFORD HR1 2 NL

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Please give details of any skills you have which might assist us in our work.

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Please pay to account No. 11600694,
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By the time you read this we will already have attended Gloucester Green Fair and the Droitwich and Crick Boat Shows with many more interesting events to come.

Gloucester Green Fair Report

This was the first Green Fair of its kind to be held in Gloucester. With our keen interest in recycling, alternative energy and wildlife along our Canal corridors it was important for us to attend. Armed with literature and posters about showing green credentials as well as a fresh set of tickets for this year's Grand Holiday Draw a group of Gloucester volunteers set up in the beautifully restored Blackfriar's Priory. Trade was steady, we sold 58 draw tickets, reached a new audience and gained a new member.

◆ MJ



Maggie Jones

H&G Volunteer, Andy Fowler, chats to an interested visitor about our work at the Gloucester Green Fair.

Future Events

We hope to attend the events listed; some are new venues for us and we would be very grateful for additional volunteers. Unfortunately Janet has broken her ankle and cannot get to early events and may not be very mobile for most of the summer. The Hereford team is covering the "away" events but local help would be much appreciated.

Why not have a good day out with the H&G CT? No experience necessary – just come and be part of our team – we will do our best to put you at ease and to find a task you will enjoy. Your admission to the event will be free and we always try to ensure you have some time to look around.

◆ JM

June 7-8	Hellens Garden Festival, Herefordshire
Jun 28-29	Braunston Historic Boat Rally, Northamptonshire
July 12	Sutton St Nicholas Fete, Herefordshire
August 23-25	Saul Festival
August 30-31	Over Canal Festival
September 6	Alfrick Fete, Worcestershire
November 8	H&G CT Winter Bazaar, Ledbury

**Want to get involved in our outings? Please call:
Janet Moulton on 01432 264366 or Maggie Jones on 01452 618010**

Restoration Team **Over Basin**

Incorporating **Vineyard Hill**

By Ted Beagles



Member looking forlornly at flooded towpath

Over Basin has been subjected to mixed fortunes during the winter months. Large areas of the site have been severely flooded for long periods, and most members of the volunteer team have spent several weeks off site at the Travellers Rest assisting with the refurbishment work prior to the reopening (reported elsewhere).

The flooding over-topped the towpath at the beginning of the Vineyard Hill section preventing access, and the lower site area by the River Severn has been badly scoured by the rapid flow of flood water. However the damage will soon be repaired now that conditions have returned to normal.

On a positive note we have managed to continue the programme of work to maintain and restore the Heritage Boats which are

being upgraded to obtain Boat Safety Certificates, and a small team has also undertaken designing a traditional narrow boat hold cover for the open deck holds of Alder and Renton. Bosley has just been fitted with two splendid weather-proof temporary covers for the engine compartment air vents; these were fabricated by Terry using materials entirely from the scrap heap! Mr Maysey is having the electrical wiring extended and upgraded, and work is well under way preparing her for operation during the coming season.

Site routine maintenance has continued with repairs to the fencing around the lock excavation, the completion of ^{THE} WHARF HOUSE car park resurfacing, and clearing and



Left: Terry fitting vent cover on Bosley.

Above: Bosley's new engine compartment vent covers.



Mike planting bulbs in The Wharf House garden.



Belinda painting Llanthony footbridge gate.

Ted Beagles

replanting in the gardens. The Llanthony footbridge gate came to us for some welding repairs, and was sent back with a new coat of paint from Belinda.

Donated Picnic Tables

We now have two brand new picnic tables which were kindly donated by the **Gloucester and District Model Boat Club (GDMBC)**; these were formally presented by club chairman Ted Tedaldi to site manager David Penny.

◆ TB

Gloucester and District Model Boat Club picnic tables presentation.



Graham and Ivor mending fencing around lock.

Want to get involved at Over then please ring:-

Ted Beagles 01452 522 648

Maggie Jones 01452 618 010



Restoration Team

Llanthony

By Paul Henshaw

The yew trees in front of the lock-keepers' cottages have become a significant feature over the years.



The yew tree in front of Cottage no 2 in 1982.



The yew tree in front of cottage no1 in 2012.



The yew tree fully reduced – a recent view from across the lock.



A side on view – the tree is now clear of the building.

The scene of the cottages, taken in the winter of 1982, shows a specimen in the front garden of No. 2. Over the years these yew trees have matured considerably and, with their proximity to the building, have become far too large. One in particular has developed an unbalanced shape.

Mature yew trees are notoriously difficult to reduce in size on account of their complex branch structure. And so it was with due care that we approached the cutting back of the tree at No. 1 cottage. It was a case of gently does it until we had achieved the correct shape and the right amount of reduction. With Alan's patented "firestarter kit" a bonfire was soon ablaze and the unwanted scrub was burned.

Site restoration does not always involve diggers and dumper trucks. In the last issue of **The Wharfinger**, we reported our intention of restoring the old lock swing bridge. The swing mechanism consisted of a circular plate revolving on 6 rollers. The plate was discovered buried and the rollers had become badly rusted and pitted. New rollers were required. So it was off to the scrap-yard to purchase a 3ft length of 3" diameter bar (for £10) so that new ones could be manufactured. A great indoor job for a wet winter! The bar was cut



Cutting the bar into sections.



Turning the roller profile.



The new and old roller – only 5 more to make!

into 3" sections and new rollers are in the process of being turned.

At the time of writing (mid April) we are well into the mowing and strimming season, and that will be our main preoccupation during the coming months. *A big thank you to all our volunteers. Every volunteer hour helps.*



Would you like to join our team
at Llanthony? Please call **Paul
Henshaw** on **01684 292997**



By Steph Pike

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100

We are very excited to announce
that the **Herefordshire &
Gloucestershire Canal Trust**
now has its very own
Facebook page!

The page has been created in order to promote and spread awareness of the Canal Trust and inform people about the great work we do. In turn it is hoped this will eventually enable us to recruit more volunteers and, just as important, build a following to show community engagement for grant aid bids, thus helping us take one step closer towards our aim of complete restoration of the Canal.

The page will also provide our loyal supporters with regular updates on the restoration work, photos of our work and news of upcoming events.

Please show your support by liking us on Facebook. You can do this by searching for us on Facebook or by following this link:

www.facebook.co.uk/hgcanaltrust

and clicking the 'Like' button on the page.



Restoration Team

Oxenhall

By Brian Fox

The winter maintenance programme on trees finished with a flourish when it became urgent to pollard a large willow which was only about 10 years old but had grown to about 30ft and was leaning in the direction of our boundary fence and the caravans next door.

The problem with a tree out of vertical is that it will naturally fall the way it is leaning whether that is instigated by the wind or in our case by a man with a chainsaw. After much discussion it was decided to attach some ropes to the tree as high up as we could climb with a ladder and then attach the other end of the rope to our tractor and keep the



The new path through the woods near the old railway station at Newent.

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tension on as Bernard was cutting. About an hour later, after getting the saw jammed, the tree finally gave in and was pulled clear of the fence just before it hit the ground. It took the rest of the day to cut it up into logs and pile the brushwood up for a later bonfire.

It had been planned that a party of school students from Cheltenham would join us for a day to help construct a footpath through the woods at the eastern end of our site down as far as the old railway station at Newent, but unfortunately it became necessary to call the excursion off as the ground was still too wet and slippery after the winter rains. Our volunteers have made a start on its construction now that the ground is drier and we still hope to have a day with the students later this year. This path will eventually open up as a permissive way for anyone to walk through and take in the delights of the Ell Brook running through woodland which is adjacent to the route of the old Canal.

The plans to move the Bailey Bridge are now taking shape once again and the TA soldiers are planning to come sometime this summer to undertake the job. It is taking a bit of organising and no definite dates have been fixed but we will get there in the end. An alternative path has been built to take the public footpath across the aqueduct. This will, of course, mean that the way will be clear for us to get on with the final concreting of the aqueduct arch which we started in 2012. Meanwhile work continues to complete the restoration of the lock spillweir.



In 1997 the Bailey bridge was erected over an unstable aqueduct over Ell Brook. The restored aqueduct makes the bridge redundant.



Brickwork on the weir showing the detailed work required to keep the bricks in the correct position until the mortar is set

*Would you like to join our team at Oxenhall?
Please call **Brian Fox** on **01432 358628***

The pile of stones remaining in our yard is slowly being sorted to determine how much useful stuff there is. There will clearly be enough left to rebuild another lock or aqueduct but it appears that some of the stones are not ideal for building but would be eminently suitable for rockery work. If anyone requires some large stones for their garden then please get in touch with me as a small donation will secure you some lovely stones and tidy up the site! ***It all counts ...***

BF

Brian Fox/John Chappell

Restoration Team Yarkhill

By Chris High

The swirling water feed to the Yarkhill canal stretch has subsided and water levels have dropped; so back to stump digging!

Robin was well occupied with his chainsaw removing useable logs from previously dug stumps – and even turned one particularly large remnant into a seat. The H&G CT is fortunate in having a number of volunteers willing to undergo (Trust financed) training in specialised tasks such as this, training that is essential to meet health and safety and insurance requirements. Our volunteers then do a lot of work for the H&G CT and often provide all their own equipment and protective clothing. *Our many thanks to them all.*

With stump digging back on, the Team has managed to achieve the goal of having dug all the stumps from the offside bank. Other members have plodded on more sedately collecting and removing the small and medium root debris – all necessary tasks.



Doug inspects Skew Bridge



Having carved a seat, Robin rests

Chris High



Above: The walking group at Hyde Mill Canal Bridge

Left: The root debris is unloaded.



Anyone interested in lending a hand?
Please contact **Chris High** on
01568 615 575



Doug, Paul, Wilf and Harold take a leisurely stroll along Yarkhill towpath.

Walking for the wounded

Representatives of the Yarkhill Team joined Doug* in his pursuit of *Walking for the Wounded* (www.dougwalking.co.uk) and were able, with landowner permission, to lead him from Kymin via Yarkhill and Monkhide through to Hyde Mill.

◆ CH

*Doug Hamilton-Cox is a former Sapper now living in Devon. To raise funds for the **Help For Heroes** Charity in 2011 he walked from John O'Groat's to Land's End, an awesome feat for a 69 year old grandfather! More recently he has set out to walk the canals of Britain - of which the above walk was a small but important part. Ed.

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

*News from the friends
of Gloucester*
WATERWAYS
MUSEUM

By Chris Witts

*Sabrina 5 returned to the Barge Arm alongside the Museum following her week's stay in the dry dock at Tommi Nielson's Gloucester Shipyard (see the last edition of **The Wharfinger**). We now have to wait for the Heritage Lottery Fund bid to be submitted before progressing with plans to make this dumb barge into a floating educational venue.*

As I briefly mentioned in the Autumn edition a new group has been meeting at the Gloucester Waterways Museum. Suitably called the *Coaster & Barge Group*, a band of enthusiasts meet bi-monthly to share information and stories about ships and barges which used to trade to Gloucester Docks. Over the past year various guest speakers have been invited to talk to the group, including a local ship owner, editor of a coastal shipping magazine and members presenting their own digital images. Should you be interested in learning more about



Ted Beagles

future meetings please email me: chriswitts@hotmail.com

Due to the uncertainty regarding use of Llanthony Warehouse car park, the Friends very reluctantly made the difficult decision not to run the annual Boat Jumble this year. This is the major fund raising event of the year for the Friends, thus the decision to suspend operations was not taken lightly.

Richard Parry, Chief Executive of the Canal & River Trust, made a visit to Gloucester recently and the Friends were able to spend an hour in his company seeking answers to the many questions they had to ask. It was reassuring to hear his answers and to be told that there is always a line of communication between organisations such as the Friends and his office.

◆ CW

For more details please visit the website at www.friendsofgwm.co.uk



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23rd - 25th August 2014

Saul Junction,
Gloucestershire

FAMILY FUN

Organised by IWA nationally

Gloucestershire & Herefordshire IWA Branch Social Meetings

The local branch meetings take a break through the summer but a full programme has been arranged for the latter half of the year.

Held at the Yacht Club, Gloucester Docks 7.30pm

Thurs. 4th September - CARRYING FROM SHARPNESS TO BIRMINGHAM by Tony Condor

Thurs. 2nd October - GLASS EELS by Andrew Kerr

Thurs. 6th November - LEOMINSTER CANAL

Further details contact: **Martin Turner 01452 312228**

Sailing4Disabled

By Pete Bisson

Well what a wet period we've just survived but we're proud to state that only one session had to be called off due to a very high Severn bore that got to the 'boat house' before we did! This made it unsafe to get the KataKanu out. You are thinking boats float, they do, but trailers don't!

So like all good pirates we exchanged stories of failed quests, ate food, drank fluids (tea, coffee) sang sea shanties, cleaned up and set course for the good life and some home cooking! *Ha Ha me Hearties.*

A bit of extra tattle – a recording for BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Pete Wilson – was made with the sound effects of numerous emergency services vehicles arriving at Over*. If you would like to hear the whole story it will be told for the next 10 years or so at Over Canal Basin by various S4D pirates – with their own twist!

◆◆ PB

Sailing4Disabled

meets every Tuesday at Over Canal Basin
from 11.00 to 14.00.

It is open to everyone –
whether they have a disability or not.

Call 999

* Just to tempt you a little more to go to Over to hear (variations on?) the full story it all started with a visitor making a well intentioned 999 call "There's a small cabin cruiser carried away with the flood that is sinking and has just sped past The Wharf House at Over." Within minutes every conceivable emergency service vehicle was speeding onto the site and a 'silver' command post was quickly established. A helicopter was soon joining the noisy throng. We have not heard what happened to the large upturned spa bath which was subsequently recovered some distance downstream ... fortunately all involved regarded it as useful exercise. *Ed*



Pete Bisson



Model Boat Club

By Ted Tedaldi

The Gloucester & District Model Boat Club has donated to The Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust two new six-seater picnic benches. It is hoped the tables will be used by all – including the ever increasing band of visitors.

Club Chairman Ted Tedaldi presented the two benches to H&G CT's David Penny watched by Club members, including three of our keen less able boaters and some of the H&G CT volunteers without whom we could not sail (see page 25). The Club has a strong backing of ladies, the regular ones being in the photograph.



Some of our lady sailors.



Yachts line up ready to race.

The year started very wet although it has dried out now and the half mile walk at Vineyard Hill is back on the agenda! Our fleet of miniature sailing yachts usually means that there will be 10-12 racing at Over Canal Basin twice a month.

"Yes she could but no she is not!" Dave's superb steam tug is quite capable of towing Mister Maysey. The steam tug is a Caldercraft kit based on the tug Marie Felling. The Marie Felling was built in 1928 and arrived in Mombasa July 1929 to work on the Kenya & Uganda Railways. Hence she was painted white because of her life in the heat. Her delivery voyage was not without incident. While sailing too close inshore she ran into uncharted rocks. She was quickly beached and her damaged hull repaired.

The model of the tug is shown on her maiden voyage. She is powered by a four cylinder steam engine and has a boiler feed pump and water storage tanks. The steam boiler control regulating valve automatically adjusts the flow of steam based on temperature, pressure and engine requirements! This complete system allows for maximum efficiency which, in turn, enables long running.

♦ TT



Dave's superb steam tug.

The H&G CT is very grateful to the **Gloucester & District Model Boat Club** for these two picnic benches and, in particular, for the continuing support and involvement of club members in our activities at Over Canal Basin. *Hopefully the boats will not encounter any uncharted rocks at Over! Ed.*

Ted and Sandra Tedaldi

Working with Nature

Purple Loosestrife

By John Chappell

*One of the prettiest flowers growing at Oxenhall is Purple Loosestrife, botanically **Lythrum salicaria**. The plant has wide, natural distribution across north Eurasia and belongs to the Lythraceae family that also gives us the Cigar-flower, a popular houseplant with bright scarlet tubular flowers.*

Loosestrife is an herbaceous perennial and grows vigorously on the non-towpath side of the pound above the dam at Oxenhall. From a woody, congested root mass numerous erect stems grow to 1-1.5m tall, forming quite a significant barrier. The flower stems are square and of a reddish purple. Flowers, of a lighter purple, have six petals and twelve stamens and are clustered in tight tiers around the stem in the axils of the narrow, pointed leaves. Flowering lasts throughout the summer and, when pollinated, each flower produces a small capsule containing numerous tiny seeds. A mature plant can produce two million seeds in a season which are distributed by drift in moving water.

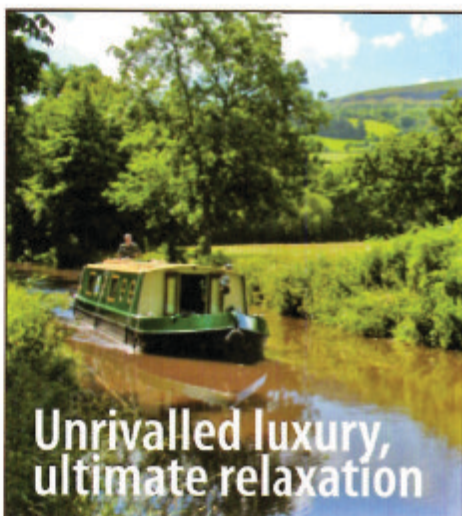
Favouring damp, poorly drained locations such as marshes, bogs and the waterside, Loosestrife will also tolerate drier conditions and variously coloured selections make desirable plants for the garden. The variety 'Feuerkerze' (Firecandle), with rose red flowers and fiery red leaves in the Autumn, is readily available and has gained the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit whilst 'Blush', as the name suggests, has very pale, pink flowers on slender stems.

One of our late Autumn chores on site at Oxenhall is to cut down the rather ugly, dead brown stems. This benefits the following year's flowers which are an invaluable source of nectar for bees and hoverflies.



Purple Loosestrife

John Chappell



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Not quite
... the last page!

Water Adds Value

A video made by Canal and River Trust, to illustrate the future of canals at a recent conference in Birmingham, is now available on **You Tube**. It shows how canals add value to properties that surround them and includes our own **H&G CT** at Over Basin and **THE WHARF HOUSE**. (See Editorial on page 3 for more details.)

You Tube link:

http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dg0B_2v-bLk

Postage Stamps = £££

Our member Steve Bence has the contacts and expertise to ensure that used postage stamps are turned into the maximum amount of cash for the **H&G CT**. Please bring them to any **H&G CT** Social Evening, other **H&G CT** event, or hand them in at **THE WHARF HOUSE**. If you have albums, or a large quantity and cannot deliver them, then please contact Janet Moulton for details of how to proceed. This is a fund-raising initiative where everyone can please participate (and perhaps you know a business near you who would collect stamps for you to pass on?).

Thank you.

IT ALL COUNTS!

Bottle Stall

We shall be holding another bottle stall at our Winter Bazaar so bottles of all shapes and sizes would be very welcome, please. Ideally please bring them to one of our Social Evenings or contact Janet Moulton to arrange collection.



IT ALL COUNTS!

♦ JM

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
MONDAY, 30 JUNE

Look H&G smart – be safe

On all of our sites (apart from health & safety considerations) we really do need to present a smart professional image at all times – you literally don't know who might be watching you!



Yellow **H&G** hard hats and hi-viz badged waistcoats (now in two sizes) are readily available free of charge to all of our regular volunteers to take and keep for their personal use on all of

our sites. Let people be in no doubt that it is the **H&G CT** that is doing the work – **look smart and be safe – it all counts!**

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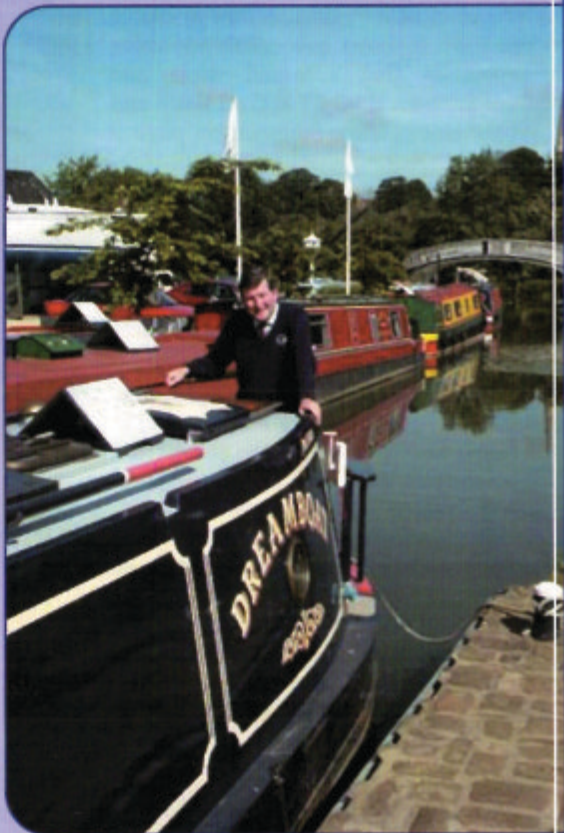
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Want to help?

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, pen or laptop.

Contacts

Janet Moulton

18, Coningsby Court,
Coningsby Street,
Hereford, HR1 2DF
01432 264 366
jmoulton@tiscali.co.uk

Liz Connors

18, St Ethelbert Close,
Sutton St. Nicholas,
Hereford, HR1 3BF
01432 880 155
liz@lizconnors.orangehome.co.uk

Cliff Penny

"Coppice", Burley Gate,
Hereford, HR1 3QS
01432 820 866
canal@penny-ep.co.uk

David Penny

01452 332 900
david@thewharfhouse.co.uk

Ted Beagles

01452 522 648
tedbeagles@blueyonder.co.uk

Brian Fox

01432 358 628
brianfox@talktalk.net

John Hammond

07894 473125
jhammond@blueyonder.co.uk

Paul Henshaw

01684 292 997
paulhenshawuk@yahoo.co.uk

Chris High

01568 615 575
chris@chrishigh.plus.com

Nigel Jefferies

Two Hollylea Close, Bartestree,
Hereford, HR1 4DN
01432 850 661
ncjefferies@talktalk.net

Caroline Jones

01594 861286
carolinejones641@btinternet.com

Maggie Jones

01452 618 010
maggiejones@blueyonder.co.uk

Wilf Jones

01452 413 888
wilfredjones506@gmail.com

Peter Moore

01531 820 671

H&G Sales and Promotion

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(details in first column)

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Contact any
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Visit our websites:

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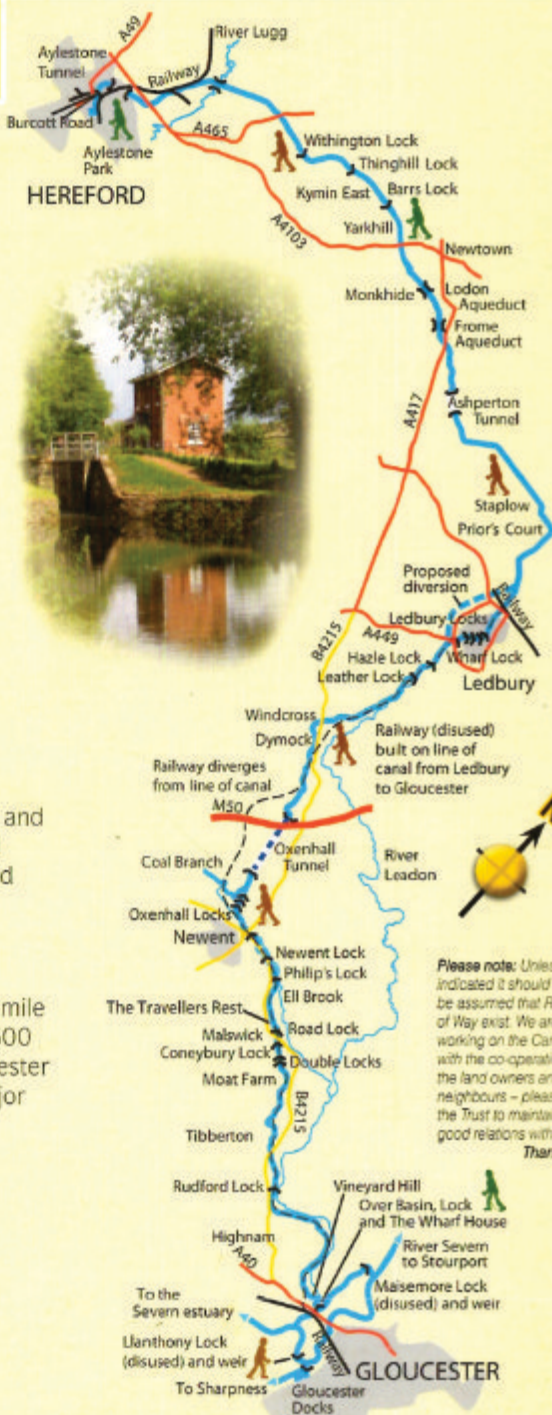
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The Wharfinger

The Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal

Work started in 1792 and reached Ledbury from Gloucester by 1798. In 1827 Steven Ballard was appointed to oversee completion of the canal, eventually reaching Hereford in 1845, making this one of the last major canal routes completed in Britain. The canal stretched for 34 miles from the River Severn at Gloucester, via Newent, Dymock and Ledbury to the city of Hereford, with some 22 locks and 3 tunnels. It was formally closed in 1881 to allow construction of the Ledbury to Gloucester railway which in its turn was closed in 1964.




The H&G 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.

 = Canal Walk leaflet available.

 = restoration sites suitable for public access.

Gloucester Quays

Pleased to support the H&G Canal

Map based on original by Marin Ludgate, Canal Boat Magazine.