

The Wharfinger

Autumn 2015

HEREFORDSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANAL TRUST



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REBUILDING A SUSTAINABLE CANAL BETWEEN HEREFORD & GLOUCESTER

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To get in touch see "Contacts" inside the back cover.

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the past and secure a better future. ©

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Over

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

Llanthony

Site Leader: Paul Henshaw

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Cover image: The newly refurbished Malswick House at Newent – Maggie Jones.



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Editorial by Cliff Penny

A lasting difference

Many people spend their lives undertaking tasks where their efforts are soon forgotten. Those of us lucky enough to be involved in any way in the restoration of the canal system know that the eventual outcome will be there for future generations to enjoy for recreation and amenity, as well as providing a range of attractive wildlife habitats, and making a significant contribution to the local economy. Working *together*, we can make a ***lasting difference***!

On all of our sites H&G CT volunteers have already made a difference. Ten years ago we were celebrating the opening of the ground floor of **The Wharf House** and the opportunities that it, and the adjacent **Over Canal Basin**, would present in promoting and facilitating our work on the H&G Canal. Both the building and the adjacent Canal have already made a lasting difference providing additional local employment, helping to sustain local suppliers and increasingly attracting more visitors adding to the tourism spend in the area. As our regular readers know **Over Canal Basin** and the adjacent **Vineyard Hill** length of the restored Canal are regularly used by Sailing4Disabled and the Gloucester and District Model Boat Club, the waterway and surrounding areas are enjoyed by both local residents and the general public 365 days a year, and each August they host the H&G CT's **Over Festival**. **The Wharf House** and **Over Canal Basin** are a brilliant demonstration of the H&G CT's different approach to the restoration of a sustainable canal in action! The physical assets help promote future restoration now as well as providing perpetual income for the maintenance and management of the H&G Canal now and in the future – ensuring that we make ***a lasting difference***.

The H&G CT's rebranded **Malswick House**, near Newent, was opened in July. See p.15. This greatly extends our opportunities to increase awareness of the Canal and the work of H&G CT at the only pub alongside the Canal route in Gloucestershire – as well as forming a vital part of our long-term income strategy. H&G CT volunteers have been hard at work refurbishing **Malswick House** replacing outdated kitchen equipment and all the lighting with energy efficient fittings – making ***a lasting difference*** to the costs of running the premises.

Following an approach to our Vice Presidents for suggestions as to how they might assist H&G CT James Hervey-Bathurst, the owner of **Eastnor Castle**, enthusiastically suggested that he and his wife Lucy host a reception to promote our work on the H&G Canal. Early in July over 150 invited guests attended the launch of H&G CT's 225 Anniversary Campaign. See p.10. We are exceedingly grateful to **James and Lucy, Tanners Wines** and **Emma & Clive's Distinctive Catering** for their support and to an **anonymous donor** who paid for all the other unsponsored costs. We hope that contacts made will result in a number of new long-term supporters and to some substantial funding opportunities so the H&G Canal restoration continues to make ***a lasting difference*** in both counties.

» **CRP**

“CoMmitment to a sustainable future”

... a perspective from Council of Management

by John Hammond

The objective of H&G CT is to rebuild the Canal from Gloucester to Hereford as a fully navigable waterway, a rich community resource and a haven for wildlife. To borrow a phrase from the national Canal & River Trust's 10-year strategy, published in April, "Living Waterways transform places and enrich lives".



Richard Parry, CRT's chief executive, speaking at H&G CT's **225 Anniversary Campaign** launch at Eastnor Castle.

This impressive document matches our long-established approach so closely that it is tempting to believe its authors knew all about our work and appreciated its value. The truth is probably simpler: that we share many common challenges, combined with a commitment to achieve what is needed now together with ensuring success into the long-term future. As Richard Parry, CRT's chief executive, puts it:

"Our strategic goals form a sustainable cycle that will deliver our vision and secure the future of the waterways for generations to come".

Richard Parry certainly does know all about our work and appreciates its value, and he praised our strategy and achievements in his presentation at the 225 Anniversary Campaign launch at Eastnor Castle (see p.10). He recognises the importance of our unique approach among the sixty-plus waterway restoration groups across the country, which is to ensure we build up secure, permanent income streams sufficient to cover the costs of maintenance and improvement of our rebuilt Canal indefinitely, alongside the more obvious tasks of acquiring the necessary land and rebuilding the Canal and associated infrastructure.

The significance of our approach to economic sustainability is increasingly widely recognised nationally, where we are seen as a leader not only among waterway restoration projects but also in the context of heritage developments more generally. The common pattern among such groups is to work on restoration, usually drawing on a variety of grants, but then to hand over the result to another body which becomes responsible for maintaining what has been created. That body is normally dependent on public

funding which cannot meet all the competing demands and, all too often, decline is inevitable. We are determined to avoid that situation.

CRT also published its 3-year business plan in April and this provides interesting details which shed light on the financial realities of waterways. In round figures, CRT looks after 2,000 miles of waterways and has an annual budget of £200million, equivalent to about £100,000 per mile. In addition to the overheads of running CRT, expenditure on the core business of managing the waterways includes the following costs, averaged per mile:

● operations and regular maintenance	£40,000
● dredging	£5,000
● major asset repairs	£10,000
● improvements, developments, education and customer service	£10,000

Less than one-quarter of CRT's income is raised from boat licence and mooring fees, the rest coming from investment income, fees paid by utilities, government grant and other sources.

If we project forward to the time when we have an operational Canal and have entered the maintenance phase, it is clear we shall need an annual income in the order of £2million (at today's prices) to cover the basic costs of managing the H&G, even if we assume the continuation of the commitment of our splendid volunteer community. Achieving this is a serious challenge, but meeting serious challenges is part of our culture and, supported by the focused expertise, energy and determination of the Trust's L&PDT, we are confident we shall succeed.

» JH

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L&PDT News

It is increasingly busy in the L&PDT as we negotiate to acquire land and seek to secure the Canal and its restoration from adjoining developments, and press ahead on key projects. Frustratingly this work can often take many years to complete and much is bound by strict confidentiality requirements even once we have reached agreement.

Newent

The opening of Malswick House is an exciting step forward (see p.15) and we now look forward to working up the plans for Newent and the fantastic tourist attraction which the restored Station will become.

The first steps at Newent have included clearing the site and in late July a team of volunteers undertook investigative works to excavate between the platforms so we could commence design work and then funding bids for the restoration of the platforms and the crucial task of making them watertight. This will lead to a very important and interesting volunteer project over the next couple of years to return the station site to its former glory.

Mill Barn

By the time you read this we hope the Planning Application for the reconstructed Mill Barn at Over will have been lodged at last. We are extremely grateful to Roberts Limbrick Architects in Gloucester for taking this project over for us. The final designs will leave us with a major asset both to ensure we can maintain the Canal in the future and for the users on site but also so we can grow the L&PDT as we so crucially need to. This will allow us to expand the team which is pivotal to delivering the Llanthony Hydro Project amongst many others in hand.

Dymock

One of many schemes in active discussion is the partnership to deliver Dymock 2 – the Beer Branch, rapidly changing name to the Perry Branch! Working closely with the landowner and the Parish Council we are seeking to develop a stunning scheme which will secure long term benefits for both the Canal and the Village.

Like us on facebook and sign up to *Count me in* for the very latest which will be announced before the next edition of **The Wharfinger** is published.

Our best wishes Steph!

Unfortunately, we must close on a sadder note. Steph Pike has moved on to pastures new, which we hope will lead to her gaining a training contract to become a solicitor. We wish her well and are pleased not to lose her completely as she will remain in charge of social media for us in her spare time. We are currently recruiting a new Legal & Project Development Assistant, but Steph will be hard to replace.

» **DRP**

For all the latest ...



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Did you know that in addition to the quarterly Wharfinger Magazine, the Trust produces an occasional newsletter, which is distributed by email.

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AGM Report and Council of Management

by Carolyn Pascall

At the AGM on Tuesday 21 July at the Royal Oak in Much Marcle, those members of Council of Management standing down by rotation – Liz Connors, Nigel Jefferies, Caroline Jones and Janet Moulton – were re-elected to Council of Management and a new member was appointed: John Pritchard, a member of the Yarkhill team of volunteers. He is a retired school teacher who lives in Hereford and he was warmly welcomed at CoM's meeting the following evening.

Liz Connors had asked John Hammond, Vice Chairman and chairing the AGM in Janet Moulton's absence, to present the accounts on her behalf. After the end of the formal business, there followed a question by Paul Brown about whether the L&PDT felt sufficiently qualified along with CoM members to make increasingly complex decisions on finances especially as the pace and scale of the Trust's operations are growing. The response given expressed confidence, based both on the experience and capabilities of those involved and on the quality and extent of external professional advice available to

draw upon, but also invited anyone with skills and experience in this or any other relevant field to offer their support.

Before the presentations by Paul Henshaw on site volunteers' activities, Maggie Jones on sales and promotion, Carolyn Pascall on the Eastnor Castle event and David Penny on L&PDT activities, Liz Connors announced that for health reasons she was, reluctantly, stepping down as Treasurer but remaining as a member of CoM, and also as Company Secretary. Liz was immensely grateful to Chris High and Janet Moulton for their recent support. Cliff Penny gave a vote of thanks to Liz for her long record of outstanding service and this was strongly endorsed by the meeting.

Since then, CoM has unanimously agreed that Liz be offered Honorary Life Membership of H&G CT as a further token of her devotion and work as Treasurer of H&G CT for over 20 years. John Hammond accepted the role of Treasurer at the meeting of CoM on 22 July, at which the other officers were confirmed in their positions.

If anyone would like to receive the AGM minutes, please email cdpascall@aol.com. The AGM next year will be held on Tuesday 19 July 2016 at Malswick House.

» CP



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.

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225 ANNIVERSARY C A M P A I G N



James Hervey-Bathurst welcomes guests to his home.

Launched at Eastnor Castle

2 July 2015

by Carolyn Pascall

When I learnt, on joining Council of Management in 2013, that serious money upwards of £2million would be required in two years' time to acquire land along the Canal route, I decided to write to the Vice Presidents – excluding the MPs – inviting myself to meet them.

Two replied, and on meeting James Hervey-Bathurst at his splendid home, built of stone transported along the original Canal, he generously offered us the possibility of holding a promotional and fundraising event there. His advice and guidance over the ensuing months in preparation for the event was invaluable and directly influenced the success of the occasion.

With anonymous sponsorship of promotional materials for the event, and generous support from **Tanners Wines, Emma & Clive's Distinctive Catering Limited, Eastnor Castle** and **Soglos Publishing**, the evening was organised at no cost to H&G CT. 2015 is 225 years

after the original Canal company was born and therefore is a fitting time to launch a new fundraising campaign to attract funds primarily for land acquisition. It was also a good reason (excuse?) to upgrade our promotional roller banners to convey messages on every aspect of rebuilding our Canal, which are so useful at shows throughout the year.



After James welcomed the guests, **Dame Janet Trotter DBE**, Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, spoke of her childhood memories living near a

Dame Janet Trotter DBE endorses the objectives of H&G CT.

Canal, and **Christopher James OBE DL**, Vice Lord-Lieutenant represented the Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire, the **Countess of Darnley**, who had sent this message of support:

"This is an exciting and ambitious project, which will benefit the two counties whilst it is being developed and for many years to come. It deserves full support from across our two counties."

Countess of Darnley

Richard Parry, Chief Executive of **Canal & River Trust**, addressing the assembled company, spoke of the benefits and values waterways provide nationally and outlined the values which the rebuilt H&G Canal will provide:

- economic: a British Waterways survey in 2009 showed a rebuilt H&G Canal would bring benefits worth £20million per year to the local economy, and 500 new full-time-equivalent jobs; in

addition numerous precedents show an increase in property values in the vicinity of canals;

- water management: in partnership with the Environment Agency and local bodies, H&G CT has a major role in Hereford's surface water management and in the proposed scheme for river improvement and flood relief in Gloucester;
- community: the rebuilt H&G Canal will be a shared, open-access community resource, a green corridor supporting a rich and varied ecology, enhanced by the restoration and maintenance of numerous heritage features.

"Living waterways transform places and enrich lives" Richard Parry said. "Now a major resource for leisure and tourism nationally, waterways are an important part of our heritage."



Photoglow Photography



Above: General Sir Adrian and Lady Bradshaw review the 'castle security'.

Left and below: Guests listen to the speeches in the Octagon Room.



H&G CT's Vice Chairman, John Hammond, thanked Richard Parry and gave a brief outline of the challenges H&G CT faces to rebuild 34 miles of Canal and Janet Moulton, our Chairman, presented a bouquet to Lucy Hervey-Bathurst as a token of H&G CT's appreciation of their hospitality.



Photoglow Photography

The message of the 225 ANNIVERSARY C A M P A I G N

The major challenge H&G CT now faces is to acquire the land needed to rebuild the Canal, which was sold long ago to over 100 landowners along the route. The 225 Anniversary Campaign seeks to raise substantial funds to meet this challenge, in the form of donations and loans, but its launch was also an opportunity to raise our profile, to inform a wide-ranging audience drawn from both counties on our progress to date and plans for the next ten years, and to encourage their future anticipated support. » CP



how you can help to
make this exciting vision
become a **reality!**

The Canal

Trust's ten-year vision

is to rebuild the Canal at further key locations, including high-profile sites on the Gloucester waterfront and Llanthony and the stunning 'Canal through a railway station' at Newent. The Trust is proud to restore this great local asset for future generations to enjoy, but needs your help to bring these visionary plans to fruition.

"We call on individual benefactors, corporate sponsors, statutory funders, grant-making trusts and the gifts of the wider community to help raise the funds needed for this phase of our work."



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

MALSWICK House

Malswick House opened quietly in mid July with Grand Opening on 31 July.

The refurbishment has been very extensive. The work was carried out by a small group of volunteers as well as some **Wharf House** and **Malswick House** staff and families lending support. We greatly appreciate the considerable support of John Burton of **Moat Contracting** and Luke Summerbee of **Summerbees Building Contractors**. The premises have been painted inside and out in deep red and cream livery. A new wooden floor has been laid in the main dining area.

The sloped entrance now boasts very smart iron railings from our 'forgemasters', Henry and Andy, at Much Marcle!

Bright colourful planters and hanging baskets welcome customers into the building and in the courtyard the tables and seating have been revamped and the fences painted.

The decor includes a large number of paintings, including some specifically commissioned originals for the property with a canal focus from **The Wharf House** 'artist in residence' Janice Lyall whose works now extensively adorn both properties.

In charge is Andy Chapman, who trained at **The Wharf House** for three years, leaving about seven years ago to run a pub in Newent. He specifically wanted to get back into the cheffing side but obviously now has local publican experience as well so we are very glad to welcome Andy back to the fold. » **DRP**



The refurbished courtyard.



Maggie Jones

The freshly decorated dining room with new wooden floor.



The new iron railings and planters.



NOW OPEN



RESTORATION UPDATE

News of our work on the Hereford & Gloucester Canal

Aylestone

Wilf Jones

On 26 June a group of eleven volunteers from **Johnson Controls** of Leominster joined four H&G CT volunteers to complete the next stage of the overflow weir at Aylestone Park.

The weather was fair and work commenced by forming two groups. The first erected the post and rail fencing which had 'pig' wire on the inside to prevent animals entering the area of the weir. The second laid terram to form the pathway from the top of the slipway round to the weir, across the weir and beyond, and spread eleven tons of gravel (50mm to dust) across the whole length. The Heras fencing was replaced around the area for safety reasons as the handrail is yet to be fitted, and all excess material was moved to the compound.

The Trust appreciates Johnson Controls for choosing the Trust as part of its community support programme, and the efforts of the volunteers in completing a great job, in a wonderful spirit of co-operation and jovial camaraderie, and not forgetting the financial donation to the Trust. Thank you to one and all who contributed to a successful day.

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



Eleven tons of gravel was laid on the towpath over the weir.



Eleven tons of gravel topped the towpath over the weir.



The post and rail fence was erected by the volunteers.

» WJ

A mini heatwave greeted volunteers for the second phase of the Kymin excavation.



John Burton of Moat Contracting showing his excavating skills.



A muddy channel slowly becomes a canal once more.



The earth is excavated on to the towpath side ...



Before excavation.

Last year was one of the wettest on record but this year has been somewhat drier and therefore we were able to get the excavators and dumpers into the Canal corridor. But even with all the dry weather over the last few weeks we still managed to get two dumpers and one excavator sunk in the mud.

Some preparation work had been done by pumping out the water lying in the drainage ditch previously excavated, using a pump loaned from Neil and Caroline Jones. Many thanks to them. The winter had damaged one tree, and **Adrian Hope Services** kindly provided support to resolve this problem. Many thanks to him and his team.

So armed with a CAD drawing of the canal profile, kindly prepared by **Roberts Limbrick Architects of Gloucester**, for which the Trust is most grateful, we began the task of excavating the Canal bed.



... and then rolled into a towpath.

The first task was to remove all the remaining logs and stumps from the corridor so that we did not destroy the finished towpath removing them later.

Over twenty of the Trust's volunteers from all sites were involved during the excavation programme, contributing various skills to complete the tasks including dumper driving, chainsaw work, strimming, collecting scrub and wood for disposal or just labouring. Many thanks to all for making the project run as smoothly as possible.

By the time you read this report we will have over 650 yards in water, once the rains arrive, via the four land drains which feed into this part of the Canal.

All this has been achieved while working within the landowner's requirements of restoration with minimum effect on the visual appearance of the corridor from the surrounding area. »» **WJ**



Wulf Jones

Drainage channels are laid under the towpath.



The Canal becomes full width between an avenue of trees.

Yarkhill

Chris High

My thanks to the Team and Bob Comba who has been leading during my absences. They have continued the task of vegetation control with considerable dedication. A July rain squall resulted in a wind-blown tree down across the towpath, the clearance of which gave them all a slightly different activity.

»» **CH**

Chris High



At last the new canal embankment in Dymock is structurally complete with only finishing works taking place as this is written.

July saw a final flurry of activity as a large volume of high clay content material became available on the edge

of Gloucester which was perfect for a final layer on the bed and banks and came in rapidly at the end of the month. By the time you read this the Canal works should be finished with only the towpath to surface once the developer no longer requires it for access.



David Penny

The banks of the basin are expertly sculpted.



Lorry after lorry bring the materials needed to construct the basin.

It was also an exciting period on the build of our house on plot 10. It went up rapidly and will be available to rent around the end of the year. This will be

a lovely brand new 3-bed detached waterside property. If you are interested in renting please email Dymock@thewharfhouse.co.uk

» **DRP**



A curve of new houses will overlook the basin.

David Penny

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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. © H&C T

Simon Hayward: 01452 700384, Fax 01452 700740

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!*

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



17 November

Avon Navigation Trust

– Clive Matthews

Avon Navigation Trust is the statutory navigational authority for the River Avon.



Note! December - No meeting

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Newent and Oxenhall

Brian Fox

Readers will know that we spend the winter managing old trees and generally tidying up areas which have had little management for many years. This work finishes in March when the nesting season is upon us, but this year there were still two large willows which were to be pollarded next winter.

In April a strong wind blew one down, splitting it in two with one half across the canal and the other in the field adjacent, flattening the fence in the process. It was clearly imperative that we clear the part across the Canal and reinstate the fence by removing all timber from the field. Bernard retrieved his chain saw from the shed and over a few weeks the damage was repaired, but still leaving some less urgent work for next winter – it was a big tree. It clearly demonstrates why we have to spend time, particularly on these large willows, so this sort of event cannot occur again.

Split willow partially cleared.



A willow pollarded last winter already showing new growth.



Cleared area with platforms underneath to be revealed soon.

Brian Fox

The grass has been growing quickly over the last few weeks and our mowers have been well tested as our area of cutting has now grown to include the recently cleared Willows nursery. Brambles and nettles have been sprayed to prevent any more growth. If anyone has recently bought a new mower and is wondering what to do with the old one then we could provide a home for something to replace our over-worked and worn out 'fleet'.

As I write it is the hottest day of the year at 30°C and Bernard had been asked to go to the Kymin site with his chain saw together with Penny and Ralph to tidy up the log pile and have a few bonfires in preparation for the 'big dig' next week. So there were three of us left trying to move a gate post down at the old builders' yard much as we did so successfully at our compound last year; but this time it won't budge. A massive lump of concrete is revealed as we dig down and it is an easy decision to abandon such exercise immediately and go to plan B. This will now involve cutting the post off below ground level using an angle grinder and installing temporary 'Heras' fencing to fill

the gap where the gate was. A crane, which we require for lifting the two containers, will then have enough room to manoeuvre and once they are gone the ground will be clear for an excavator to start clearing the area between the platforms. Why not come along to our Open Day on 12 September and take a walk along the newly created path through the old Willows nursery, on through the woods skirting the Eil Brook, and finishing up at the station which by then should be at least partially revealed.

» BF



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H & G
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Over Basin & Vineyard Hill

Ted Beagles

As usual at this time of year we are putting a lot of effort into holding nature at bay, by mowing grass and cutting back shrubbery, weeding **The Wharf House** gardens and harvesting the willow whips from the osier beds. The last year has seen so much growth of bulrushes along the shallow waters of the narrow area of Vineyard Hill, in the vicinity of the landslip, that it has now become necessary to remove them from the navigation channel. We much appreciate the assistance given by the disabled boating group in carrying out this task.

The Great Wall

The main programme of work on The Great Wall of Over has now started. Excavation was undertaken and completed by Moat Contracting, and we are well on the way to completing the concrete foundations. The first pour of concrete has been successfully achieved and the shuttering is being repositioned for the second pour. This will complete the base phase and will be followed by casting the



The shuttering ready for the phase one concrete pour.



Ivor and Bob spreading phase 1 concreting.

more complex vertical wall reinforcement section. The job is being masterminded by Ivor, with Bob his right hand man; the rest of us are cutting timber and preparing steel reinforcement to order, and delivering materials to the construction area as needed.



Finishing touches to the concrete.



Completion of the phase 1 concreting.



Bullrushes encroaching into the navigation channel at Vineyard Hill.



Peter welds the reed boat exhaust.



Guess what Andy is doing and what it's for?

Ted Boagles

Boat maintenance

The Bosley hydraulic motor problem has been resolved. It was suspected that high back pressure in the common drains return line might be the cause; to check this a temporary line was run from the motor directly to the tank. Several test runs were made which demonstrated the motor to be running normally. Andy, our resident hydraulics expert is now fitting a permanent modification to the pipework.

The Rolba reed-cutting boat reconstruction is also making good progress. All of the floor work has now been completed, and work has commenced to reconstruct the reed-cutting mechanism and its drive system. This is a task of considerable interest as the boat had previously been stripped of everything except the engine and propulsion mechanisms; the cutting mechanism pieces arrived separately, comprising a collection of loose items in an old reed boat hull. We are basically working on a three-dimensional jigsaw without a picture of the completed structure. We are intending to have the boat on display at the Over Festival, so if anyone has any information or photographs which they think might be useful they would be most welcome to come along for a chat.

The Renton front hold project continues at a steady pace now the warmer and drier weather is here. All the interior painting and flooring work is completed, and we are now starting to construct the wooden framing to support the cloths which will keep the rain water out.

Maintenance at The Wharf House

Several miscellaneous tasks for **The Wharf House** and other sites have been a feature of recent months: these have included fitting new mini bars in some of the rooms, extending the data cabling, improving the visitor centre reception desk and repairs to terrace chairs.

» **TB**

Work has continued apace with the cottage refurbishment over the last three months.

We discovered that the soil pipe system within the cottage had fractured in a couple of places. A decision was made to remove all the offending pipework and to replace the entire system with modern materials. While this was being done we took the opportunity of installing a downstairs cloak-room, replacing the old walk-in larder.

The new downstairs cloakroom has now been installed and painted.



During the refurbishment we also discovered another "horror". All the joists in the front bedroom and a wooden wall bearer had completely rotted through with the result that the whole floor was in danger of collapse. There had been water leaking in through the internal walls from a defective roof gully and because the plaster had been applied to a plastic corrugated lining, the leak had remained undetected for many years.

One of the rotten joist ends.



One of the new joist ends.



The new joists in position in one of the bedrooms.

The old plastic lining and plaster were removed – in actual fact it just fell off the wall. The rotten wood was cut out, new joist ends were securely bolted onto the sound parts of the timbers and, where appropriate, new joists were installed. New floorboards have been fitted in both the front bedroom and the bathroom replacing the old woodworm infested boards. Our thanks go to Richard Bunch of ScotiaBuild who responded very quickly to prop up the downstairs ceiling and to effect the repairs to the joists.

At the same time contractors were hired to carry out the necessary repairs to the roof to ensure that the building is watertight. The outside walls have also been repointed and gaps in the brickwork have been filled using old style matching bricks.

At the time of going to press, the installation of dry wall linings will have been completed and the wiring system for the storage heaters will have been installed.

There is still much to be done to get the cottage prepared for the rental market and any additional volunteers would be welcome, especially those people who are handy with a paintbrush.

»» PH



Alan McBride / Paul Henshaw

The new wall linings.



The ceiling securely propped.

Would you like to be involved?

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

Aylestone and Kymin

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wilfredjones506@gmail.com

Yarkhill

Chris High on 01568 615 575
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Oxenhall

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Moat Farm

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Over Basin/Vineyard Hill

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Maggie Jones on 01452 618 010
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Llanthony

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Crick Boat Show

Crick – no mud! At last good weather and it brought out 26,000 visitors and most of them seemed to visit the Trust stand. Ray, Barbara, Steve, Becca and I seemed to be talking non-stop for three days, spreading the word. We also sold a large number of second-hand canal books and our Crick speciality – jigsaws! Thanks to all who donate to us.

Weather was more unsettled for our two days at the Hellens Garden Festival where we shared a marquee with the National Trust. Dick "book-signed" on Saturday and sales continued on Sunday so more income and much interest.

A new venture was Gardens in the Wild in north-west Herefordshire where visitors were aware of canals – but the Mon and Breck! The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal came as a surprise to many but they showed great interest.

Braunston 2015

Back to familiar ground at the Braunston Historic Boat Rally on which Penny reports and where we were very pleased to receive a donation of £200 from Tim Coghlan of Braunston Marina.

Braunston weather is renowned for either being too hot and dusty or soaking wet with rivulets running through the marquee! 2015 produced hot and dusty on Saturday and wet and windy (luckily no rivulets) on Sunday. Janet, Becca, Barbara and Ray were there on Saturday



Tim Coghlan (right) presents H&G CT with a cheque.

to receive a much appreciated cheque from Tim Coghlan, and Penny joined Janet and Becca on Sunday. All weekend Becca did sterling work fetching coffee for us and two other stalls who only had one person manning them. There were not as many boats as in other years and it seemed as if there were not as many visitors either, due to weekends with so much going on everywhere. However we met some very nice people who showed great interest in the H&G CT. Dick's book sold well and we were pleased with our sales. We will definitely return next year.

» PS

A few more school fetes and then we turn to the Over Festival on the Canal weekend and autumn events.

» JM

Forthcoming outings

22-23 August	Over Festival, Over Canal Basin and The Wharf House, Gloucester
12 Sept	Oxenhall/Newent Open Day
7 Nov	H&G CT Winter Bazaar, Ledbury

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New Promotional Displays

The event at Eastnor Castle gave us an opportunity to update our existing display materials.

An anonymous sponsor provided us with the means to produce a large number of display roller banners to help with information and promotion of the Canal and our restoration work.

The banners include a large pictorial map of the Canal route, as well as a series of our restoration sites. →

There are also five that cover other aspects of the Canal.

Thank you to our anonymous sponsor.



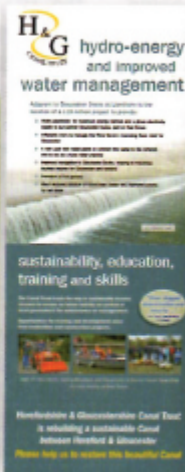
Large pictorial map of the Canal.



Shows the wide variety of Canal users.



Looks at the Canal as a wildlife sanctuary.



Llanthony hydro scheme as well as training and skills the Canal requires.



Asks for financial help to make our vision a reality.



A map of the whole Canal with a little history and details of access.



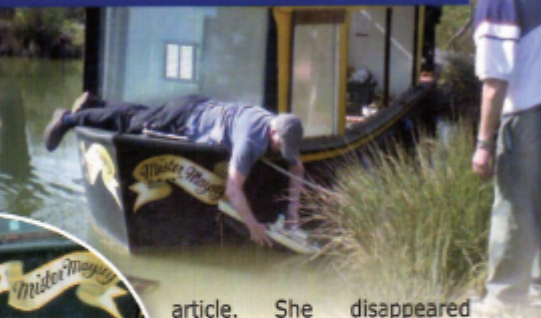
The Gloucester & District Model Boat Club has enjoyed sailing at Over Canal Basin in the warm spring sunshine but summer then somewhat deteriorated. On the wildlife front one Sunday in May the swans gave us a Concorde-style flypast, the following Wednesday they were nowhere to be seen; however the heron had returned.

Mr Maysey comes to the rescue! Some years ago one of our member's model boats towed Mr Maysey to the mooring when the engine failed. A sunny afternoon in April saw the favour returned. Five of our intrepid sailors were taking their usual walk along the Canal bank, navigating their various craft to the winding hole and back. Upon arrival a big bang occurred, my Corvette violently listed to starboard, quicker than you can read this



James Bond Lotus Esprite.

Ted Tedaldi



article. She disappeared beneath the calm waters. All I could think of was a rescue. Mr Maysey, the H&G CT's trip boat was in the area. Mike of G&DMBC boarded her and directed the skipper, David, to bring the bow over the sunken vessel. In seconds Mike could see her in the murky depths. Mike 'craned' her to the surface and drained her out. I am glad to say that after a strip down and drying out she is back in service. The third sinking this year to challenge for the Club's Titanic trophy!

Over the last ten years our member Bob has built several amphibious vehicles. His latest vehicle is the James Bond Lotus Esprit from the 1977 film "The Spy Who Loved Me". Four part cars were used in the film. Design stage to completion of the model will be around three years. Bob has designed it to act just as the real car, drive on land, sail on the water and dive. She will have four wheel land drive, retracting wheels, extending side diving plates, and four water jets to give forward propulsion and steering. The model is around 24in long by 15in wide painted white. I hope in the next edition to have some action photographs.

Two new models on the water are of Targa37 Police launches, pre-formed fibreglass hulls with the superstructure of plastic card and plywood. They are propelled by modern day brushless motors. Mr Maysey had just returned from a trip to the end of the Canal when the two boats apprehended her and immediately on tying up the three suspects on board were 'arrested'!

» TT



Time once again to put finger to keyboard! What's changed since the last newsletter?

Well, the sun has at last arrived and welcome, the swans have had two nests but no young, the ducks have also tried with no offspring, that's just left us with the bees and the moorhens with seven eggs in the bulrushes which the others have vacated, and we also noticed that there are two other moorhen nest well hidden, so with this in mind there will be more hens than swans or ducks!

Well that's the nature watch update. We were invited to show what we do to the NHS Disabilities Show at Wall's Sports and Social Club. We had three boats there with a lot of interest shown, also making contact with a lot of old friends who used to sail with us in the past! We have already had visits from occupational therapy staff who liked what they saw and even tried their hand at driving the wheelyboat (enough said) – see, you don't have to be disabled to drive it, although sometimes it helps! At the show we were opposite the H&G CT stand. This proved to be an advantage as when we were asked where

we operated from, we pointed across, and when they were asked what activities are on the Canal they pointed to us. That's what I call team work!

Another event was during the Tall Ships weekend. The Lower George Inn held a charity event for us in the form of "Be a Pirate For a Day". This event raised over £750 towards the wheelyboat fund, slow but sure as they say! And photos in the paper, front page for me! Many thanks to all at the Lower George Inn for making this happen, and for such a successful event. Our next big day is our Chernobyl Children's event on Tuesday 21 July. If you would like to pay us a visit, you are all welcome to put your oar in. 11.00 to 14.00+, no appointment needed, but due to demand for parties of more than two please phone 07913 015018, Long Gone Silver also known as Pete.

»» **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.

LOGS for SALE

We have a number of sites where we have logs, mainly ash and hawthorn, available. All proceeds support the Canal Restoration. For more information please contact almee@thewharfhouse.co.uk.



Are you a volunteer for the H&G CT?

Do you receive **email newsletters** alerting you to recent restoration progress or imminent events that you may wish to support?

If you have not seen the newsletter but would like to, then please ensure that your site leader has your up-to-date email address or email it directly to thewharfhouse@yahoo.co.uk.

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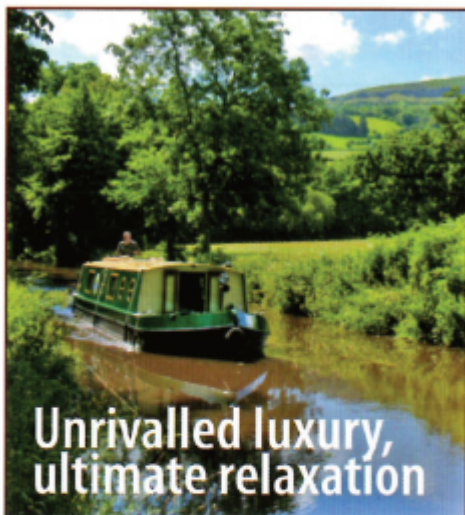
*News from the friends
of Gloucester*
**W WATERWAYS
M MUSEUM**

Gloucester Waterways Museum's successful bid for £994,000 from **Heritage Lottery** has now received the full go ahead.

The Museum will close at the end of October and reopen in 2016; a precise date is yet to be agreed.

In June our Craft Ladies had a very successful two days at Stoke Bruerne Family Festival Weekend demonstrating their various traditional crafts.

There is always something going on at the Museum – why not pay us a visit? Our website is at www.friendsofgwm.co.uk.



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Mike Jones

Thursday 1 October 7.30pm
Lydney Canal and Harbour
Kathy Kilbey

Thursday 5 November 7.30pm
Somerset Waterways
Ray Alexander

Thursday 3 December 7.30pm
Christmas Social

Further details contact: **Martin Turner**
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All profits from The Wharf House will be used for the promotion and restoration of the Hereford & Gloucester Canal.

Not quite
... the last page!

Congratulations Hugh!

Our hearty congratulations to local waterways historian and author, **Hugh Conway-Jones**, who has recently been awarded the **British Empire Medal (BEM)** for services to *Heritage in Gloucester* in this year's Queens Birthday Honours.

Hugh is a member and long-time supporter of H&G CT as well as giving much time to the Gloucester Waterways Museum and the history and traditions of Gloucester Docks – **a well-deserved award!**

On track ?



Tony Fielding, one of our life members who is also a railway enthusiast, suggested an alternative caption for our front cover image for the last edition of **The Wharfinger** – which depicts a narrowboat passing through

the restored Newent railway station on the H&G Canal:

"The boat now arriving at platform 2 is the late running Virgin service from Hereford to Paddington calling at Gloucester, Saul Junction and all stations via the Stroudwater and Thames & Severn Canals. Arriving at Paddington at 2050 (that's the year not the time)."

We will try and improve on that date Tony – perhaps Richard Branson might sponsor the Station project?

Copy deadline for the next issue
MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER

Honda Tiller/Cultivator

Member Charles Kellett was so pleased to read in **The Wharfinger** that our H&G CT volunteers were putting his previously donated Flymo and wood chipper to such good use that he contacted Wilf Jones to arrange for his Honda tiller/cultivator to be received by Ted Beagles at Over Canal Basin. Our sincere thanks to Mr Kellett for his support and for his suggestion that others might follow his lead in donating used but good quality equipment – prompting a permanent note to that effect on our inside back cover.

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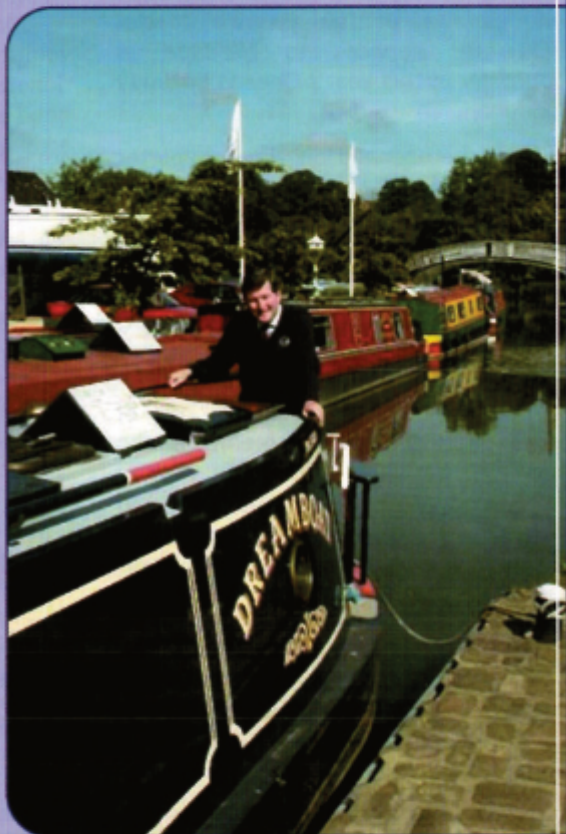
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Want to help?

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. The H&G CT also welcomes offers of quality used tools and machinery from those no longer need or cannot use it.

Contacts

Contact any of these names TODAY!

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The Wharfinger

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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.

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