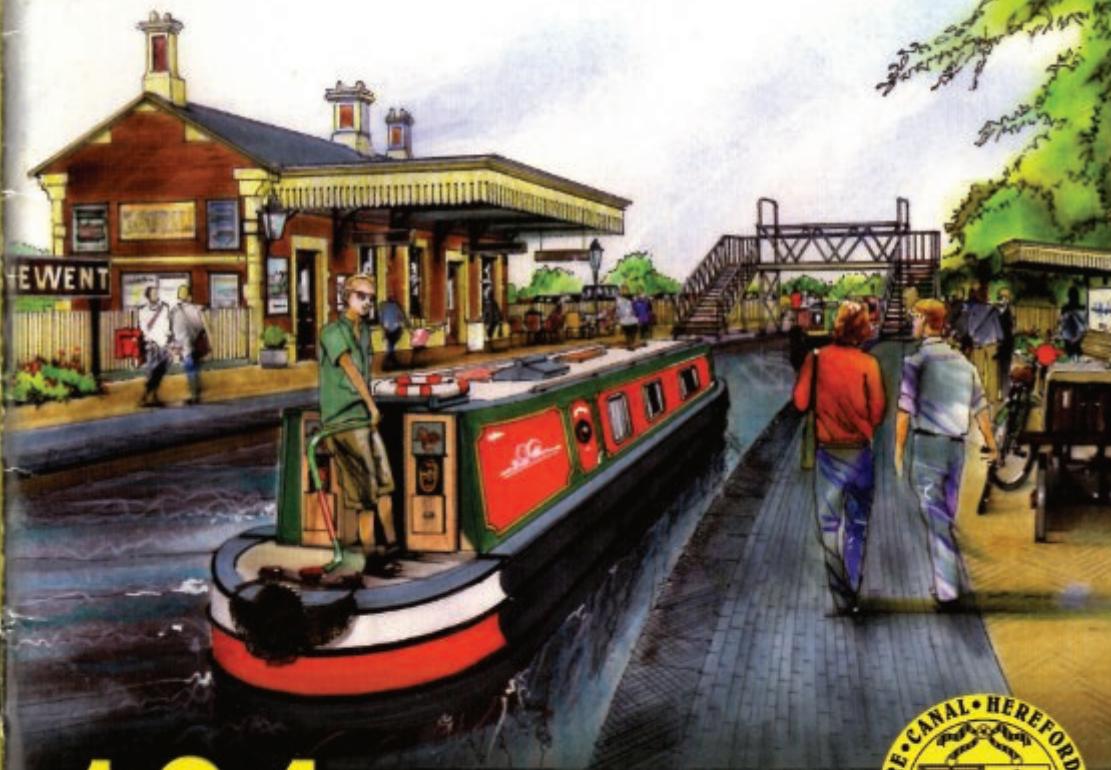


The Wharfinger

Summer 2015

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST



124
EDITION

£1

free to members



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Publicity and Communication

Carolyn Pascall

Press Liaison

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Editor: Cliff Penny

Design/Production: Maggie Jones, Maple Graphics

Proof Reader: John Hammond

Advertising: Carolyn Pascall

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The Story of Colleen Best

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Cover image: Artist impression of how Newent Station might look with the Canal running through it.



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Editorial by Cliff Penny

Commitment and Energy!

The “CoMmunity Values” article on page 4 of the last edition of *The Wharfinger* prompted a member to write suggesting the title could have been bettered – suggesting “*Commitment and Energy*” to be more fitting for the article which the member went on praise highly. *“It shows what an amazing organisation the H&G CT is ... listing areas of work and tasks that must be done and who does them. It is so impressive that so much is done by volunteers.” “They do much more than you might imagine.”* I agree – an excellent example of commitment and energy!

As this Editorial is a couple short of my 100th, and both topics and titles for this page are sometimes slow to materialise in my ancient brain, I make no apologies for stealing our member's suggestion for my use this time!

As vice chairman John Hammond's excellent “CoMmunity Values” article in the last edition highlighted, the wide-ranging list of tasks accomplished by our many volunteers is seemingly endless. Yes, the phrase “Commitment and Energy” which John used near the end of the article might have been an alternative title, as everything we volunteers do demands plenty of that! But it is important not to overlook the fact that a vital part of our approach to rebuilding the 34 miles of Canal between Gloucester and Hereford is our work in partnership with others. As John highlighted, the support and involvement of both our own community and the wider community is vitally important – including those living in the two counties through which the H&G Canal passes and important supporters and organisations regionally and nationally. So the title “CoMmunity Values” was also appropriate!

For the fourth year running, the respected inland waterways magazine Waterways World has, in its Waterways World Annual 2015, identified the H&G CT as one of the top six of over sixty active restoration schemes in the country. Our thanks to it, and to all of our volunteers and supporters whose commitment and energy have made this possible against some strong competition.

From national print to local printing – our thanks go to Mark Adcocks and everyone at Print Plus in Hereford, for 2015 marks the 21st year they have printed *The Wharfinger* for us. Back in 1994 it was all black and white, with a coloured card cover. We have greatly appreciated the long-standing and continuing sponsorship from Print Plus of the additional costs of printing the internal pages of *The Wharfinger* in full colour, and applaud their commitment to deliver on time even when they have been working very long hours to meet the demands of other customers. Thank you to Mark and the other hard working members of his team who have been with us for the whole 21 years.

Finally my thanks to John Hammond for willingly agreeing to support me as Deputy Editor as from this edition; his assistance is much appreciated.

» **CRP**

“CoMpelling evidence of our unique approach”

... a perspective from Council of Management

by John Hammond

From early in its existence the H&G CT has consistently pursued a strategy which is unique among the sixty or so waterway restoration projects in Britain. This has attracted the attention and praise of numerous organisations, including British Waterways and its successor the Canal & River Trust, and national publications including Nicholson Waterways Guides, The Times Waterways of Britain and the monthly magazine Waterways World.

The strategy is to ensure that in parallel with the variety of canal restoration activities we have in common with other projects, we build up an asset base and a range of secure income streams which will not only support the work of rebuilding our Canal but will cover the costs of its maintenance and improvement into the indefinite future.

An important principle, achieved through lengthy negotiations, was public support from each of the councils along the route. Not only does this protect the route of the Canal from adverse developments, it also recognises the public benefit provided through the rebuilt Canal. As a consequence, where planning permission is sought for development alongside the Canal, an element of the scheme must be support for the Canal. This typically includes construction of a length of Canal and/or a percentage of the sale value of the development but also, crucially, covenants requiring future owners of the resulting houses or other premises to make index-linked contributions towards the costs of the Canal.

The logic for these agreements is clear. For the individual owners of both residential and commercial property, the consistent lesson from across the country is that proximity to a waterway increases

the value of that property. And for the councils, the environmental and community benefits of a rebuilt Canal are evident but, perhaps even more significant, the wider economic gains are considerable. In 1995 British Waterways made a study of the H&G Canal, comparing its potential with data from similar existing rural canals, and showed the annual benefit to the local economy of a completed H&G Canal. In 2009, in line with greater public engagement with waterways, BW made a further study which showed the annual benefit more than doubling to some £20million together with the creation of about 500 new full-time jobs – figures that today we would expect to have increased by about 50%.

We receive an annual covenant income from houses at Over, Oxenhall and Newtown Road, Hereford. This is set to increase once the housing development at Dymock is finished, and when the Holmer scheme is completed that will provide substantially more. Future Canalside developments will add to this perpetual source of income. We also derive income from assets we own. Several have come to us at nominal cost through patient negotiations with councils, resulting in transfer to us of land we will eventually need for the Canal. In the meantime, we can let parts of this land

and offer high profile sites for local businesses to advertise, and this provides useful income in the short term.

Complementing these sources of annual income, we own three major assets which both grow in capital value and provide income to support H&G CT. The Wharf House building was acquired by the Trust for £1 as part of the Over development and, through massive volunteer commitment and energy, has been turned into an asset currently valued at £600,000 and a business providing over £50,000 of value annually for the Trust. Malswick House, acquired as Travellers Rest with the aid of a loan from RBS secured on the asset of TWH, together with a most generous £100,000 anonymous donation, will develop as a business and similarly grow in capital value and earning capacity, particularly when the Canal is rebuilt beside it. The Llanthony site, bought through a generous bequest, provides

rental income from the cottages – much improved by more volunteer effort – and will in the longer term yield a much greater annual return from further developments including the Llanthony Hydro scheme.

Our policy is to combine the purpose for which we exist – to acquire land and rebuild the Canal – with activities which pay for it both now and into the future. The reality, unfortunate though it may be, is that a rebuilt stretch of Canal is a liability in purely financial terms: it has no usable capital value and costs more to maintain than any plausible earning capacity. Our challenge is to ensure that the overall enterprise of the H&G CT maintains, during the rebuilding phase and beyond, a positive balance both in the recognised value of its capital assets and in its sources of reliable regular income.

» JH

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Dymock Land Appeal: by Stephanie Pike

As many of you will now know, the partnership of H&G CT and Dymock Parish Council was unsuccessful in acquiring the land opposite the Beauchamp Arms in Dymock.

Unfortunately we were outbid at the auction at £370,000. We are obviously disappointed after all the hard work which went into setting up this appeal, but we are in discussions with the purchaser which we hope will deliver a beneficial end result for both us and the community. This scheme should include a small housing development together with added car parking, a "village green" and both the next stretch of Canal towards Gloucester and the important short branch towards the pub.

Nevertheless, we would like to thank everyone who expressed their support by offering a loan or giving a donation. The response to the appeal has been astonishing and far beyond our expectations. We received offers of over £200,000 in loans together with some £10,000 in donations and the offer of a

Thank you!

£200,000 loan from a national charity. We are extremely grateful and are overwhelmed by everyone's generosity both within the H&G Canal Trust and the community at Dymock.

We have tried to contact all those who donated, where details are known, to say thank you. If we haven't managed to contact you, and you would prefer your donation to be withdrawn, please ring 01452 332900 or email steph@thewharthouse.co.uk. If we do not hear from you, we will assume you are happy for us to keep your donation in our Land Fund. We do currently have under discussion for purchase a number of other areas of land needed for sections of the Canal, and the money in the Land Fund will be used for this purpose.

We would welcome any further donations and offers of loans for the substantial and exciting further purchases we are negotiating.

» SP

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&
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
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H&G CT
LAND FUND

What it is and how you
can help us restore the
Hereford & Gloucester Canal
by contributing to it.

H&G CT

LAND FUND

more land = more restoration

The LAND FUND will provide the means to obtain the crucial sites along the line of the Canal where there is no new development proposed 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.

visit h-g-canal.org.uk/html/About the Trust/Land Fund.html

L&PDT News

from the team at ^{the} Wharf House

Our team continues to grow in strength and versatility. In the last issue we introduced Simon Freeman as a new volunteer. He retired recently as a partner of Gabbs Solicitors in Hereford and brings us his legal expertise, notably on commercial property law.

We can now introduce another new volunteer, Nigel Johnson, who was in charge of legal matters for British Waterways. His advice will be particularly important in helping us advance the Llanthony hydro and flood relief scheme, and more generally on legal issues of navigation on which he is the UK's leading authority.

In addition to the legal strength within the team, and to the continuing support we receive from No. 5 Chambers of Birmingham on planning issues, we are now also working closely with Green Planning Studio of Shrewsbury whose expertise and credibility are invaluable in defending our rights in relation to developments affecting the protected line of the Canal.



Nigel Johnson

I trained and began practice as a solicitor in London but moved west fairly early in my career and have lived on the Herefordshire and Gloucester-shire border since the early 1980s. I joined the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society in 1984 and was its Chief Solicitor from 1987 to 1997. My work then moved to London and the South East, first in the heart of Westminster then in 2000 as Legal Director to British Waterways. My family home has however always remained in the Newent area and despite the constraints of being a weekly commuter I have retained my interest in local heritage, observing with interest the advances of the H&G Canal Trust.



Gloucester's Quayside redevelopments

Gloucester MP, **Richard Graham** welcomed this promising step forward:

'Four years ago the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal unveiled an exciting project to create a hydro scheme at the Llanthony weir and generate the greenest possible energy beside Gloucester's Docks and use that money to further the Trust's goal of re-opening the Canal.'

Today that project has moved forward and the voluntary role of the former British Waterways Legal Director is another good step forward to green energy, a new revenue stream and progress on bringing the Canal back to Gloucester and Hereford. I am delighted and hope that by 2020 this project will have been approved and maybe even functioning.'

» **RG**

I worked on both the restoration advances at BW in the early years of the new millennium and the growing financial self-sufficiency through BW's commercial activities which enabled it to launch its bid for independence from Government as a charity. I then played a major role in the transfer of the BW undertaking to Canal & River Trust, from the earliest design and planning to the Parliamentary and legal processes, which I led. I retired as Legal Director and Company Secretary of CRT in early 2014 but returned to the world of work later in 2014 to advise the Board of English Heritage Trust, the charity which took over the English Heritage brand and responsibility for the National Heritage Collection from the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission in April this year.

» **NJ**



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on the canal 2015



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Children's activities Fire Brigade displays

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(junction of A40/A417).
GR SO 816197

MALSWICK HOUSE

The Travellers Rest will reopen in early summer, rebranded and renamed as Malswick House.

Our volunteers and TWH staff have been assisted by volunteers from Young Gloucestershire in carrying out some major refurbishments to the premises. We have taken the opportunity to remove all the outdated kitchen equipment and install energy efficient replacements, to convert all lighting to LED fittings and to install a small solar photovoltaic array to the rear. These



Three of the team from Young Gloucestershire who recently helped with decorating the bar and restaurant areas.

improvements will greatly reduce what were extremely heavy energy demands of the property and this will assist in the long-term economic return. **Malswick House** will be operated under **The Wharf House** and the intention is to run a top quality pub in terms of food and drink as well as ambience.

» DRP

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RESTORATION UPDATE

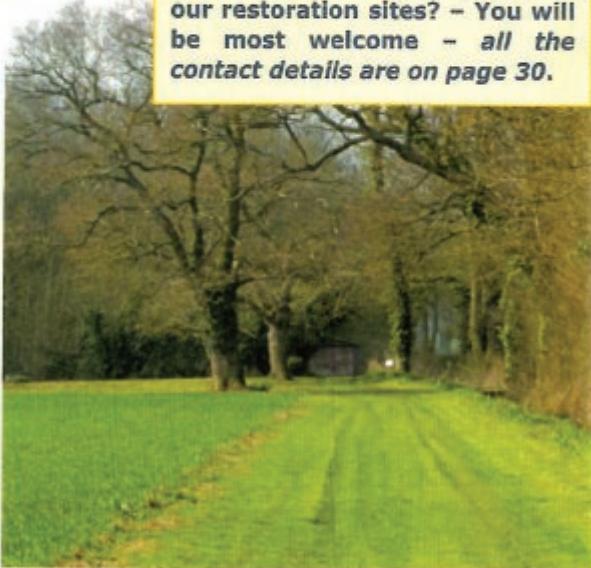
News of our work on the Hereford & Gloucester Canal

Yarkhill

Chris High

The arduous task of strimming the Canal banks and removing debris has now moved on. Spring is here as are the cowslips and the first mow of the season has taken place.

» **CH**



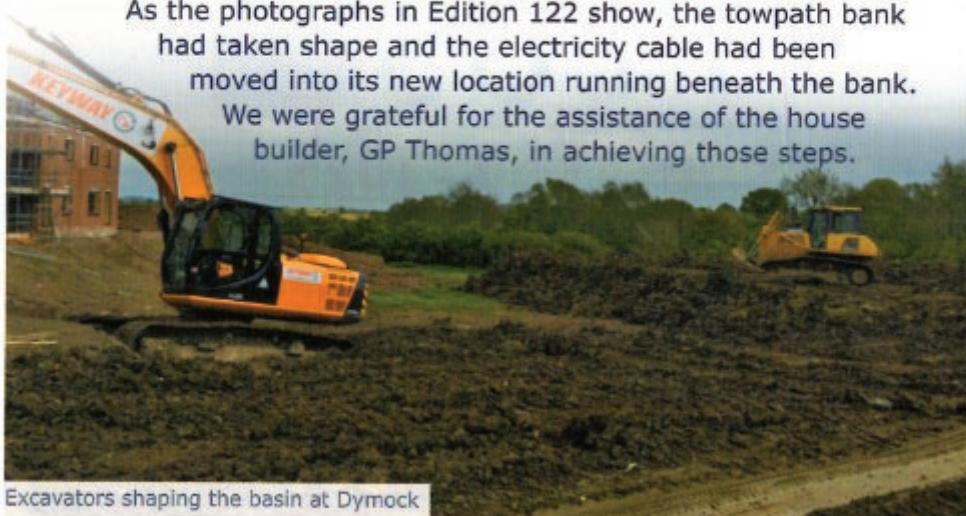
Chris High

Dymock

David Penny ... see also article on page 7

As the photographs in Edition 122 show, the towpath bank had taken shape and the electricity cable had been moved into its new location running beneath the bank.

We were grateful for the assistance of the house builder, GP Thomas, in achieving those steps.



Excavators shaping the basin at Dymock

Want to get involved at any of our restoration sites? – You will be most welcome – *all the contact details are on page 30.*

Unfortunately the next stage of building the Canal on this site has been a constant nightmare in trying to co-ordinate delivery of suitable material to build the rest of the embankment. After long delays, substantial volumes started to arrive on site at the end of April, and in May the Canal banks around the junction finally started taking shape.

It has been a frustrating period for all concerned, but we now look forward to speedy progress towards completing this section of Canal construction with our long-term partner Keyway. This will allow volunteers to move in to undertake the landscaping and other works which our teams are so good at, and it is a crucial part of the scheme for our own interests as well as for our partners in this development.

There will be plenty of opportunities here this autumn for our volunteers to ensure we create an attractive section of Canal prior to the houses going on the market. The first 14 of those are now built and are being fitted out. These are the "affordable housing". Construction of the remaining six "open market" houses, including our own three-bedroom detached house, started in May.

At the end of January we heard that an 11-acre field at Dymock was to be sold at auction in April. The field includes both the next section on the line of the Canal towards Gloucester and the branch we have long planned from the basin towards the pub which is owned by the Dymock Parish Council. See page 7 for the thank you for the huge support raised in such a short period of time.

» DRP



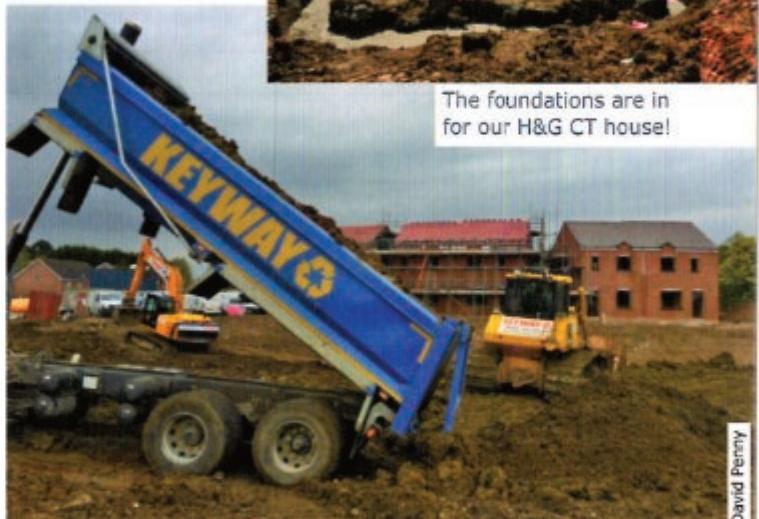
The new housing development beside the emerging Canal.



The sides are reaching towpath height.



The foundations are in for our H&G CT house!



As the earth is tipped in the foreground the houses go up beyond.

Newent and Oxenhall

My last report finished with a small piece about the H&G CT taking over the lease of a builder's yard in Newent; so what is going on you may ask? Local Members may recall a headline in the local newspaper from June 2011 which rather prematurely reported that the H&G CT was planning to restore the Canal and run it between the platforms of the former railway station. Well that plan is now a little nearer to fruition.

The first phase is to reveal the old platforms so they can be rebuilt and made watertight. The necessary work is being undertaken by the same team which has been working at Oxenhall for many years.

Clearing the Builder's Yard

The builder's yard is located across both platforms for about half of the station with the section where the rails went having been infilled. The yard has seen very little use for some years and consequently it had become overgrown and used as a general dumping ground for much of the builder's waste. Some items were removed before the lease ran out but it has necessarily been a lengthy job picking among the debris as we didn't know what we might find. Rotten timbers have been burned, plastic waste disposed of by a helpful member and some items, including scrap metal and bricks, have been sold but there is still much to deal with. Two steel containers have just about been cleared so we can at least see what

Brian Fox



The builder's yard when we took possession of the site.



The yard during clearing - waiting for the scrapman to collect.



Station now cleared, from roughly the same position as the artist's impression (on cover).

useful building materials are left inside and this all has to be done before the containers must be moved because they are in the way.

The parts of the station platforms not under the builder's yard were still just visible in 2011 when the newspaper article was written, but in the meantime brambles have effectively covered everything including the track of the railway as far as the remains of the bridge on the Dymock Road. This area has now been completely cleared with considerable help from Penny and Ralph who have previously helped on other sites: strimmers on the go every Tuesday, small saplings pulled out by the tractor, and several bonfires, so that what is left of the platforms has been revealed once again. It looks as though we shall be requiring a team of bricklayers for many months later this year and probably into next to restore about 200 yards of platforms to the required height.

The Willows Nursery Site

Clearance work has now moved onto the old Willows Nursery site but this will take some time as the whole site is about 200 metres long and averaging 25metres wide and at least half covered with brambles, wire and old plastic plant pots. And of course, once the brambles are cut they either have to be treated and killed or mown regularly.



The H&G CT's former Willows Nursery site now cleared on one side.

Oxenhall Maintenance

There are still things to do at Oxenhall including routine grass cutting. Much of the timber felled in the winter is still lying on the ground and any opportunity has been taken to log it and get it back to our compound for collection. Another tree blew down in the recent gales and smashed a fence so that became an urgent job which has now been cleared. The temporary carpet along the footpath has been well used with many favourable comments from the general public, but thanks to the drier weather this will soon be tackled and reinstated as a normal path. It is clear that in future the section of Canal which we have called Oxenhall will involve general maintenance and the emphasis will be on Newent and development of this exciting project. So there is still much to do and the list seems to get longer – any extra volunteers would be welcome.

» **BF**

Newent and Oxenhall
Open Day
on the canal 2015

Saturday 12 September, 11am - 5pm

Come and find out more about our plans for Newent Station.

Guided Walks

Refreshments

After a quiet winter at Moat Farm pleasant spring weather saw the site coming alive again with cowslips appearing in many new places, our native daffodils showing, albeit with limited flowering, and bluebells doing well in the managed woodland areas. The wild cherry trees, planted two years ago, once again provided some colour with their blossom and, of course, the grass started growing! Regular mowing and strimming will be an essential task to maintain certain areas of the site.

North end earthworks

Dry conditions in March and April provided ideal ground conditions to commence excavation and re-profiling of the towpath and Canal bed at the North end of the site. As with the South end the line of the Canal becomes coincident with the line of the (later) railway. However the railway has been steadily climbing at a gradient of 1 in 230 resulting in the trackbed at the North end of the site being some 2.4 metres (8 feet) higher than at the South end. The Canal, obviously, runs level over this length before leaping up through the former Double Lock which was located at the current boundary of the site.

As a consequence, the volume of material that requires removal is quite large. A good start has been made and this task will continue



A view south from the site of Double Lock as our excavator works northwards.



Another view south with the uncovered towpath taking shape. The railway track bed is up on the left.



Alan gets to grips with the last few tree stumps left in the canal bed. We have now had plenty of practice removing these!

through the summer. The excavated material is sensitively re-located within the site.

Later in the year I hope to be able to report whether any remains of the Double Lock are found. Our fingers are crossed that some of the base of the lower chamber will be uncovered. This would give us a useful footprint for the reconstruction as well as confirming the precise depth and position of the original canal bed.

Pump arrives

A reconditioned H&G CT water pump was delivered to the site in the spring. While fairly heavy and requiring some effort to manoeuvre, it will be useful for managing water levels during the later stages of the North end earthworks, particularly in and around the Double Lock site.

» **MT**

3 bedroom house to rent
in Gloucester



Llanthony Lock House is a lovely riverside property close to Gloucester Quays and within easy walking distance of the City. It is currently undergoing major renovations and will be available to rent as soon as the work has been completed later in the year.

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It has been our pleasure in supporting the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust for over 20 years, and we will continue to work together in the present, to revive the past, and secure a better future. © HAGCT

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SHEET METAL WORKS, ASHLEWORTH, GLOUCESTER, GL19 4JJ

Social Evenings

at The Royal Oak

The third Tuesday of every month (except December)

at **The Royal Oak**, Much Marcle, HR8 2ND

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!**

16 June

Neath and Tennant Canals

– Mike Jones

Across the border to hear of the progress of this restoration scheme.



21 July – 7.30 start

Annual General Meeting

See opposite for more details. This will be followed by a presentation of current work on our Canal.

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST

18 August

Informal Natter and a Noggin



15 September

Somersetshire Coal Canal

– Roger Halse

A pictorial journey showing a bit more than our Newent Coal Canal!



20 October

Severn Area Rescue Association

– John Dutton

The people you do not want to have to call out when on the water.

SARA





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, 21 JULY, 2015
at the THE ROYAL OAK, MUCH MARCLE,
NEAR LEDBURY, COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.*

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 28 FEBRUARY 2015

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 2015, 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:—
*Liz Connors, Nigel Jefferies,
Caroline Jones, Janet Moulton*
8. Close of Formal Business.

After the meeting there will be an opportunity to talk to members of the Council of Management and restoration site leaders

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 28 February 2015

This is the twenty-third 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 [no. 1010721]. It replaced the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Society which was launched in 1983. This is also the report of The Wharf House Company Limited [no. 4627931], the wholly owned subsidiary all profits from which are used for the promotion and restoration of the Canal. The H&G Canal Trust is indebted to its Council of Management; during the period under review those listed below have been members.

Council of Management of the Canal Trust

(12 MONTHS TO 28-2-15)

Liz Connors; *John Hammond*; Nigel Jefferies; Caroline Jones; Maggie Jones; Wilfred Jones; Janet Moul; *Carolyn Pascall*; Cliff Penny; David Penny.

THE WHARF HOUSE COMPANY

(12 MONTHS TO 28-2-15)

Liz Connors; *John Hammond*; *Janet Moul*; David Penny

Italics indicates not a Director of the relevant body.

The 12 months ended 28 February 2015 continued as in the previous 12 months with the Council of Management pursuing its policy of seeking opportunities which will not only enable us to promote and restore the line of the Canal but will also provide an income for the future. This is in line with our long-stated objective of ensuring we establish resources for maintenance of each restored section of the Canal and, in the long-term, the H&G Canal as a whole.

Two projects which we commenced in the previous year were due to continue in the year under review. At Dymock, although delayed by circumstances largely outside our control, the short length of the new Canal has been under construction and work on the foundations of H&G CT's Canalside house will commence in about June 2015. The other project was the acquisition of The Travellers Rest public house immediately adjacent to the line of the H&G Canal, so a valuable Canalside asset as a means of promoting the Canal and also to generate income

over the long term. Unfortunately the tenants did not generate the income which we and they had hoped and we took back possession late in 2014. We plan to reopen the premises rebranded as Malswick House and under The Wharf House management in early summer 2015 and anticipate this will generate a secure long term income once the business is established.

Another project reached a triumphant conclusion in the year. A new book covering the origin of the H&G Canal and its revival through the work of the Canal Society and then the Trust, "Rescued from Obscurity", was researched and written by past Chairman Dick Skeet and published by the Trust in the autumn. It received excellent reviews in both local and national publications. Sales have been good and it is likely the costs of production will have been covered fully by summer 2015.

We are happy to report that income from membership exceeded our forecast and delighted to report that we continue to receive donations from members in addition to their subscriptions. Membership has increased a little and at the year end was 1342. We would like to thank members for their generosity and, in addition, those who have sent donations for the Land Fund. We also continue to receive donations from businesses and organisations, including the IWA and the Braunston Festival, for which we are very grateful. Our sites generated £4,670 through selling obsolete items and logs as well as raising funds through Open Days, and in addition the Canal Festival at Over raised £3,835. With all this activity our volunteer hours have increased by 17% to 3,782 days with an equivalent value of £502,000. [Figures for individual restoration sites and other categories are given with each report below. The significant balance is derived from all of the other volunteer time involved in the many activities supporting and promoting the H&G CT, such as the website, membership, finance and many areas of administration.]

The Wharf House continues to trade profitably despite the general difficult trading conditions in the economy. It continues to fund all planning, legal and project development costs for the H&G CT, and provides accommodation and office facilities for the expanded Legal & Project

Development Team at The Wharf House. The Restaurant's AA Rosette and 4 Gold Star rating for accommodation was confirmed for another year. [260 Volunteer days = a value of £67,000.]

The **H&G Sales and Promotion** team visited shows in the two counties and further afield at the Crick and Braunston Boat Shows. As a number of events overlap we do need more helpers please! [107 Volunteer days = a value of £5,350.] The **Social evenings** continue at the Royal Oak and attendance is usually good, but even greater numbers would be welcomed to help defray the increasing expenses of speakers. [16 Volunteer days = a value of £1,200.] The **Wharfinger**, delivered by hand where possible, continues to receive many compliments, thanks to the considerable time devoted to it by Cliff Penny and Maggie Jones in maintaining both high quality content and presentation. [170 Volunteer days = a value of £28,900.] Our thanks to Print Plus and all our **regular advertisers** for their continuing support. The **Grand Holiday Draw** made just under £3,000, a very welcome contribution to funds, although a small reduction of the previous record, mainly because fewer shows were attended this year.

Restoration Site Reports. During the year many of our volunteers worked on several sites. In Gloucestershire at Llanthony, work continued with the general maintenance of our site, mowing, tree care (with special attention being paid to one of the signature yew trees) and with the repair of fencing damaged as a result of flood waters. From the autumn onwards, we concentrated on the extensive refurbishment of the main cottage in preparation for re-letting. The programme, which is continuing, includes the replacement of the kitchen and bathroom, the installation of central heating and complete redecoration throughout. [184 Volunteer days = a value of £16,400.]

At our **Over** and **Vineyard Hill** site an all-weather hard surface was constructed along the whole length of Vineyard Hill towpath. In the main site compound the old lock gates were dismantled and stored as oak beams and the compound cleared in preparation for the construction of Mill Barn, to be faced in Cotswold stone. Routine care and maintenance of our heritage boats continued, including regular running through the Vineyard Hill landslip area to maintain navigation. The front hold compartment of Renton was repaired

and a new floor fitted. We obtained a new Boat Safety Scheme Certificate for our trip boat Mr Maysey. Considerable routine maintenance of site and gardens continued. The small Saturday team was also kept busy, working at three sites. At Over we have continued regular pruning, weeding and planting around The Wharf House and clearing leaves and debris from the car park, and at Travellers Rest we have been clearing carpets and painting. Also at Llanthony Lock Cottage we helped with wallpaper stripping and general refurbishment work as well as painting. The Over Basin and Vineyard Hill section of the H&G Canal continues to be used regularly by **Sailing4Disabled** and by the **Gloucester & District Model Boat Club**, both assisting in weed clearance. [1,091 Volunteer days = a value of £91,450.]

A third year has now been completed and good progress made at our **Moat Farm** site. Focus throughout the year has been on excavation and re-profiling of the Canal bed at the southern end of the site and this is complete and in water to the designed depth. Sensitive vegetation management continues as required. Work has commenced at the northern end, recreating the towpath to the site of Double Lock. [150 Volunteer days = a value of £13,300.]

The year at **Oxenhall** could be described as general maintenance of structures originally considered complete but on review requiring further attention. Both the spillweir and the aqueduct have been worked on and the Bailey bridge, which has been a feature for the last 15 years, was removed courtesy of The Army and a local crane hire company in order to complete the aqueduct work. Now that the old railway station at Newent has been secured it will be the site of our operations for the foreseeable future. [296 Volunteer days = a value of £19,600.]

In **Herefordshire** the **Yarkhill** team's work continued with regular site visits. The off-side Canal bank is now cleared of stumps. Considerable effort was put into site vegetation management so as to continue providing our regular visitors with a pleasant walk. [283 Volunteer days = a value of £18,050.]

At **Kymin East**, following the wettest winter in many years the Canal corridor was extremely wet, and with land drains running into the corridor it remained wet for a long time. We did manage

to have a couple of working weekends when volunteers from all sites descended on Kymin for some hard labour logging up and removing logs. We also managed to get a wider, deeper ditch excavated to assist with the drainage. Arrangements are well in hand for the planned excavation and re-profiling of the Canal bed in 2015. [25 Volunteer days = a value of £2,850.]

At Aylestone Park, Work has progressed intermittently through the year to complete the brick facing to the Canal elevation and all structural work on the weir is now complete. [33 Volunteer days = a value of £2,150.]

At Burcott Road routine maintenance took place and an unrestored section of the Canal is temporarily let to Tudors builders' merchants while we await restoration in this area. [3 Volunteer days = a value of £150.]

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 H&G CT. 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 – having been converted to LED fittings. We have invested in the latest energy-efficient fridges and dishwashers. At Travellers Rest we are similarly replacing all fridges, dishwashers, and lights with new energy-efficient equipment, as well as installing photovoltaic cells to reduce electricity consumption from the national grid. We continue to make good use of material reclaimed from the former hospital at Over and all sites recycle materials wherever possible.

Legal & Project Development Team: The team has been exceedingly active during the year in handling all legal and funding 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 future as most sites take several 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 grown the team, with additional members internally and both pro bono and paid-for support from external companies and individuals including No. 5 Chambers Birmingham, Green Planning Studio

Shrewsbury, Simon Freeman the recently retired partner of Gabbs Solicitors Hereford, and Thomas Ashworth and his director Austin Weltman at Tony Gee & Partners, Stonehouse. A major landmark, achieved just beyond the period after extended negotiations, was taking possession of land from GCC at Newent so we now have possession all the way from Newent Bypass to just below the church at Oxenhall, and work started on this new stretch immediately and will be a significant focus over the next few years. Another major focus has moved to fundraising to support projects currently in development – one of these was the successful Heritage Lottery bid for cycle promotion around The Wharf House and Travellers Rest, as well as other bids which are currently in for both the Mill Barn and Kymin.

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, at Travellers Rest, on the boats, on our promotional display and sales stands 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 under this item, 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:

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6 CASTLE STREET, HEREFORD HR1 2 NL

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Address

Post Code:

Telephone:

E-Mail:

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

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Donation £

Total payment £

Thank You

GIFT AID: as a Registered Charity we can increase our income from subscriptions, and any donations, by one quarter provided you pay tax. If you DON'T pay tax or DON'T want us to do this tick this box.

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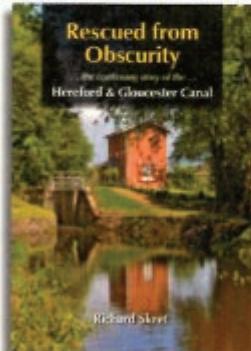
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Signed Date

Please pay to account No. 11600694, Sort Code No. 16-21-20 of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust at the Royal Bank of Scotland, 21 Broad St. Hereford, HR4 9AP, the sum of £ on this day and thereafter annually (on the anniversary) until further notice.

This instruction CANCELS any previous Annual Banker's Order in favour of the Canal Trust or former Society.



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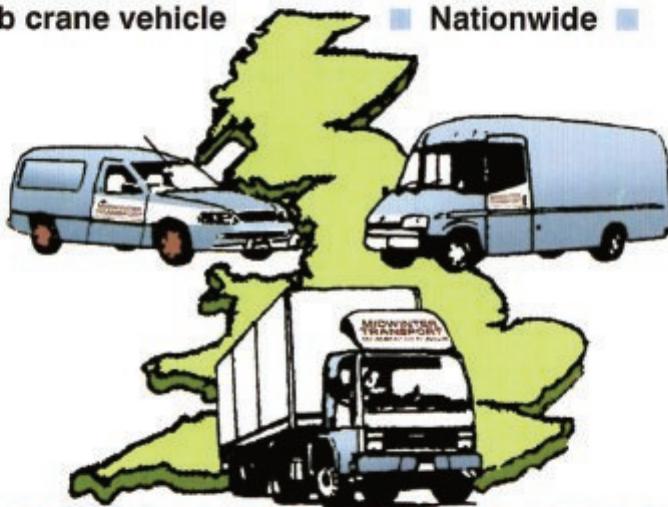
Please make cheques payable to **Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust** and send to Janet Moulton, H&G Sales and Promotion, 18, Coningsby Court, Coningsby Street, Hereford, HR1 2DF. Also available from **The Wharf House**.

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January saw the arrival of a pair of young swans on the site. They seemed to like an area on the Canal bank just beyond the slipway, but by the end of March there was no sign of their starting to build a nest. Then while we were working on the flood plain in early April it was noticed that they had almost completed a nest amongst under-growth beside the mill leat: not sure if there are any eggs in it yet, but there will be interesting times ahead for us if they do choose to use the nest; it is very near to the busiest part of the site.

Clearance of the Compound

The clearance of the main site area is now completed. All the old lock gates have been dismantled and the remaining building materials and metallic items have been moved to a suitable place on the lower areas of the site. Trees that had self-seeded into inappropriate places in the area have been removed prior to the start of the nesting season, with Peter having the honour of cutting down the last. The whole area has also been



Swans building their nest in the mill race.

completely resurfaced with road planings similar to the rest of the site. The work allowed us the opportunity to try out the wood chipper recently donated by H&G CT Member, Charles Kellett. After an overhaul of the fuel system by Andy, once we had mastered the art of feeding the beast, it has performed faultlessly.

Heritage Boats

Renton's major refurbishment continues to make steady progress. Steel ballast has replaced the original concrete and has been fitted below the front hold floorboards, which have all been cut to shape and are screwed into place. All the outstanding maintenance work on Mr Maysey has now been completed. A test run down Vineyard Hill to the winding hole and back showed that everything is running well and she is ready for the new



Bob shredding small branches.



Pat painting the dinghy hull.



Ernest & Graham fitting a newfloor to Renton.

season. The dinghy recently donated by Mrs Sue Tring has been painted in H&G CT colours by Pat with some assistance from Belinda, the hull has been checked over and a new bung fitted, and it is ready to be transported to its new home at the Moat Farm site.

Ex-NATO Pumps

Last year we were given three almost new large portable ex-NATO emergency pumps which were surplus! The pumps will be converted to electrical operation and used, in due course, for permanent fixed location 'back-pumping' stations along the Canal. Their large 142 horsepower petrol engines are not suitable for this use and the necessary automatic operation. Aimee from the H&G CT's L&PDT successfully concluded the sale of the first of these engines to a buyer from London. The task of disconnecting it from the pump ready for collection was enthusiastically undertaken by Graham and Tim. That's one down and only two to go!

FOR SALE

Two 6 cylinder 142HP (at 2,200 rpm) Continental Motor Corporation model RS 633 petrol engines for sale - almost new! For further information (viewing by prior appointment) please contact aimee@thewharthouse.co.uk. All proceeds to H&G CT funds.



Engine Plate.



Ballast in Renton.

Maintenance

With the onset of spring, gardening and site maintenance activities have become major areas of work: lots of grass to be mown and cutting back shrubs and undergrowth. Mike has been busy harvesting willow whips, and with the help of Peter breaking up clumps of snowdrops and redistributing them further along the Canal towpath bank. John has been kept busy with the seemingly never ending task of repairing mowers and small power tools.



Mike and Dave cutting back the dogwood.



Graham & Tim preparing the Continental Engine for collection.



Can you see any leak Andy?

Cycle Store

Work on the Lottery Funded cycle store (referred to as a 'cycle cave' by us volunteers), reported in the last edition of The Wharfinger, has begun with the digging out of the foundations of the associated retaining wall. This will



Graham positioning dumper for loading.

Ted Beagles / Tim Randles

buttress the side walls of the store, ready for when the arched roof is built. This excavation work was carried out for us by Moat Groundworks, with help from Over volunteer Graham Lammond driving the Dumper.

» TB



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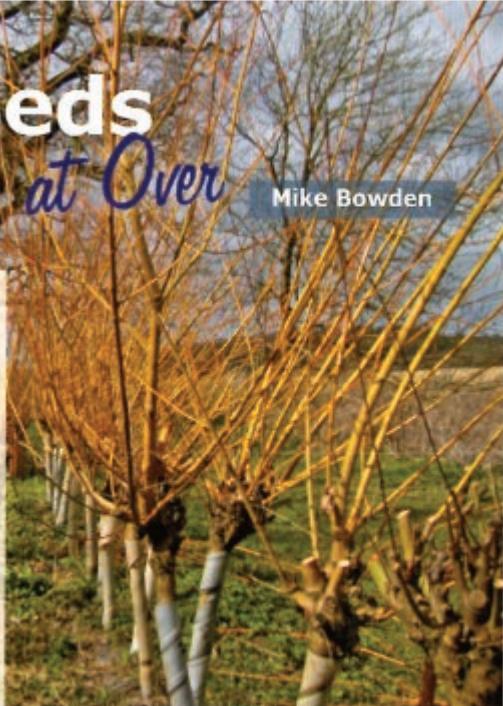
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The Osier Beds at Over

Mike Bowden

In the Autumn 2010 edition of **The Wharfinger** Alan McBride briefly told of the planting of a new osier (willow) bed alongside the Canal at Over. Subsequently readers will have seen the H&G CT regularly advertising willow rods for sale. One of our long-standing volunteers, Mike Bowden, takes up the story of how the H&G CT reinstated an ancient use of the land in the area – and found yet another way (modest as it may be) to raise awareness and funds!



Around the turn of the millennium some of the volunteers were researching the Canal Company minute books from the 1790s and came across an entry ... "to buy a quantity of soft red osier sets...not exceeding 20,000 and plant them in the Vineyard Hills". The Vineyard Hills are the high grounds above the H&G Canal at Over so it was a puzzle why osiers, which are associated with damp low-lying conditions, would be grown there. However, it was decided to make an

The colourful Osier Beds at Over. historical connection with the old Canal and purchase some 'soft red osiers' and plant them on the flood plain between the river Leadon and the old mill leat.

Despite extensive enquiries the name 'soft red osier' seemed to have gone out of use and the nearest modern equivalent appeared to be *Salix alba 'Britzensis'*. A very reasonably priced supply of one year old rooted plants of this variety was found at Parkes Farm Nursery near Newent and about 100 were purchased. These were planted in early spring in prepared soil carefully dug over to remove grass and weeds. They got away well but subsequently needed tree guards to stop their being bitten down by rabbits or deer! The bark colour was not exactly red, more of an orange-yellow, but very striking nevertheless. Incidentally, the bark colour very much fades during the growing season, to reappear during the winter.

In subsequent years a number of other coloured willows have been acquired and the colourful Osier Beds at Over.





The annexe as it was originally.



After new windows and doors were fitted.

Work Outside

The garden was completely overgrown and much clearing work has been carried out so new chain-link boundary fencing can be erected.

Of course elsewhere on the Llanthony site the vegetation has started to grow and so mowing and strimming activities are to the fore. And we turn our backs for five minutes and up pops the knotweed again!

Thanks go to all the volunteers who have contributed to the refurbishment effort so far. Their help is much appreciated. If you would like to come along and help, you will be made most welcome.

» PH

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Graham clearing the fence line.



Ted chainsawing through the undergrowth.



Alan McBride / Paul Henshaw

Would you like to be involved?

You will be made most welcome on any of our sites, please contact:

Aylestone and Kymrin

Wilf Jones on 01452 413 888
wilfredjones506@gmail.com

Yarkhill

Chris High on 01568 615 575
chris@chrishigh.plus.com

Oxenhall

Brian Fox on 01432 358 628
briandfox74@gmail.com

Moat Farm

Martyn Tilford on 01452 790 358
martyn@tilford.free-online.co.uk

Over Basin/Vineyard Hill

Ted Beagles on 01452 522 648
tedbeagles@blueyonder.co.uk

Maggie Jones on 01452 618 010
maggiejones@blueyonder.co.uk

Llanthony

Paul Henshaw on 01684 293 930
paulhenshawuk@yahoo.co.uk

URGENT APPEAL

Do you have specific skills?

The following skills/trades are urgently required please for what, in most instances, would be only for a day or so.

- **Pointing walls**
- **Roofing repairs**
- **Woodworking skills** – repairs to doors
- **Electrician – Part P qualified** (to inspect work on completion)

The hard work of our own volunteers is making fantastic progress but they would really value your additional help, or that of your business, please. *Thank you.*

Please contact **Paul Henshaw** as soon as possible on **01684 293 930**
paulhenshawuk@yahoo.co.uk

Gloucester Boat Jumble

This was our first stand of the year at Gloucester Docks in March. It was the sort of weather we always dread – rain and high winds. With a gazebo and displays all tied up or weighed down to anything we could find, we successfully sold draw tickets and another five copies of *Rescued from Obscurity* – so not too bad considering the conditions. Let's hope the rest of our outings this year are bright and sunny! ➤ MJ

Forthcoming outings: -

June 27-28	Braunston Boat Show, Northamptonshire
July 13	Sutton St Nicholas Fete, Herefordshire
August 22-23	Over Festival, Over Canal Basin and The Wharf House, Gloucester
Sept 12	Oxenhall/Newent Open Day
Nov 7	H&G CT Winter Bazaar, Ledbury

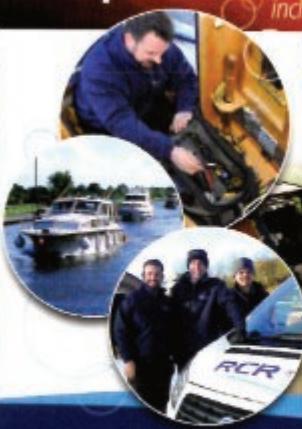
Why not have a good day out with the H&G CT?

We welcome additional volunteers; no experience necessary – just come and be part of our team – we will do our best to find a task which you will enjoy. Your admission to the event will be free and we always try to ensure you have some time to look around.

Please contact either of us (*see Contacts* inside back cover) if you can help or know of any local events which we could attend with our display and sales stand. ➤ JM

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The Story of Colleen Best

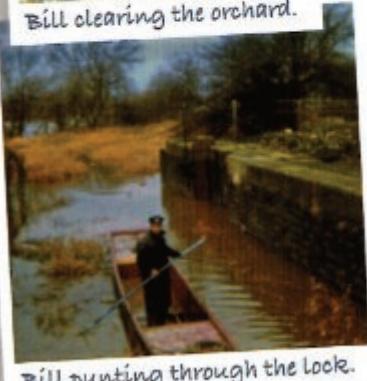
by Paul Henshaw

The story of Henry Presdee, and of his life on the local waterways, was told by Caroline Jones in edition 105 (Autumn 2010) of *The Wharfinger*. Henry was a former long-time occupant of No. 2 Llanthony Cottage. Paul Henshaw, the H&G CT's Site Leader at Llanthony, now tells an equally fascinating story of the former occupant of our No. 1 Cottage.

The Lock House garden – Bill's pride and joy.



Bill clearing the orchard.



Bill punting through the lock.

Colleen, our tenant at No. 1 Llanthony Cottage, sadly died on 5 October 2014 aged 82. She had lived at the Cottage with her mother and father from 1971 and took over the tenancy when both her parents died.

The Best family had a long connection with the River Severn. Colleen's father, William Henry Thomas Best, known as Bill, lived at the Falling Sands Lock House at Stourport on Severn where his father was lock keeper. Bill started his career on the river barges when he was 12

years of age. In the 1930s and 1940s he worked on the oil barges plying up and down the Severn and in 1948 he became the Bridgeman at Llanthony [*the lift bridge where Gloucester Docks meets the start of the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal – Ed.*]. The Best family lived at the Bridge House until Bill retired in 1971 when they moved to what is described as Llanthony 'Lock House'.

Colleen's family have, very kindly, given the H&G CT the old rental records dating back to 1971 and have also given permission to publish some of the old family photographs relating to Colleen's time at the Cottage.



The Lock House
from the old
footbridge.



Goats grazing
in the orchard.
The footbridge
is in the
background.



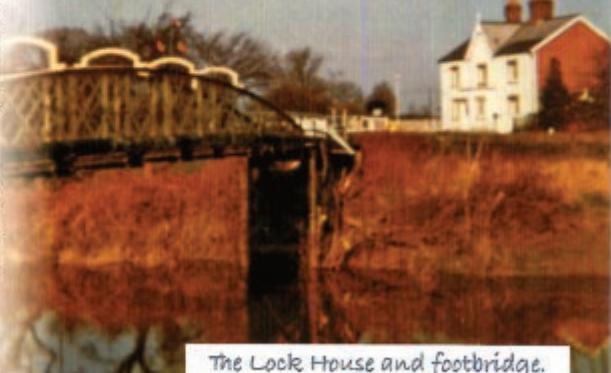
The Lock House.

29.5 miles to Worcester!

'Lock House' was owned by the former British Waterways Board. In 1971 the rental was £1.75 per week inclusive of rates (a special rent in recognition of Mr Best's position as lock keeper). The rent was subsequently increased to £3.50 per week (exclusive of rates) as a result of a Fair Rental Review. The rental schedule makes reference to the 'Lock House' being "semi detached, the self contained part of a one time detached house". However, during the refurbishment programme we have found no evidence to support the suggestion that the 'Lock House' was ever anything other than two separate semi-detached dwellings.

The tenancy was formally transferred to Colleen's mother on 17 January 1977 on the death of her husband, with rental then being £5.19 per week inclusive of rates.

Colleen was held in high regard by those from the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust who knew her, and especially by our Llanthony volunteers. She will be sadly missed.



The Lock House and footbridge.

» PH



Sailing for the Gloucester and District Model Boat Club at Over basin throughout the winter has almost been continuous. On the two occasions when we have been frozen off, the two resident swans demonstrated how to walk on water! I am pleased to report the swans and the models get along fine although at times they do give the models curious looks.

March is the time the winter builds start to appear and Club Chairman, Ted, has built two pleasure launches as you would see on the Italian lakes. The main structure is of 1mm plywood. The hull has then been covered in mahogany veneer. The decks have been planked in mahogany veneer inlaid with basswood, with many coats of varnish to the required gloss finish and final fitting out with brass fittings and a mahogany dashboard.

Phil's winter build is of HMS Lion. She was a Battle Cruiser launched in 1910, length overall 700 ft, powered by four steam turbines, armury of 24 various guns, cruising speed of 28 knots. The model has been under construction for about a year. The hull is a fibreglass moulding 66" long. She is powered by four electric motors and is fitted with a smoker unit which gives the impression she is steam driven. There is not much model information available except some very basic drawings. Photographs and the web were the other sources of information. Most of the construction is from plastic card. Her maiden voyage was at Over on Sunday 8 March.

Bryan's winter build is of a Fairmile "C" Gunboat of which only 24 were built. The model is 55" long, another fibreglass hull with the superstructure mainly plastic card. She is powered by two brushless motors. Her maiden voyage was on Friday 6 March, but there remains an amount of work before completion.



One of Ted's pleasure cruisers.



Phil with his HMS Lion.



Bryan's Fairmile 'C' Gunboat.

Ted Tedaldi

Peter has finally completed his RAF crash tender, an all vintage wooden construction, powered by a modern brushless motor.

If you are interested in model boating, or just would like a pleasant day out, you are welcome to come along to our Club Navy Day at Over Canal Basin from 10am on Sunday 12 July.





Sailing4Disabled

We've been hard at it trying to raise the funds for the Wheelyboat and we're getting there, well half way! There was a very good article in the **Gloucester Citizen** in March and the fundraising events continue. On Easter Monday we had the Tredworth Road Race with a skittles match, band events, and other events planned.



The Wheelyboat circles Over Basin.



The side drops down to allow easy access.

Pete Bisson

The interest in our activity is starting to take shape with more enquiries, as well as the long-standing events and groups. As visitors to Over Canal Basin on a Tuesday may have seen, we now fly the "Rowing Pirates" standard – maybe on other days if we forget to take it down!

We've managed to make two rescues this year. The first was to give the two swans their water back by breaking the ice for them; I'm sure their rear ends were frozen! The second was a honey bee who had taken a bath and found the water too cold. He (or she?) was pulled out and flew off, no first aid needed! Hope you remember this Mr Chris (the bee man at Over).

We are hoping to help promote ourselves and the work of the H&G CT by organising a KataKanu (race event) on the Canal at Over. When further details are known they will be on our website www.sailing4disabled.org.uk. We are also looking forward to the annual visit of the children from Chernobyl to see us at Over Canal Basin in July or August and to participating in the H&G Over Festival on 22-23 August.

Latest news: I have just been informed by Andy Beasley, Wheelyboat Director, that we've been awarded a Torqeedo electric outboard motor for our Wheelyboat. Many thanks Andy and **The Wheelyboat Trust** for believing in what we are achieving on the H&G Canal at Over.

» **PB**

Sailing4Disabled

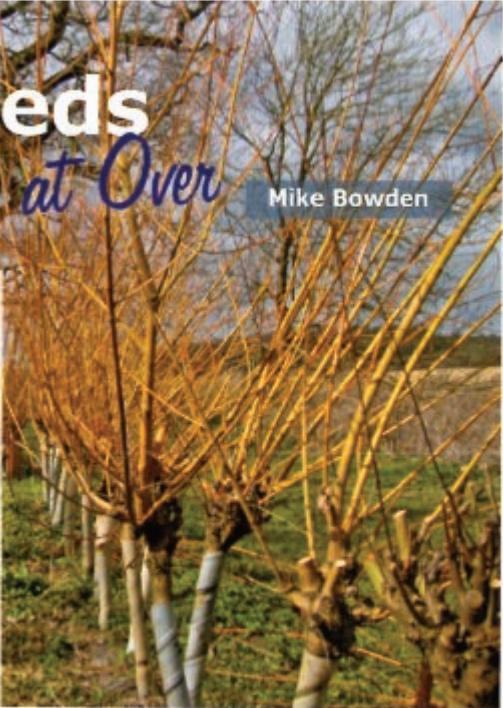
meets every Tuesday at **Over Canal Basin** from 11.00 to 14.00.
It is open to everyone – whether they have a disability or not.

The Osier Beds at Over

Mike Bowden

In the Autumn 2010 edition of **The Wharfinger** Alan McBride briefly told of the planting of a new osier (willow) bed alongside the Canal at Over. Subsequently readers will have seen the H&G CT regularly advertising willow rods for sale. One of our long-standing volunteers, Mike Bowden, takes up the story of how the H&G CT reinstated an ancient use of the land in the area – and found yet another way (modest as it may be) to raise awareness and funds!

Around the turn of the millennium some of the volunteers were researching the Canal Company minute books from the 1790s and came across an entry ... "to buy a quantity of soft red osier sets...not exceeding 20,000 and plant them in the Vineyard Hills". The Vineyard Hills are the high grounds above the H&G Canal at Over so it was a puzzle why osiers, which are associated with damp low-lying conditions, would be grown there. However, it was decided to make an



The colourful Osier Beds at Over, historical connection with the old Canal and purchase some 'soft red osiers' and plant them on the flood plain between the river Leadon and the old mill leat.

Despite extensive enquiries the name 'soft red osier' seemed to have gone out of use and the nearest modern equivalent appeared to be *Salix alba 'Britzensis'*. A very reasonably priced supply of one year old rooted plants of this variety was found at Parkes Farm Nursery near Newent and about 100 were purchased. These were planted in early spring in prepared soil carefully dug over to remove grass and weeds. They got away well but subsequently needed tree guards to stop their being bitten down by rabbits or deer! The bark colour was not exactly red, more of an orange-yellow, but very striking nevertheless. Incidentally, the bark colour very much fades during the growing season, to reappear during the winter.

In subsequent years a number of other coloured willows have been acquired and the colourful Osier Beds at Over.





A living arch made from Osiers.

there are now about seven varieties in the Over osier bed. These were all grown from unrooted cuttings, i.e. reasonably thick sections of willow stem about 10 inches (250mm) in length and pushed into prepared soil by about 6 inches (150mm). The recommended time to do this is March to allow roots to develop before shoots; apparently root development starts when the soil temperature reaches 5°C. Some cuttings were pushed through black plastic sheet which helps with soil warming and weed control. Others were just pushed into bare soil and the variety *Salix purpurea* 'Leentjes' was particularly successful. The various varieties were organised into double rows of a particular type with cuttings spaced about 9 inches (225mm) apart, and about 2 feet (600mm) between double rows for access. The close spacing between cuttings is to encourage plenty of thin straight rods suitable for weaving. It should also help to shade out weeds, but the weeds seem to win! Ideally the whole of the osier bed should have been covered in woven weed-control fabric, but that would have been costly. In practice a sickle is used between rows to control weeds several times during the growing season. The worst offenders are nettles, docks, and worst of all bindweed which can ruin the bark and weigh down whole groups of rods.



An living 'igloo' made from Osiers.

Left: A woven Osier Christmas Tree.



The osiers can put on up to three metres of growth in the summer and early autumn, but most have lost their leaves and gone dormant by mid November. Harvesting can then start and continues through to March, and by the end of that month the aim is to coppice down all remaining rods to the 'stool', ready for the annual growth cycle to commence all over again. The osiers are all naturally grown; no pesticides, herbicides or fertilisers are used. In true H&G CT 'waste not want not' fashion, unwanted and poor quality rods are incorporated into a 'fedge' (dry hedge/fence) adjacent to the osier bed and the old leat.

» MB

NEW SEASON WILLOW FOR SALE AT OVER

Grown on the osier beds reinstated by the H&G CT alongside Over Canal Basin.

Small rods about 1.8m in length and about 3mm diameter, suitable for basketry etc. **5p each**.

Large rods about 1.5m to 2.4m in length and about 10mm in diameter, suitable for living willow sculptures, edges, screens, hurdles etc. **20p each**.



Contact Mike Bowden on site at Over Basin most Wednesdays or telephone:

01452 790459
mykeljhba@aol.com

This impressive cover for a clay oven was produced from Over Willow by Cathy Wallace.

News from the friends of Gloucester WATERWAYS M MUSEUM

By Chris Witts

Despite holding the 2015 annual Boat Jumble at a new venue the event proved to be a great success, apart from the weather that is! Due to the uncertainty of having the use of Llanthony Car Park the Friends of Gloucester Waterways Museum were obliged to find an alternative site. Gloucestershire College came to our rescue and allowed us full use of their car park.

No one likes change so we did expect problems and groans from both traders and the public alike. Not so, in fact the opposite, with traders saying how pleased they were



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to be at Gloucester again. Likewise no grumbles from the public when they paid for entry to the event.

It is a big thank you to all those who volunteered throughout the weekend to make it a great success. We look forward to building on this to make the 2016 Boat Jumble an even bigger event. (Our thanks also to the Friends for giving the H&G CT a pitch for a stand at the Boat Jumble. Maggie Jones reports on page 31.)

We are approaching the time of year when there is always something going on at the Museum - why not pay us a visit? Our website is at www.friendsofgwm.co.uk.

» CW



Gloucestershire & Herefordshire Branch Social Meetings and Events

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

NOTE NEW VENUE

The Warehouse, Parliament Street, GL1 1HY
Free parking at the Docks, Southgate St from 6pm

Thursday 3 September 7.30pm

Tidal Barrier on the River Parrett
and IWA campaign for a lock

Thursday 1 October 7.30pm

Clive Henderson (ex IWA national chair)

Thursday 5 November 7.30pm

Lydney Harbour and Canal

Thursday 3 December 7.30pm

Christmas Social

Further details contact: **Martin Turner**
email: martin.turner40@btinternet.com

01452 312 228

Not quite ... the last page!

Thank You



Last year the **Inland Waterways Association** ran a national **Restoration Raffle** with a difference! Purchasers of tickets were able to nominate a waterways restoration scheme which they wished to share in the proceeds of the raffle. As a result the H&G CT received a cheque for £244 – our thanks to the IWA and, especially, to all those who nominated the H&G CT from the list of 54 projects around the country.

What Bailey Bridges?

This article will appear in a future edition.

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Show the support of your business by advertising in **The Wharfinger**. Rates from £39 per issue and we will gladly design your advertisement free of charge.

Contact Carolyn Pascall

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Take a Look

Have you taken a look at www.h-g-canal.org.uk or www.thewharthouse.co.uk lately? Both our websites are well worth a visit (and thank you to those involved in improving and maintaining the sites – as with so many things we do a considerable amount of work is involved which can easily be taken for granted).

Business Mail

While we have many individuals collecting stamps do you know a business that would be prepared to collect stamps from their incoming mail for the H&G CT to turn into £££'s for our **Land Fund**? Stamps can be taken to any of our Social Evenings or other H&G CT event – or to **The Wharf House**. Thank you.

Still time to help!

Please don't forget to help us to make 2015 another record year for the H&G CT's **Grand Holiday Draw** – the odds are really good and the money raised (thanks to all the prizes being donated) is really important to us. Also, our thanks in advance for those who on principle do not sell/buy draw tickets but send a donation instead.



**Once again this year we have
some great prizes!**

Copy deadline for the next issue

MONDAY, 29 JUNE

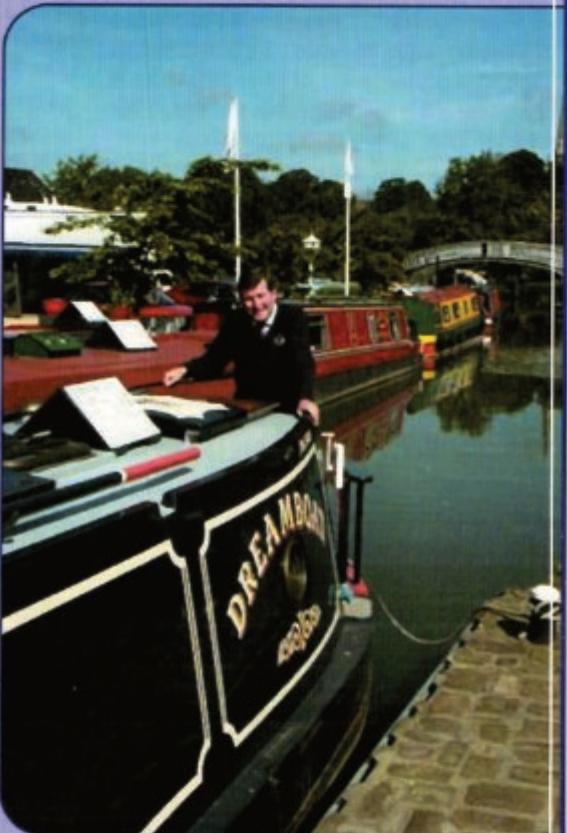
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Want to help? The Canal Trust is always in need of new volunteers as our activities continue to expand. We can normally find a use for any skill from gardeners to first aiders, brickies to those willing to help with a shovel, pen or laptop.

Contacts

Contact any of these names TODAY!

Janet Moulton

18, Coningsby Court,
Coningsby Street,
Hereford, HR1 2DF
01432 264 366
jmoult@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 820 886
canal@penny-ep.co.uk

David Penny

01452 332 900
david@thewharthouse.co.uk

Ted Beagles

01452 522 648
tedbeagles@blueyonder.co.uk

Brian Fox

01432 358 628
briandfox74@gmail.com

John Hammond

07894 473 125
jhammond@blueyonder.co.uk

Paul Henshaw

01684 293 930
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
carolinejones841@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

Mail Order Sales

Janet Moulton

(details in first column)

Carolyn Pascall

07947 108 726
cdpascall@aol.com

Martyn Tilford

01452 790 358
martyn@tilford.free-online.co.uk

Legal & Project Development Team

01452 332 900
lptd@thewharthouse.co.uk

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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

